

From the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) President:

CIBA members:

This will be an interesting month for some of your CIBA leadership. Our talented Editor, Laura Miller, and I will be having knee replacements the middle of December. This does not mean that being a volunteer for CIBA creates bad joints. What it does mean is that your leadership is getting older. Last year I had some other health issues, and this knee was bad then, but I had to wait a year to replace it.

We do have a great team of leaders within CIBA, but it is sooooooo important to have a turnover in leadership on a regular basis. Otherwise, the organization will become "stagnant" and become uninteresting. Some of your leaders have given so much of themselves that it is time for others to "pay it forward." You may get a call/email from this year's CIBA nominating committee (Don Moody, chair, Val Just or Mike Sanders) or maybe even me, asking you to volunteer. Please consider the importance of being a CIBA leader. You do not need to be a seasoned beekeeper to step forward. When you volunteer you become much closer to others that may be seasoned and you learn. That has been my experience within CIBA. When I first volunteered I had maybe 1 year experience -- I was so "green" at keeping bees but I have learned from other leaders in CIBA. If after reading this you would like to step forward, please get in touch with Don Moody (ds.moody1@hotmail.com/(515) 770-5754) or one of the nominating committee members. Val or Mike's contact info is in the 2023 CIBA Membership Directory you received if you get CIBA notices by email. Check for an email you received mid-year for that directory. Their contact info is also on the back page of any of this year's BEELINE editions and on the CIBA web site.

We do not have a meeting in December, **but** we do on the 20th of January. We are having a panel of experienced beekeepers that will lead a discussion emphasizing "urban" beekeeping, but there will be the opportunity to hear and ask about other topics. Bring your questions and challenges to this meeting to get some answers. New beekeepers as well as experienced beeks will benefit from this discussion. So, mark your calendars for that third Saturday in January. This is also our annual business meeting where we will elect the 2024 Officers and Directors, look for volunteers for the various CIBA committees, as well as have a review of 2023 finances and set the budget for 2024. If the weather is bad and if we have to cancel, we will not reschedule. More on this meeting in the January BEELINE that comes out the first of the year and watch for updates on the CIBA webpage.

Finally, you will be getting a CIBA membership renewal mailing the first part of this month. So please renew -- there is so much value that you receive in being a member.

Your President

Jamie

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