



## Minutes of the Los Angeles County Beekeepers Association

**June 3, 2019 General Meeting – 7pm**

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

3561 Foothill Boulevard

La Crescenta, CA 91214

losangelescountybeekeepers.com

**Next Meeting: July 1, 2019 General Meeting – 7:00pm Doors Open – 6:30pm**

Jon Reese called the Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

### 1. Welcome (Jon Reese)

a. Flag Salute (Jon Reese)

b. Introduction of the Board (Jon Reese)

Jon Reese – President

Kevin Heydman – Vice President

Merrill Kruger – Secretary

Treasurer (Vacant position)

El Rey Enschede – Member at Large

Note: Mary Ann Laun – Minute recorder

### 2. Introduction of visitors or first timers: 6 new visitors shared their locations and experiences.

Note: Alonzo B. from Federal Bug Investigators (818) 293-7378 visited meeting and offered to work with beekeepers when he gets calls for eradication. Interested members can contact him.

### 3. Thank Doug Noland for the treat du jour. Thanks to Albert for helping with the raffle.

### 4. First/Second year beekeeping

Cindy Gates provided a fireside chat about her first two years. She shared the problems with mites and how she wasn't checking often enough for varroa. The second year (even though she was being diligent), she had a terrible August with high mite count. Keith at Valley Hive assisted her and they split the hives and treated. She also had problems this year with queen loss and had to requeen three hives. Caught two hives in her yard but they were hot and aggressive and had to be put down. Also shared her experiences with pesticide poisoning this year. Also had tons of small hive larva.

### 5. Honey Harvest Festival.

Need 20 beekeepers a day. Club and Festival will incentivize with packages.

### 6. Topic Speaker:

Michele Colopy is the program director for the Pollinator Stewardship Council whose mission is to defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides.

She addressed migratory beekeeping and why keeping bees alive is so difficult. Nature of massive beekeepers coming to one area, poor nutrition with one crop, pesticides and herbicides. California is the only state tracking pesticide applications (50 pesticides herbicides, fungicides, and adjuvants being used on almonds, apples, cherries, alfalfa, clover, sunflowers. blueberries, cranberries, watermelons,

cantaloupes, pumpkins, citrus). A sampling of California's surface water system revealed a 59% level with neonicatoids. Defined neonicotinoids: Any of a class of broad spectrum insecticides acting like nicotine. Encouraged members to go to websites to see the manufacture data sheets with full cautions and warnings. Warnings about tank mixes. Agricultural drift had a big impact on organic fields.

Other notes:

Pesticides on seeds are not regulated.

Discussed the impact of Glyphosate on honey bees. Beekeepers rarely compensated for losses.

Research Dept of Agriculture on how to prevent bee poisonings:

- Avoid spraying crops when they are in bloom
- Return to true IPM
- Support regenerative methods in farming
- READ LABELS
- Support Beneficial insects
- prevent west nile virus by emptying still waters around the yard
- Note: Ortho responded to remove neonics

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## Events

1. El Ray Ench - Honey Harvest Festival Update.

2. Cindy Caldera - LA County Fair Bee Booth.

We need to gather literature, seeds, posters, bags, etc. Cindy explained the shifts and schedules and urged everyone to sign up in August.

3. Cal Poly update: (Mark) Bee Court will be available at the fair. Apiarist now at Cal Poly Pomona and research work at UC Riverside, Next workshop Veteran's Day weekend. Teaching beekeeping classes.

4. August 18th Valley Hive bee festival. If entering honey tasting, provide 2 (8 oz) jars by August 9<sup>th</sup>

Website Report – Eva Andrews. Mentioned recent news as well as Bill's Bees has bees available. Dave Williams has club t shirts and hats.

Questions from members centered around swarms, feral hives, adding boxes, watering bees, mosquito fish (free at Arboretum), ant control (with tintape, grease, pallets), robbing screens, bear fences.

Beekeeping 101 this Sunday on varroa and possibly honey harvesting.

## July Speaker

Beekeeping in South Africa next month by a Beekeeping Family that worked bees in that area.

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