

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COMMUNITY TENIS ASSOCIATION
"To promote and develop tennis in Northwest Louisiana"
Minutes – October 4, 2017

1. The meeting was called to order by President Bob Patterson. Those in attendance include John Liles, Jay Boyd, Mike Correal, Sue Allender, Bonnie Cox, Kaye Cochran, Todd Killen, Willie Paz, Phillip Campbell, Anthony McMaster, Grady Wilson, Bill Phillips, Rhonda Rubben, James "Jimbo" West (Querbes Park Foundation), Megan Preusch (New LTA Junior Tennis Coordinator), Tammie Harris, Angela Pfanner, Robert Verzaal, David Kimball, Cindy Sweatt, Dan Beedle (new Head Pro at Squire Creek), Kathy Regan and Kelly Stratton.
2. A motion to waive the reading of the September minutes was made by Bob Patterson, Grady Wilson second the motion. All were in favor. The minutes stand as written.
3. Treasurer John Liles reported the bank balances as of September 30, 2017. The general account at Capital One Bank has a balance of \$98,035.93. This does include the accounts of Play Tennis Bossier (\$1,039.60) and Friends of Querbes (\$405.00). The 10 and Under grant account at Red River Bank has a balance of \$36,934.20. This includes the FDDOC account (\$3,779.32).
4. President Bob Patterson gave his overview from the last month:
 - a. The 70+ Invitational State Tournament was held a North Bossier over the weekend of September 29. Pro Todd Killen reported that 79 players competed and they did have a glitch with the wi-fi service. Other than that, all went well.
 - b. The Snoopy Open was the same weekend at East Ridge Country Club. The Loyola Prep School fundraiser had a great turnout with 142 entries.
 - c. The Budget Committee will meet after this meeting and should have everything ready by next month.
 - d. The 40+ Combo State Tournament will be held November 3 – 5 at North Bossier. Tournament Director, Todd Killen, has everything ready.
 - e. Discussion was made about the hotel blocks that are being reserved and not being used. The host hotels have been very cooperative blocking rooms for our tournaments and comping three rooms for the LTA staff. The problem is that the rooms must be reserved two weeks prior to the tournament and the play schedule is not out until after the cutoff date. Players are finding cheaper rates and the block of reserved rooms are not being used. Bob suggested we may need to contact the Sport Commission about rooms for 2018.
 - f. Last weekend the LTA had a retreat and the state numbers were released to date. In JTT we are behind New Orleans and Lake Charles. Rhonda Rubben and Kaye Cochran did note that our numbers will be higher once we can enter some of the junior players. In the adult league, we are behind New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Man/Cov but do show strong numbers.
 - g. Bob also asked if we have any topics we would like to have discussed at the annual LTA Awards Meeting in December. Please bring your thoughts to our next meeting so Bob may convey them to the LTA.
5. Vice-President Mike Correal has been working and updating the Strategic Plan for this year. As mentioned in past meetings, we are looking at goals of a 3% increase in USTA Adult Membership, a 3% increase in Adult League Participation, a 5% increase in Junior Team Tennis, a 3% increase in CTA Tournament participation, a 2% increase in League Captains and a general increase in support by our local Pros for Play Days and 10 and Under programs.

6. Past President Jay Boyd, introduced our guest, James "Jimbo" West with the Querbes Park Foundation. Jimbo is originally from Shreveport, moved away and recently moved back. He was horrified by the condition of the golf course and tennis facility. Thus, the Querbes Park Foundation was formed as a 501©3. The Foundation has been responsible for the "cleaning up" of Querbes Golf Course with tree trimming, planting, renovating course bathrooms, etc. They started with the golf course since this is a major money maker and the greens fees will increase. Jimbo has met with Querbes Head Pro, Robert Verzaal, who explained how the city was ready to begin updating the tennis facility to ADA compliant but realized just this month that they were \$200,000 over budget, so it is back to the drawing board (literally). The main thing that needs to be done as soon as possible is the resurfacing of the hard courts and clay courts, and lighting so tournament play may be possible at Querbes. Jimbo suggested a plan for fund raisers and that the Querbes Park Foundation will help anyway they can. Rhonda Rubben suggested a small committee to work with Jimbo and Robert. If you are interested in saving Querbes Tennis Center, please contact Bob Patterson about helping with this committee.
7. SALT representatives Kathy Regan and Kelly Stratton, who came to this meeting, wanted our CTA to be aware that they will recommend to their board that Querbes Tennis Center not be allowed to host SALT matches this Spring due to the condition of the courts. Phillip Campbell noted that the "courts are life blood" of any tennis facility and the people that work there. Bill Phillips recommended applying for USTA grant money for court repair and he quoted a price of \$40,000 per court, not the \$100,000 per court that the City of Shreveport was saying. Something needs to be done, NOW!
8. Combo Coordinator, Karen Jantz, sent her numbers in saying that we have 80 Combo Teams registered, with 986 players. This is about the same number as last year. Combo State will begin November 3 – 5 (40+ in Shreveport), November 10 – 12 (55+ in Monroe) and November 17 – 19 (18+ in Baton Rouge). Also, congratulations to the 18+ 9.0 and 7.0 Mixed Teams that won State and are onto Sectionals.
9. Flex League Coordinator, Rhonda Rubben, reported that 26 players have signed up for the Fall Single Flex League.
10. Community Coordinator, Kaye Cochran, reported that David Kimball has a tennis program going at Walnut Hill Middle School and Todd Killen has a program at Meadowview Elementary. David has a Middle School League with 16 first time players at Southern Hills. He hopes some will continue and progress to High School Tennis. Todd has about 40 Elementary student players at Meadowview. His programs have increased in numbers by giving the students he sees at the different schools a progression to programs at North Bossier Tennis Complex. Rhonda Rubben, with FDDOC, wanted to remind the Pros to consider NJTL with your junior programs. Here are a few things to make sure you have marked down on your calendars: October 7 (Junior Level 5 at POTC); St. Jude Tournament at Southern Trace on October 6 – 8; Bill Oliver Memorial 10 and Under Fundraiser Tournament at Southern Trace on October 20 – 22; Junior Red River Shootout L3 at POTC on October 21 – 22.
11. Bill Phillips wanted our CTA to know about a new program of Early Development Camp. He has partnered with LSU in Baton Rouge and held a camp using orange ball and green ball. He would like to do a Red Ball Camp in Shreveport. Local Pro, Anthony McMaster, will be one of the instructors. Bill also wanted to remind all tennis Pros, schools and our CTA to join Net Generation. Our CTA will be a Service Provider. Just go to netgeneration.com for further information and to join.
12. We wanted to welcome back Dan Beedle, previously of Querbes by way of Memphis, who is now the head pro at Squire Creek Club in Ruston.

13. David Kimball is looking for anyone who would like to become a tennis official. If you are interested, please contact him. We do have a shortage of officials in Louisiana and as a player, it is a great way to know the rules of tennis!

14. Todd Killen wanted everyone to know that they will be hosting a Bossier City Open on November 10 – 12 at the North Bossier Tennis Complex. There will be Open Men's and Women's Singles as well as Mixed play. For further information contact the tennis facility. More information will be available soon.

**NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017
NOON – EAST RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB**