

## Northwest Louisiana Community Tennis Association

### Board Minutes – May 3, 2023

#### Call to Order – Brian Bernard

**Attendance** – Board members: Brian Bernard, Steve Craig, Pam Haley, Albert Hardison, Stephanie Bass, Chris Dudley, Grady Wilson, Willie Paz, Rhonda Rubben, Ken Meyers. Others: Rachel Morgan, Amy Dudley, Eric Zimmer, Marilyn Meyers, Hassan Abbas, Bob Patterson, Kaye Cochran, Kirita Windham.

April minutes were approved. Motion by Rhonda Rubben, second by Albert Hardison.

#### Executive Board Reports

##### **President Report** – Brian Bernard

- Angela May has been hired as a new Community Coordinator working primarily with NJTL and junior programs.
- \$7200 in Community Partners to date. Cane's is a new Community Partner, contributing \$1000 plus tea/lemonade, prizes, and incentives for events at all facilities in NWLACTA area.
- Two students applied for need-based High School Assistance and 4 for High School Senior Scholarship. SALT contributed \$1000 toward need-based scholarship. Approved up to \$3500 to award recipients, potentially two \$1000 need-based scholarships, \$1000 to one senior, and \$500 to remaining 3 seniors, 1x scholarships. Motion by Grady Wilson, second by Albert Hardison.

Rhonda Rubben – Submitted USTA Foundation grant application for \$20,000. NJTL committee and applicable pros involved in planning. May need additional equipment this year, balls, rackets, carts, new grips, and strings for racquets. Chris Dudley offered a racquet stringing machine. Short tennis demos will be provided at two Friendship Houses tomorrow and again the following Thursday at A. B. Palmer Park Community Center. A. B. Palmer will host a SPAR/CTA NJTL Free summer this summer as well. The goal is to provide events at each Community Center with tennis courts.

- Anonymous donation of \$10,000, \$7500 earmarked for Cockrell TC and \$2500 for A.B. Palmer. The NJTL committee will work with Tennis Director on best utilization of funds.
- Tennis month proclamations received from Shreveport Mayor Tom Arceneaux, Bossier Mayor Tommy Chandler and LA Governor Jon Bell Edwards.

##### **Treasurer Report** – Steve Craig

- Tax return submitted. Copies available upon request.
- Assets: \$231,972, including \$156,186 checking/savings, \$73,201 Merrill Lynch.
- Liabilities: \$6,935, including \$ 3,229 credit card.
- Total income Jan – Apr 2023: \$ 95,929, including \$ 12,084 restricted.
- Total expenses Jan – Apr 2023: \$ 63,040.
- Net Income YTD: \$32,890, including \$12,084 restricted.
- Balance Sheet and P & L by MTH YTD are available for review.

##### **USTA/STA/LTA** – Grady Wilson

- USTA Section leaders met last month.
- USTA Connect will gather all data outside of Serve Tennis for better communication.
- Coaching videos are available.
- Premier facility pilot program is beginning.
- 130 tennis coaches/pros attended March clinic at Hilton Head.
- Select number of USTA Sections will work with local facilities to run a pilot pickleball league program in 2023 to gather data from pickleball and tennis and establish a pickleball rating system.
- 23+ million tennis players, 8+ million pickleball players.
- Some local facilities have lost tennis courts to pickleball.

Rhonda Rubben – Beginning in 2024, 40 and over leagues will need 5 courts, 4 doubles, 1 single. Uncertain if we will use this format locally at first but will be mandatory at state, sectionals, and nationals. Rhonda and Tammie Harris attended the LTA coordinators’ meeting in Baton Rouge. Rhonda, Tammie, and Dede Platt attended the STA coordinators’ meeting in Little Rock. Both meetings were very informative. Some changes in leagues are coming through USTA.

### **Public and Private Facilities – PRO Updates**

#### POTC –

- Hosted one-day NWLACTA JTT in April, with 48 players with most of area facilities represented. Two POTC teams and one Bossier team are going to State.
- Hosted high school Division 3 regional championships. Loyola won. Some players qualified for State.
- Over 257 players registered for the 40 & Over Even State Tournament, hosted by BTC, POTC and QTC.
- 62 students in Off-campus PE.
- Summer camps and summer JD begin the week of May 22.
- LED lights will be installed soon.
- Renovations of Losers’ Buy in progress.

#### BTC –

- Step Up league for TA in progress. TA participant fee includes registration for City Tournament.
- The off-campus program for spring is ending.
- BLT spring luncheon was May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Hosting the 40 and Over Even State tournament this weekend.

#### QTC –

- Issues continue with peeling of paint on courts.
  - Eric Zimmer - Contractor said the problem was not his responsibility because of the source of peeling. Brian will follow up with city.
- ADA compliant lift has been installed.
- Because of rain, only 3 evening TA sessions have been held. Morning TA completed 6 sessions. The TA party last week was well attended.
- Summer camps begin the week of June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Golf/tennis camps scheduled for summer.
- Hosted golf/pickleball event for Shreveport Bar Assoc. with 32 pickleball players. Eric Zimmer assisted.
- 4 National Tennis Month events planned: Cardio, Open House for Church, and reading at Shreve Island 2 times (stories about Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe).
- Kids’ tournament May 13<sup>th</sup> – Jr. circuit and level 7.

#### Cockrell –

- 3 National Tennis Month events planned: Cardio (with literature that includes health information from medical professionals and benefits of playing tennis), Mother’s Day-Old School vs New School event, Memorial Day remembrance/celebration.
- Summer camps will be offered at no cost to kids through the partnership with SPAR, CTA NJTL Program, and donor making it a total of 7 weeks of FREE summer camps.

#### ERCC –

- Hosted TAPB (tennis and pickleball) event with 44 participants. Another event scheduled in mid-May.

#### SHills –

- 50 participants in Spring break camp. Most will participate in summer camps, with SPAR/NWLACTA NJTL camp scheduled and other dates TBD.
- 40 players in Calvary HS program, including 15 in off-campus PE.

- Successful NWLACTA NJTL Adaptive PE program partnering with Southern Hills SPAR Rec. Center.
- Green ball tournament next Tuesday. Seeking help with format from other pros.
- Memorial Day mixer planned.
- Eric attended Jackson MS Level 1 tennis certification workshop.

**Natchitoches –**

- Resurfacing of courts completed. Thanks to CTA for donation.
- St. Mary's HS boys' team participated in regionals, and 7 qualified for State.
- TA began last Monday with 12 participants.
- The Level 6 tournament is May 21-22.
- Level 7 scheduled in June.
- Jr tennis summer camps scheduled for the first week of June.

**STCC –**

- UTR tournament in May was well attended and included some new players.
- Mint Julep tournament was well-attended.
- Upcoming UTR event.
- Summer camps (open) begin May 22 to both members and non-members. Include multiple sports and lunch.

**Committee Reports – Rhonda Rubben**

**Outreach & Special Programs/Grants –**

- SPAR has hired 2 youth for part-time positions to assist with tennis programs/facilities this summer. Will hire one more.

**State Tournaments –**

- 40 and Over Even tournament begins tomorrow. BTC is the host, with POTC and QTC as satellite facilities.

**Junior Tennis –**

- JTT format worked well. Would like to have more high school players.

**Local League Coordinator Reports – Rhonda Rubben, Tammie Harris, Kirita Windham**

- Tri level has 7 more teams than in 2022 with 616 registered to date.
- Mixed registration has 495 to date and continues until May 15.

**Other New Business –**

- Promote NWLACTA on Facebook.
- Newsletter information needed by the 25th of each month.
- Promoting pro instructor month on Fb in May. Send comments and picture. Pros with top 3 comments and most likes will receive gift card to restaurant of choice.

The meeting was adjourned. Motion by Rhonda Rubben, second by Grady Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Haley, Secretary