



Minutes of the Los Angeles County Beekeepers Association

October 7, 2019 General Meeting – 7pm

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

3561 Foothill Boulevard

La Crescenta, CA 91214

Next Meeting: November 4, 2019 General Meeting – 7:00pm Doors Open – 6:30pm

Jon Reese called the Meeting called to order at 6:59pm

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. Thank Doug Noland for the treat du jour. Thanks to Mary Ann Laun who brought her blue-ribbon Apricot Habanero Honey Jam from the Valley Hive Cooking Competition. Thanks to Misty for helping with the raffle. Many thanks to the Valley Hive for sponsoring the Honey Festival. There were so many fun competitions, events, vendors, craft exhibitors and entertainment.

3. Special Presentation James Nieh and Amy Geffre from UCSD's Biological Sciences Nieh Lab, Bee Researchers: James Nieh did an introduction to the Nieh Lab at UCSD and spoke about their focus on studying the effect of parasites and pesticides on honey bee health. Mentioned their focus on Nosema particularly and focusing on "immune priming" to activate immune systems to fight off these threats. He introduced Amy Geffre, doctoral candidate, who spoke about the Lab's research on studying "Infiltrating the hive mind" and studying how pathogens impact bees and their social network. Of particular interest was her discussion of "social immunity" and observations of bee health. She also mentioned the Lab's work with feral colonies and their social and health impacts. For more information, go to the Lab's website

And specifically Amy's research at

To contact her directly:

4. Membership report (Cheryl Thiele)

Cheryl reported that several new members joined as a result of the Fair and Honey Festival. She has worked with Eva (the webmaster) to add a Sign Up button on the club's website.

5. Treasurer's Report (deferred, acting treasurer not present)

Jon Reese did pass out a projected disbursement handout for possible funding from LACBA. The 2019 Los Angeles County fair yielded approximately \$30,000 in honey sales. The Board has been discussing channeling funds to support local organizations. Reports from those organizations will be encouraged. Funds are committed already to American Honey Federation, Pollinator Stewardship Council, Randy Oliver, Cal Poly Pomona, UCSD, USC Channel Islands

6. Website report. (Eva Andrews)

Eva summarized some of the current articles added to the website including information on the movie The Pollinators which will be showing locally on November 6th. [For a summary and screening information, go to

7. Education Committee. (Mary Landau)

Mary reported on some of the recent presentation and asked for volunteers for some future presentation. She shared some of her handouts including a flannel board of a bee's anatomy that she shared with preschoolers. One objective is to purchase four portfolios to allocate to four regions of Los Angeles County so that presenters will have easier access. Mary is estimating \$1000 to order age-appropriate materials from preschool through adult.

8. Honey Festival and Update on Beekeeping 101. (Keith Roberts)

Keith reported on the very successful Honey Festival in August and the winners in the Honey Competition as well as their Recipe Competition.

Reminder: Sunday, October 13th is the final class in the LA County Beekeepers Association classes at The Valley Hive. There WILL be a quiz!

9. Los Angeles County Fair. Cindy Caldera, coordinator, thanked everyone who volunteered at the Fair and encouraged all members to do a shift next year. Parking and Fair ticket provided. The Club thanks Cindy for all her hard work on this event.

10. Club t-shirts are still available. See Dave Williams.

Events Announcements

- Randy Oliver presentations at Cal Poly (October 19th) and at The Valley Hive (October 20). Free to members. Sign up please at
- California State Beekeepers Association will be held in Pechanga, November 19-21. Register online at
- Annual holiday awards banquet will be December 2nd at Pickwick Gardens (1001 Riverside Drive Burbank) 6-9 pm. Register at the Club's website. The Cal State Channel Islands Bee Campus project will share their experiences.

Questions from members centered around swarms, feral hives, polystyrene hives, royal jelly and Africanized bees. Jacqueline from Sierra Madre reported on a particular wasp which has invaded her hives. Very small, lays eggs on the wax comb. Bees don't seem concerned. It was recommended that she contact the Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture or UNIVAR in the City of Commerce. She passed around a specimen. Bill Lewis mentioned that a queen will not go above an arch of honey so sometimes you need to add a box to the bottom if she needs room.
