

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION
"To promote and develop tennis in Northwest Louisiana"
Minutes – March 7, 2018

1. The meeting was called to order by President Rhonda Rubben.
2. Secretary Sue Allender proceeded with rollcall. Those in attendance include: Grady Wilson, Mike Correal, Sue Allender, John Liles, Bob Patterson, Jay Boyd, David Kimball, Phillip Campbell, Brian Bernard, Joey Lawler, Tracy Meehan, Anthony McMaster, Kaye Cochran, Angela Pfanner, Tammie Harris and Nancy Harper. We have a quorum.
3. Sue did note that we have a few changes from last months minutes. Item 5c. should read "Bonnie Cox is stepping down, but the executive board will search and replace a new awards chairperson.". Also, item 7b. should read "Grady Wilson explained to the Independence Bowl Foundation officials how important it was to get Querbes back up and running. This new tournament is a great way to show city government what it means to our economy and the need for Querbes. The Independence Bowl wants to help if they can.". David Kimball motion that we waive the reading of the February minutes and make the changes thus stated, Jay Boyd second the motion. All were in favor. The minutes stand as corrected.
4. Treasurer John Liles gave the bank balances as of 2/28/18. The current assets at Capital One Bank general account are \$102,607.61. The current assets at Red River Bank junior tennis account are \$40,526.72.
5. President Rhonda Rubben gave her report from the past month's tennis activities:
 - a. The main event was the Bill Oliver Memorial Tennis Tournament this past weekend. The weekend was a huge success with 189 players and over 25 volunteers serving in various capacities throughout the weekend. A special thank you to Nancy Harper for working with Junior Coordinator, Angela Pfanner, and securing many volunteers and working the entire weekend herself. Thanks to our great sponsors (see below) over \$6,500 was raised for our junior tennis programs. Our thanks to our host POTC, Grady Wilson and Phillip Campbell at the tournament desk, Anthony McMasters and Akeem with the Red Ball Challenge Event, Jennifer Miller, Assistant Manager at POTC for all her prep work and volunteering she did for the tournament. More to follow with Junior Tennis Coordinator, Angela Pfanners report.
 - b. The NWLaCTA is looking to hold another event in November, date still to be determined.
 - c. Our website now includes tabs for Ruston, Monroe and Minden, with Natchitoches to be added soon. Our Facebook followers have increased from 500 to 707. Please urge your friends to check out our page and friend us. Rhonda again urges all Pros to contact Angela about getting your clubs activities listed on the monthly e blasts
 - d. The USTA has many grants and scholarships available ranging from College Scholarships to diversity and inclusion grants. For additional information go to www.ustafoundation.com/grants scholarships
 - e. The National Football Association Tournament has been re-scheduled for March 16-18 at East Ridge Country Club. Contact Toni Goodin for sign up information at agoodin12@gmail.com.
 - f. The 70+ State Invitational Tournament will be held at Bossier Tennis Center on March 23-25. Over 100+ players are expected to attend.
 - g. Regarding the nomination committee for our CTA, Rhonda would like someone from each tennis facility to be on the committee. That way we would have a lookout from the different areas from our tennis community.

6. USTA/LTA/STA Reports:
 - a. Grady Wilson reported that the awards committee is revamping their criteria.
 - b. Jay Boyd reported that there is now a sub committee to update our bid process for tournament allocations. He was happy to report that our League Coordinator, Tammie Harris, will be on that committee.

7. Past-President, Bob Patterson, attended a Shreveport Sports Commission meeting with Rhonda Rubben. Last month he reported that the Sports Commission awarded our CTA \$5,000 to be used when we host USTA events. The Sports Commission was very interested to find out where our visiting players stay and will be doing a survey at the upcoming 70+ State Tournament. Rhonda suggested that we use the \$5,000 to purchase large umbrellas to assist in the shade deprived areas at Southern Hills and Cockrell (and hopefully Querbes when it is back in the rotation). The CTA will own the umbrellas and store them in our storage unit when not in use. Another use for the \$5,000 could go towards securing food trucks for Southern Hills and Cockrell during tournaments. These items, food and shade, will enhance the possibility of securing future state tournaments in Shreveport-Bossier.

8. Kaye Cochran, Community Coordinator, gave her report:
 - a. Junior Events that are happening in the area include:
 - i. Querbes Junior School Team Tennis League- 138 junior players have signed up through Jot Form as of 3/3.
 - ii. Red Ball Challenge on Saturday, March 3 at POTC as part of the Bill Oliver Tournament had 15 participants. Another red Ball Challenge will be held at Cockrell on March 17.
 - iii. After school programs are being held through FDDOC at Oak Park and Summer Grove.
 - iv. Junior Tournament calendar us coming out soon. Some tournaments scheduled include Calvary on March 17, Natchitoches on March 24 and a High School Tournament on March 31st. The JTT Membership as of March 1st has 137 players in Tennislink.
 - b. Adult Events in our area include:
 - i. The Senior Olympics on May 9 at Bossier Tennis Center
 - ii. Tennis Apprentice
 1. Querbes- Adult 2/17-3/21 (21 participants)
 2. Bossier- Family 3/14 - 4/11
 3. NFL Foundation Tennis Tournament March 16 - 18
 4. STCC Ladies Challenge Tournament March 16 - 18

9. Junior Tennis Coordinator, Angela Pfanner, gave her report:
 - a. To add to what Rhonda had already said about the Bill Oliver Memorial Tennis Tournament, Angela wanted to thank and recognize the following:
 - i. Nancy Harper for working with her and securing many volunteers and working the entire weekend herself.
 - ii. The Red Ball Event offered a great intro to tennis experience for 15 children under the direction of Anthony and Akeem. Anthony will also donate a lesson to the winner of the Fast Serve Contest, Jennifer West.
 - iii. The tournament vendors included several who were connected to our tennis community. Pelino Group (Sheri Stinson), Shreveport Signs Now (Anthony Riley), Lamb Advertising (donations), UPS Store on 70th Street (donations), Teri Flash (photo backdrop), along with the Bill Oliver Committee and board members who sought donations and/or volunteers or played in the fundraising weekend.
 - iv. A huge thank you to all the Pro's who donated "Hit For Prizes".
 - v. Special recognition to Jennifer Miller, Assistant Manager at POTC, for all the prep work and volunteering.
 - vi. The poster contest was a success with winners in the selected age categories displayed throughout the weekend and will be used throughout the year in CTA and junior tennis promotions.

- b. Net Generation. Meadowview Elementary in Bossier is in the process of partnering with Bossier Tennis Center and Todd Killen as our next Net Generation school partnership. Coach Denise Howell will be the contact at Meadowview.
 - c. Upcoming Junior Events:
 - i. Red Ball Event at Cockrell Tennis Center for ages 5 – 12 on Saturday, March 17 from 9:30 – 11. Led by local volunteers DeWayne Allen and Ronda Facaine.
 - ii. Willie Paz is hosting St. Mary's Invitational in Natchitoches on Saturday, March 24, deadline is March 20th. All area High Schoolers are encouraged to play.
 - iii. Level 4 Junior Louisiana Open Tournament, March 23 – 25 at POTC
 - iv. Level 6 Junior Tournament, March 31 at Bossier Tennis Center.
10. Adult Spring League Coordinator, Tammie Harris reported on our USTA Adult League.
- a. Registration is still open for players. To date, we are down 18 players for 18+, down 21 players for 40+, and up 20 players for 55+.
 - b. The Texarkana, AR teams are doing well.
 - c. The Captain's gifts that were given out at the Bill Oliver were GREATLY appreciated, the shirts look great!!!
11. Nancy Harper, Volunteer Committee Chairperson, wanted to remind everyone about the need for volunteers for the 70+ Invitational at Bossier on March 23-25. Volunteers are needed to work the tourney desk to assist putting players on the courts and when courts are available. Shifts are 2 hours each. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Nancy at nkbushnell@yahoo.com. Nancy again wanted to thank everyone who helped at the Bill Oliver Tournament.
12. Vice President, Mike Correal, has things ready for the 70+ State Tournament. Sandwiches will be provided for the players. To date 52 players have signed up. Outback Steakhouse is going to donate to our tournament, Mike just needs to have the donation information on our letterhead (Kaye has this). Nancy will have flowers to decorate the tourney desk as well as the large meeting room. Mike is looking to have backgammon, decks of cards, etc. available for players during their time between matches. We do need a photographer. Again, we want to give all our visiting tennis players a warm welcome.
13. Angela Pfanner has her Katy Built Tournament Director hat on and has posters to give out to all the clubs. It is not too early to get your teams together for this very worthwhile event. The date is June 1 – 3.

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, 4, 2018
POTC - NOON