



October 1, 2017

Dear Local Club Presidents,

The Louisiana Beekeepers Association is happy to formally announce the 2017 Louisiana Beekeepers 56th Annual Convention. Enclosed in this packet is the important information you and your members need to know in order to early register for the convention and also to participate in the contests that will be held during the convention.

This year, the convention will **begin on Thursday afternoon** with a few topics that are geared toward more advanced beekeepers. There will be a social hour Thursday evening to allow more time among the commercial beekeepers and other members to enjoy relaxing conversation. Appetizers will be served thanks to a donation by Mann Lake, and a cash bar will be available. The LBA silent auction begins Friday along with honey judging and the painted brood box art competition. The painted brood boxes are later placed in the Friday evening Banquet and Live Auction starting at a minimum bid of \$50. Please encourage your members to participate in these fun activities.

The topics on Friday are offered for any level of beekeeping. The LBA board would like for everyone to participate in the general membership meeting Friday afternoon. The association needs **participation and feedback** in order to continue moving in the general direction that is favored by the membership. Friday night is the banquet and live auction, auctioneered by Gary Price.

With great success last year, we will offer breakout sessions Saturday, specifically focusing on beginner and intermediate topics. There will be topics and speakers for everyone at every level. For the first time, there will be a 2 hour children's bee education area available to the public on Saturday as well.

Donations...Each year, donated items are collected and auctioned off during both the Silent and Live Auctions. This is *the* major source of income in order to pay for the cost of hosting a great convention with guest speakers that will offer the latest information to help us better manage our bee colonies. Needless to say, the LBA encourages every member in your club to donate in whatever way they may contribute. There is a donation sheet provided to help your members keep up with their donated items. Donated items will be accepted from now until Thursday, November 30th.

The Raffle is a secondary source of income which is very necessary as well. Each club is asked to donate \$100 so that gift certificates may be purchased from the vendors at the convention. These certificates will be raffled off during the convention. Last year we had over 9 clubs donate which made for an outstanding raffle! \$900 in gift certificates were raffled off to lucky prize winners. Tickets for the raffle will be available online on the early registration form and at the convention registration table. Please mail your club donation for the raffle before November 15th, with a memo "**Raffle Donation/your club's name.**"

The mailing address to submit your club's \$100 donation is:

Louisiana Beekeepers Association
c/o Beth Derr
210 Meadowlark Drive
Jefferson, TX 75657

Reminder: It is time to renew club affiliate dues for 2018. There is a membership application included in this packet which can be submitted via mail or online.

I would like to take a brief moment to describe how the LBA convention is put together and what it all entails to provide such a wonderful educational opportunity for all beekeepers. Convention facilities and locations are now being decided as far as 2 years in advance due to the limited availability of facilities necessary for the LBA to host a well presented convention. Speakers and topic suggestions are requested and accepted anytime from anyone. In the last 2 years, speakers have been paid for by annual donations received from Farm Bureau and the New Orleans based international jewelry company, Mignon Faget. Additional convention expenses are also offset by donated items, soliciting sponsors, and selling ads to help pay for the printing of the program.

Every year the LBA works with the 4-H program and honors the first through third place winners of the Honey Bee essay contest. These 3 winners with their families are invited to attend the banquet to receive a plaque and a small monetary gift. **Depending on time provided**, they are asked to read their essay. The LBA works together with the USDA-ARS Bee Lab to offer the graduate scholarship program. This scholarship is funded by the "Save the Bee" license plate fund and private donors through designated auction purchases or a specified donation. Every dollar donated or generated from donations goes directly back into the convention to help the LBA continue moving forward in providing this educational event for every beekeeper in Louisiana.

There are 16 board members serving the LBA and one volunteer moderator. With the exception of 4 paid meals, we volunteer our time to the LBA to show our love and support of beekeepers. We gladly donate countless hours to continue a tradition of providing necessary education to support this wonderful agriculture commodity. In all of this, the board's part would still fall short in funding without the help from local clubs and LBA members throughout the state. In whatever way that you may find suitable, we thank you for your support and donations, in past years, this year, and in future years to come.

Thank you for encouraging your club's participation and your support of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brown
Vice President
Louisiana Beekeepers Association

ph.601.493.3447
ashland6400@me.com

LOUISIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
56th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Location: Country Inn and Suites, Pineville, LA
2727 Monroe Hwy 165
Pineville, LA 71360
ph. 318-641-8332
mention "LBA" reservation
MUST reserve by November 9th
\$109 - \$129 plus tax

Overflow hotel: Holiday Inn Express
2820 Monroe Hwy
Pineville, LA 71360
ph. 318.704.6700
mention "Beekeepers Association"
MUST reserve by November 1st
\$90.99 - \$139 plus tax

Date: November 30 - December 2, 2017

Website: www.labeekeepers.org

Online Pre-registration: **November 1st - November 14th**

Room reservations may be made at any time

The Louisiana Beekeepers Association will begin their 56th Annual Convention on Thursday afternoon, November 30th, with a special welcome social hour that evening geared toward commercial beekeepers sponsored by Mann Lake. Convention guests will include natural beekeeper Sam Comfort, National Science Educator Tom Dadant, LSU's Dr. Kristen Healy, Texas A&M researchist Pierre Lau and many more.

Please join us in Pineville for educational presentations on beekeeping basics, pollen research, mycology and bee health, and many other topics for every level of beekeeping. Please contact Jennifer Brown, ph.601.493.3447, for additional information.

Please note changes in the Convention pre-registration and registration pricing after November 14th

Times, topics and presenters, subject to change.