

Become Involved!

With the fall season now upon us, Beekeeper's continue to harvest their honey and start making preparations for winter. The seasons continue to roll by and with that passage of time the Annual Meeting for our organization arrives again.

Many beekeeper's will be installing call display on their telephones as they seek to avoid that "special request" phone call from another beekeeper asking if they would consider letting their name stand for a position with on a particular organization with the initials O.B.A.

In their search for directors, your Association will find themselves competing with any number of other organizations such as the Lions Club, Rotary or church related committees. We all need enthusiastic volunteers who are committed to making the organization function better.

We could argue however, that your OBA has a major functional difference when compared with others. Your beekeeping operation and your livelihood may be dependent on policies and recommendations your Association puts forward. Work needs to be done in numerous areas from lobbying the Provincial Government to consider bees as livestock, enhancing our Tech Transfer program and providing marketing and media material for the continued promotion of our commodity.

There are many reasons why someone decides to volunteer their time in order to participate more heavily in the organization to which he or she belongs. There may be social reasons, compassionate reasons, political reasons or someone may volunteer simply because it's a "family tradition".

So you may be thinking, I might be interested in volunteering, but what's in it for me? Fair question! I will list some of my thoughts and perhaps you will find common ground.

- Visibility in community/organization.
- Personal satisfaction in making a difference in Ontario's bee industry.
- Opportunity for advancement in your area of interest.
- Opportunity to develop knowledge and expertise.
- Leadership development and increased management skills.

- Increased awareness of beekeeping issues with an opportunity to influence agricultural policy.
- Opportunity to meet other “Beekeeping leaders” to network and gain valuable industry contacts and information.

Whatever the reason, each member shares the duties and responsibilities entrusted to them when they are elected by their peers to serve on the board. The following is a short list of some of the duties and responsibilities of a director:

- To bring issues of concern from their local Beekeeping populace to the attention of the board.
- To be the contact between the Association and the Beekeeping members in their area.
- To promote the Ontario Beekeepers’ Association by talking with Beekeepers or Enthusiasts that are not currently members about the OBA, explaining its value and the benefits of belonging.
- To sit on committees in order to assist in Association activities and achieve its program goals.
- To attend local Association meetings to provide a greater connection to the OBA.
- To participate in policy discussions that will enhance the economic and social well being of Ontario Beekeepers.

Please consider this. The Beekeepers who are members of the OBA --- are the entire organization. The Directors represent the members. Without that first step of answering the call and without his/her full participation, the OBA will not be effective, nor will its credibility stand in the face of consumer and government pressure. We challenge our members to step forward, share the load with your fellow Beekeepers and let us maintain a strong beekeeping industry in Ontario.

OBA Election Process

The OBA is now in the process of electing its new Board of Directors for 2009/2010. The new Board of 14 members will start its term on November 20, 2009 following the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

The elections process begins with members like you nominating fellow beekeepers and submitting their names to the OBA office. Those names are passed on to the election committee, who contacts those nominated to confirm that they are willing to let their name stand.

During the same time period the OBA directors who are currently serving the membership are asked if they are willing to let their name stand again for election.

During the annual meeting, those nominated are asked to introduce themselves to the membership, if you're nominated but unable to attend in person, someone will speak on your behalf.

The members present are asked if there are any further nominations, if none, the period for nominations is then closed. Next the election ballots are drawn up, the ballot committee distributes ballots to the membership. The ballots are collected, tabulated, and the new board of directors is introduced to the membership and fulfills the duties of the OBA board.

Our election goal is to keep members informed and actively participating in the democratic process at the OBA. This is your opportunity to select your leadership – **please participate.**

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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