

*From the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) President:*

Just a short message to our great members.

The Central Iowa Beekeepers Association has been one of the most active and largest bee groups in Iowa. We provide a local connection to other beekeepers unlike National and State organizations. Those bigger groups are also critical in providing a connection to beekeepers on a more regional and national scale.

CIBA exists on 100% volunteerism. No one is paid, so all of the dollars that are donated, paid in memberships and otherwise brought in are used to promote and disseminate information on the best ways to keep our bees.

This brings us to thinking about your leadership and the need to create new ideas and directions. This is accomplished with new leadership. An organization that has the same leaders for years becomes stagnant without the infusion of those new ideas.

I have served as your President for 3 years and before that I was the VP for a couple years. I recently had a health scare that has made me realize that I do need to take on a new role in CIBA. Linn Wilbur has served in many capacities since 2015. He has been a Director, Vice President and now our Secretary/Treasurer over those years. We all know the extraordinary capabilities of Linn. Then to mention your other leaders such as Val Just (currently a Director and Webmaster--formerly our Treasurer) and Laura Miller (our most talented Editor) have also been dedicated to CIBA. This is just a sampling of those who serve—there are many others who deserve recognition and thanks.

My point to this discussion is to challenge you to think about what you may be able to do for CIBA. Our membership deserves a change in leadership. You just may be the one to take on the role of an Officer, Director, Committee Chair, Committee member or wherever you feel comfortable. I can guarantee you that there will be a change in your leadership in the next one to two years. Hopefully you may be willing to step up. What is interesting is that all of the former CIBA leaders have continued to assist your current leadership. That will still be the case in the future.

As a final note – CIBA 2023 membership renewal information and form was recently sent out by mail and you should have already gotten it or soon will. Please update the form and renew your CIBA membership. On that form you can indicate your interest in serving in a leadership role. You can be very proud of what we are accomplishing and can do in the future.

Thanks for being a member.

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