

Dear Members of the NCBA,

Over the last several months we have been approached with a variety of concerns, questions and complaints from the membership. As members of the elected NCBA Executive Committee, we feel that these questions and concerns have not been appropriately addressed and, thus, we feel the need to step in and do so.

As many of you remember, due to your hard work and thoughtful input on our Constitution and By-laws, these documents were adopted by a unanimous vote of the membership on August 18, 2010. These guidelines serve to provide structure and give the membership a way of holding those elected to office accountable for what is expected of them. We are re-distributing a copy of these documents to allow our membership the benefit of their guidance to elect our officers for the upcoming year. It should also serve to remind those individuals volunteering to run for office what is expected of them and how they will be held accountable.

The current lack of acceptance of roles and lack of clarity of expectation has led to some unfortunate events such as: poor planning of meetings, making it difficult and frustrating for our membership to get together; the inability to resolve important problems as they arise in a timely manner; the lack of timely distribution of communication of important issues that face the membership; and the alienation of key members who have volunteered their time in vital committees. It is because of these issues brought to the Executive Committee and the problems that they pose to the future of the organization that the Executive Committee decided we must step in, make decisions to rectify these issues and alert our membership. We hold our responsibilities seriously and know that the membership has placed their trust in us to do so.

We hope that by re-distributing our Constitution and By-laws, our upcoming elected officials will have more clarity in their roles and our expectations of them during the upcoming year. This will naturally resolve many of the current issues.

However, as the best documents are living documents, our Constitution and By-laws need to periodically be amended and revised to serve our growing group's needs. In an upcoming communiqué, we will be sending you proposed changes to these guidelines and will be once again asking your thoughtful consideration, input and eventual vote. As these are the rules by which we operate, please take the time to review these changes and make a commitment to vote. These changes include the clarification of Officer roles and needed provisions to prevent elected officials from misusing membership funds.

We have also spent considerable time this year in our executive meetings discussing ways to prevent our unfortunate financial loss in bee packages this spring from reoccurring. There aren't sufficient words to describe the seriousness with which we have analyzed the sequence of events and the many hours of thoughtful discussion that have allowed us to explore a variety of options to try to prevent such an event again. We will be putting forth a future email regarding this crucial issue as well.

We thank you for your trust in us and your continued membership in our organization. We look forward to getting back on track so we can socialize and have fun with fellow beekeepers, continue and expand our educational and informative meetings for all levels of beekeepers, serve to educate the community and gain their support of the role of beekeeping and bees and keep members informed and politically active to legislative and other issues that affect our hobby.

Thank you.

NCBA Executive Committee members (in alphabetical order):

Beth Conrey
Ken Nichols

Ronda Koski
Jeruesha Nichols

Robyn Lawrence
Carolina Nyarady

Nelson Martin