

**Northwest Louisiana Community Tennis Association (NWLACTA)
Minutes from December 11, 2024, Board Meeting**

Call to Order- Rhonda Rubben

Attendance – Board members: Brian Bernard, Rhonda Rubben, Ashley Price, Dede Plette, Grady Wilson, Brian Furqueron, Michael Pereira, Philip Campbell, Steve Craig, Matthew Coerver, Willie Paz. Others: Tammie Harris, Selwin Ellis.

November minutes did not list Jay Boyd in attendance, he was added. Motion to approve new minutes. Motion by Rhonda Rubben, second Steve Craig

Executive Board Reports:

President Report Rhonda Rubben/Steve Craig

- LTA
 - Brian Benard, Rhonda Rubben, Dede Plette and Steve Craig attended the LTA workshop, Hall Of Fame dinner and Awards Ceremony. All the CTAs get together and talk about issues, successes, how we can help each other. NWLACTA received 6 of the 17 awards. We were recognized as the premiere CTA in the state.
 - Phillip Campbell was inducted into the Louisiana Tennis Hall of Fame
 - Cockrell, Bossier, POTC were represented and received awards for programs and staff at their facilities.
 - Steve Craig will be the LTA Treasurer, Brian Furqueron will be on the board, and Hassan will be the representative for the Northwest.

Treasurer's Report Steve Craig

- December 2024
 - Assets: \$241,821, including \$162,754 cash (\$21,073 restricted), \$ 79,067 Merrill Lynch.
 - Liabilities: \$3,449, credit card
 - Total income: \$214,324, includes \$1,243 league, TA, Querbes, and JTT, \$486 Love Twice, \$297 Investment income,
 - Total expenses: \$8,248, including \$2,083 Junior Tennis, \$1,200 Sectionals
 - Balance Sheet and P & L by MTH YTD available for review.

USTA/LTA/STA Reports: Jay Boyd/Grady Wilson/Phillip Campbell/Bill Phillips

No reporting this month.

NJTL/Outreach Report – Rhonda Rubben

- Fall outreach programs ongoing
 - CTC, BAFB, VOA-Shreveport, VOA-Bossier
 - Bossier Adaptive - 10/28 - Benton and Bossier High School Students attended
 - Well received and they would like to start an after school program
 - Would like to start Special Olympics program in Bossier

Public and Private Facilities– PRO UPDATES

Bossier

- 200 players signed up for winter league
- As soon as the new year comes, they will start pushing the 6 new courts

POTC

- Calvary tournament well represented with 187 players, successful despite rain on Sunday
- Turkey Trot level 5 - 138 players. Players came from California, New Jersey, etc.
- Nolan Graf won consolation bracket. Finished 3 and 1
- Several local players participated in the tournament as well
- Averaging 40-50 kids in the JD
- Hassan received the tournament of the year award for the Independence Bowl. He does a great job.

BLT

- Luncheon last week, well attended
- Ugly Christmas sweater mixer scheduled for Friday the 13th

Querbes:

- The Rec center is scheduled to be demolished this year. Starting talks about 3-5 more courts
- Winter league scheduled to begin this week with 98 players to play 200 matches
- Winter league social this month to include hit for prizes, food and short sets
- Querbes Salvation Army Angel tree proudly served all 51 angels. Love giving back and helping the community.
- Querbes kids filled 3 of the sessions out of the 6 that they offer. Participation is high and good retention.
- Looking forward to 2025. New tournaments and programs

Nachitoches

- Tennis apprentice doing well, last week of tennis step up league
- Fun day play scheduled for next week
- Excited to see most of their players are enjoying red ball and then orange ball.
- In the last week of JD, a fun play day to follow
- Winter classic level 7 this Saturday 14th as well as Junior Circuit 10 and under
- Tonight hosting a Christmas party

Southern Trace

- Packed with junior program this year, so many new tennis players
- Green ball and orange ball are filling up quickly
- Working with Hassan to book a level 7 next year

- 17 people on our 2.5 team - Rosie and Leigh Ann moved up to 3.0 but still are captaining the 2.5 team - Kudos to them.
- Pushing 101 next year

SALT

- End of year party last week
- SALT won the member organization for the state, Salt ladies to be commended for that

Committee Reports:

**Adult
Community Partner/Fundraising
Marketing
State Tournaments**

**Awards
Grants
Outreach & Special Programs/Grants
Volunteer/Hospitality Committee**

**CTA Tournament
Junior Tennis**

Community Partner/Fundraising Grants

- Community partner and the BOLD tournament are the next big thing
- Big push at the beginning of the year
- Bold tournament February 28th-March 2nd. This is the best weekend to have a tournament despite the Gemini parade on Saturday.
- Rhonda has submitted all end of year reports and new grant submissions.
- Moving combo sectionals to Feb and March allowing for a longer season, 10 weeks locally instead of 8
- We did not receive the sectionals bid in 2025.

Junior Tennis

- In 2025 Dede will head up the Junior Tennis Tennis programs
- Looking for someone retired that has a heart for juniors. It's good to have the parents involved
- Love having the parents involved but because they are only there for limited number of years and then they leave they're looking for someone that can stay on longer.
- JTT to be held in the spring of 2025, hoping to use multiple facilities.
- Middle school league to be held in the fall 2025, will split up days for green ball and yellow ball
- Will split up middle school and high school tennis in 2025
- Will be able to combine the smaller private schools
- Applied and received two \$300 grants. Making every effort to keep the JTT and Middle School League costs low.

Tennis apprentice

- Total for year approximately 200 people go through he programs at Bossier, Querbes, Nachitoches and Cockrell.
- Valarie did a great job working with the Pros and the new players to get them involved.

Adult League - Rhonda Rubben/Tammie Harris

- League coordinators did a great job this year.
- At the LTA meeting there was discussion regarding a 2.0 league. Details to follow.
- Ended the year with 121 players above last year
- No official announcement as of today but the state is flipping trilevel and mixed seasons, preventing overlap of leagues.
- Shaved one week off of spring and one week off of mixed so 11 weeks instead of 12
- Order of leagues: spring, mixed, trilevel, combo
- Mixed state moved to the weekend before Labor Day and tri level the week after Labor Day
- Trilevel will have an 8 week season
- Combo will be 10-11 weeks
- Local League Council met a few weeks ago to discuss and vote on adoption of two regulations that were not in our bi-laws
- The first related to rain outs. If a court had not started and if a default court was submitted, you can now reschedule both and change players.
- The second was adoption of a partial round robin - league council voted to allow partial round robins where there could be one but only if majority captains agree.
- All even team leagues will have the option of a round robin. Not if there are an odd amount of teams.
- Mixed doubles in 2025 will generate a rating every night after your match
- Trilevel is also generating a rating but it will be at the end of the season not after every match.
- Discourage defaults because it can change standings for the whole league
- Captains gifts – Pros were asked to be sure to document how the gift certificate is used
- Encourage them to use it all at once but if they can't just make sure to document by handwriting on there.
- CTA is giving gift cards to keep the money in the community. We put \$6000 back into the community last year.
- If someone doesn't want to accept it, that's okay.
- Next meeting is 2nd Wednesday Jan 8th. Our annual meeting

Other New Business: Newsletter -

On Facebook when you see NWLACTA Post please COMMENT, like, and share

We have 2,011 followers on Facebook and 263 on Instagram. Make sure to like it and make sure to share it on your page. We put up flyers but still please share on social.

The meeting was adjourned. Motion Grady Wilson, second Brian Furqueron

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Price, Secretary