

***Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida***  
**- M I N U T E S -**

Regular Business Meeting, March 21st, 2024

**BEFORE MEETING**

**Call to Order:** by Dennis Riggs, Vice President at 7:00p

**Introduction of Guests (and New Members):** by Dennis Riggs, multiple new members - Dave (and daughter), no hives but interested in bees. Alex M., has bees and is being mentored by Dennis. Wayne, one langstroth and several feral hives. Rene (Wayne's neighbor), TBH but no bees. Ted, seasonal but interested in bees. Kristen and Bruce, one hive.

**Secretary's Report (Minutes):** Previous minutes were made available via website. Minutes were accepted by Bill, seconded by Jason Bonds. Motion carried (unanimous).

**Treasurer's Report:** by Virginia Motion. (*defer to website*) Moved by Bill. Seconded by Jim. Motion carried (unanimous).

**Apiary Report:** by Dennis Riggs, report was supplemented by our website photos and captions displayed on TV monitor at the meeting and similar/additional information may also be found on our Facebook page. No apiary meetings occurred. Angela and Dennis visited the apiary, bees are present. They are due for treatment and need determination if a super is warranted.

**Education Committee Report:** by Dennis Riggs, Wendy S invited Dennis to speak to the garden club. Great turnout with a request to return next year. Club honey sold out at the event. Angela and Dennis attending Bee Expo in Palm Beach county. Dennis took a ribbon for a dark honey submission. Angela and Jennafer attended STEMtastic Saturday, educating the public about honeybees. Live bees were present. Education meeting, with Angela, Jeff, Dennis, Virginia and Jennafer present. Discussed utilizing LCEC grant money. Jennafer spoke to Cape Coral High School IB students regarding bees with a specific focus on pollinators and how they can make a positive impact. Angela did an educational talk to her daughter's class with books, honey and the observation hive.

**Mentoring Committee Report:** by Dennis Riggs.

**Communication Committee Report:** Dennis is keeping website and Facebook up-to-date with apiary and mentoring progress. Dennis is making posts of relevant issues, questions etc on FB. FI State Beekeepers Association, Dennis is still promoting the "Save the Bees" plate.

**Old Business:** Nominations for elections were made and Angela is the new president, Dennis vice president. Need a copy of our IRS determination letter and budget to be able to solicit donations. LCEC grant money is being spent on new public education materials, supplies, etc.

**New Business:** Dues are raised for new and existing members to \$20 effective March.  
Newsletter, member testimonials

Meeting Adjourned approximately 7:33p, Moved by Paul, seconded by John.  
Respectfully submitted by Jennafer Snyder, Secretary.

**Raffle**

- Misc bee related items, magazines, decor.

**Speaker:** Angela Bartholomew, Varroa Mites and Honeybees

- 30% of mites are on bees, 70% on capped brood
- Mites don't have eyes, feed on the bees and hide in brood cells that are ready to be capped
- \*are attracted to the pheromone the larvae put off when needing to be capped.
- Mites feed on the fat body and can cause deformed wing virus
- Varroa arrived in the US in 1980s, our bees are not yet effective at defending against them
- UF recommends varroa checks 6x/yr, (before and after treatment)
- Drone cells are larger, so when they hatch out 3 mated female varroa emerge with it
- Varroa can double population every 22 days
- Can transmit multiple viruses, DWV, SBD, IAPV
- Mites on the back of bees indicates high mite load as they prefer the underbelly.
- Alternate between two products for treatment, alternate application methods of product where possible