

NW PA MAPLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION NOV. 2013 MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting was held at the home of Bill and Marge Phillips on Nov. 14th. Attending were: Bob and Bonnie Boylan, Burton and Ruby Kimball, Chris Casbohm, Jason and Trisha Palmer, Jeff and Tami Ellsworth, Laura Dengler, Bill and Marge Phillips, Gary and Shirley Bilek, Daryl Sheets and Lew and Callie Steckler.

President Biil Phillips called the meeting to order at 7pm. Minutes of October meeting were reviewed and corrected. Members must work two full shifts at a fair booth to receive free one membership. The other claraification was NY Farm Bureau paid for coffee and donuts Sat. morning at LEME. Motion by Laura to accept minutes and passed. A written treasurer's report was passed out and discussed. Current balance of \$19,910.60. Motion to approve made by Laura and passed.

OLD BUSSINESS: Jason reported progress in preparing guidelines for new producers and/or new members. This will include information sources, references, email addresses and phone numbers to use for assistance in making syrup. It will be ready for the annual meeting in January.

Marge reported on the Taste and Tour for March 2014. Thus far 5 have paid, several new ones and many to send in fee. Hope to finalize by Thanksgiving by calling producers. Discussed advertising –red plum, Area Shopper, etc. Group will decide on this at next meeting. LEME report by Daryl. Good attendance no big snags and no final dollar figures yet.

Dec. meeting at Eagle Hotel in Waterford on Thursday Dec. 5th. Marge also mentioned menu selections. They will have the left side reserved for us.

NEW BUSINESS: Jan. 2014 annual meeting on the 18th at Blooming Valley United Methodist Church from 9 to 2pm. Laura also reported that 5 or 6 dealers plan to attend. Speakers are being scheduled and menu planned. Gary discussed doing hydrometer testing for members. After lengthily discussion Chris made a motion to purchase equipment to maintain a certified hydrometer seconded by Daryl and passed.

The group discussed competition on syrup sales at Crawford County Fair. Not much we can do except to increase promotion of our booth i.e. more samples. Ruby reported on Farm Show . Workers always need at booth and syrup needed from as many members as possible to increase our percentage. Transportation of syrup to Harrisburg may be a problem. Group discussion, Ruby made a

motion to pay Gary for a u-haul trailer to carry supplies and syrup seconded by Bonnie and passed.

Bill asked about having the PA Ag. Secretary do the ceremonial tree tapping again this coming February. We do not know Sec. George Greggs schedule at this time. No official action was taken.

Before adjournment Gary gave a good presentation on use of hydrometer and adjustments to be made for different temperatures. Always have two hydrometers available. Thanks Gary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35. Everyone enjoyed the snacks,cider, and cookies provided by Marge and Bill. Thank you.

Lew Steckler
Secretary