



BEE LINE

on Honey Notes

March 2015

President's Greeting

People always seem to think that the busy time for a beekeeper is the summer. I suppose that is because they see bees flying around their backyard at that time. But all of you reading this newsletter know that for a beekeeper, every season is busy.

Many of you are making trips back and forth to California to the markets in that area. I hope you have safety in your travel. This has been a busy time for our office staff as they have been working through the modification to the Idaho Honey Advertising Commission (now to be known as the Idaho Honey Commission). Thanks to Rick, Benjamin, and Jim for their efforts as lobbyists on behalf of our industry. You will read more about the history and purpose of these changes to the Commission in this issue of our newsletter.

Remember, now is the time to get your membership paid in full for 2015. A list of those members who are current in their payment of dues is included in this newsletter. We appreciate those who have already paid their dues for this membership year.

Andrew Puckett
President

Idaho Legislation Update

The 2015 Idaho Legislature started on Monday, January 12. The body of 105 legislators had 18 brand new members. Plus, we had a new chairman of the Senate Agriculture Affairs Committee, Senator Jim Rice, Caldwell. Both the Senate and the House Ag Affairs Committees had several new members after the elections and reassignments to committees.

In late December, Rick Waitley, IHIA Executive Director, met with the ISDA to discuss some of the proposed changes that industry felt might strengthen the honey statutes. That got the ball rolling and the next step was to identify a sponsor for the legislation. The person selected was Senator Abby Lee, a new Senator from Payette. It just so happened that Senator Lee's father had been a hobbyist beekeeper so she understood a great deal of the language and terms related to the industry.

On February 13, Senator Lee introduced the bill before the Senate Ag Affairs Committee. Senator Lee turned to Jim Lowe, who is employed by Association Management Group (the group who handles legislative issues for IHIA) to review the content of the bill for the Committee. Jim outlined the major items being requested in the legislation:

1. Change the name from the Idaho Honey Advertising Commission to the Idaho Honey Commission to better represent the three-fold mission of advertising, research, and promotion of the industry.
2. Overhaul section on qualifications and appointment procedures for members of the Commission. The biggest change is to eliminate the three districts so that members could be selected from anywhere in the state. It also outlines the process for the IHIA to nominate individuals for the governor to appoint to these positions, spells out a timeline for that to happen, and gives the IHIA the power to request removal of a member of the Commission for any reason.
3. Clarify that only commercial beekeepers are eligible to vote to change the amount of the per-hive assessment.

The bill was sent to print and became S1074. The bill was returned to the Committee on February 25 where it was heard by the Committee, comments were made again by Mr. Lowe, and the Committee voted to send the bill to the Senate floor with a do pass recommendation. A letter was delivered from IHIA, signed by Andrew Puckett in support of S1074.

On March 2, the bill was before the Idaho Senate and passed on a vote of 34 – 0 (unanimous).

(over)

Idaho Legislation Update continued from front page

At this point, it was time to start all over again on the House side of the rotunda. The bill appeared in the House Ag Affairs Committee on March 13. A letter from IHIA was filed with the Committee in support of the legislation. Jim again explained the legislation and others were present to support the bill. At the request of the Committee, Rick Waitley gave an overview of the industry and provided a big-picture perspective of who the beekeepers are in Idaho. The Committee voted to send S1074 on to the full House, and another first-time legislator – Rep. Ryan Kerby, New Plymouth – was eager to be the House floor sponsor. Rep. Kerby wanted to learn as much about the honey industry as possible. We turned to one of his constituents, Nick Noyes to visit with the representative to help him learn Honey 101. The bill passed the Idaho House on March 17 by a vote of 69-0-1. The measure will now be sent to the governor for his consideration. If the governor signs the measure, it will become law immediately.

Many thanks to Senator Abby Lee, Rep. Ryan Kerby, Jim Lowe, and Nick Noyes for their help in passing the legislation; also to the Department of Agriculture, Lloyd Knight, and other staff who provided input and information along the way.

Thanks

Idaho Honey Industry Membership

Membership 2015

January 1– December 31 Membership Year

<u>Members</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Renewal Date</u>
A.H. Meyer & Sons, Inc. (Jack Meyer)	1	1/17/2015
Ahaus "Bee-Haus" Honey (Bill Ahaus)	1	2/25/2015
Anderson Apiaries (James Anderson)	1	1/17/2015
Baker's Honey (James Baker)	1	2/7/2015
Barlow Apiaries Inc. (Richard Barlow)	1	1/20/2015
Browns Honey (Alan & William Brown)	2	1/22/2015
Chase Honey Company (Harold Chase)	1	3/19/2015
Cox Honey Farms (Clay Brunson & Adam French)	2	2/9/2015
Five Bee Hives (Tom Harned)	1	2/10/2015
GloryBee Foods, Inc. (Nancy Burnett)	1	3/2/2015
Heine, Lee	1	1/20/2015
Heitkam's Honey Bees (Russell & Patrick Heitkam)	2	1/24/2015
Herzfeld, Alan	1	1/12/2015
Keller's Apiary (DeWayn & Maxine Keller)	4	1/26/2015
Mann Lake Ltd. (Troy Martinson)	1	2/2/2015
McGuire's Apiary Inc.	1	1/14/2015
Miller's Honey Farms, Inc.	1	1/20/2015
Newswander Apiaries Inc. (Michael Newswander)	2	1/20/2015
Noyes Apiaries, Inc.	5	1/16, 1/24
Powell Apiaries	1	1/20/2015
Reisinger Apiaries Inc. (Joshua & Dale Reisinger)	2	5/11/1920
Salmon Valley Honey (Dan Mudd)	1	1/16/2015
Sweet Honey Company (Steve Sweet)	1	1/1/2015
Van DeGrift, Bill	1	1/12/2015
White Apiary Inc. (Leonard Tennant)	1	1/23/2015
Total Number of Members	37	

HONEY BRIEFS: Would you like to receive Honey Briefs from time to time providing you information about legislative activities, industry news and other updates? If you would, please send your email address to Cindy Pusey at the IHIA office - cindy@amgidaho.com - so we can add you to our electronic mailing list.

Healthy Queens = Healthy Hives

QUEENS AVAILABLE
Year Round

Olivarez Honey Bees, Inc.

CALIFORNIA
(530) 865-0298

HAWAII
(808) 328-9249

TOLL FREE
(877) 865-0298

[WWW.OHBES.COM](http://www.OHBES.COM)

Big Island Queens
A Division of Olivarez Honey Bees, Inc.

Like Us On Facebook

We accept all major credit cards

THE HONEY STORE

2330 Hwy 30
Fruitland, ID 83619
Phone: 208-452-7035

Nick and Shilo Noyes

Hours: Monday-Friday 10-5
Saturday 10-1

We have a wide variety of Honey, Beeswax Candles and Idaho products.
So stop by and see us!