

# NW PA Maple Producers Association

## Minutes of July 12, 2012

The regular meeting was held at Gary and Shirley Bilek's home at 7 pm. Attending were: Chris Casbohm, Burton Kimball, Greg Walberg, Trish & Jason Palmer, Laura Dengler, Gary & Shirley Bilek, Phil McAfee, Daryl Sheets, Margery Phillips.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Daryl Sheets bought the trailer from the Association. Laura will meet with him sometime to transfer the title.

The Association evaporator is still at Hurry Hill Farm.

### NEW BUSINESS

**State Meeting:** A vote was taken on the license plate to give to those attending the state banquet.

Phil handed out a menu for lunch at Asbury Woods catered by Sabella's. It was decided to go with create your own sandwich and a soup and salad. Bus service for the 2 days will be D&R out of Spartansburg. A miniature evaporator will be auctioned at the banquet. Laura will try to get the auctioneer with a free meal for the auctioneer.

**Fairs:** Jason & Trish have 5 new families working at the Crawford Co. Fair. Prices will remain about the same with 5% of sales of syrup and products going to the organization. Trisha will be looking into getting an ice cream cone dispenser for the fairs. All invoice for member products sold at Crawford fair will go through Trisha. Gary Bilek and Laura Dengler will be making maple candy to sell at the fair. 40 tickets for cotton candy will be donated for the Trash Can Decorating Contest. 5 dozen cookies are also needed for the fair.

It was voted to buy a new step ladder for the Erie Co. fair. Trisha will check to see the liability insurance amount we have for the fairs.

**Lake Erie Maple Expo:** A second meeting was held. All is going well with much excitement. A news release will be in next months Maple News. Also in Sugar Bush and Maple Trader on the internet. All manufactures are invited and expecting over 300 people. A separate account will be set up for LEME. There will be no mailings. Just emails.

A discussion on reducing dues will be discussed at the August meeting.

**Taste and Tour:** Jason has sent out surveys by email to members about the Taste and Tour. More public awareness is needed. He suggested to advertise on TV, the internet, facebook, and google maps to see locations. He also suggested an annual theme such as National Values, family values, etc. A discussion was held on raising the cost to cover advertising. It was tabled until next month. It was also discussed that the minutes of meeting be emailed or put on website.

**Farm Show:** Gary showed a form for Farm Show. More products and more people needed to help.

Gary Bilek's sugar house was recently inspected by the PA Health Dept. Make sure you have everything padlocked and everything is secure. When selling a product make sure all ingredients in product are listed **Don't** just put Planter's Peanuts, Salted Butter, or French's Mustard.

Next meeting on Aug 9<sup>th</sup> at Bilek's and Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at Laura Dengler's. It was suggested to have a Dinner meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

