

Northwest Louisiana Community Tennis Association (NWLACTA)
Minutes from March 5, 2025, Board Meeting

Call to Order- Brian Furqueron

Attendance – Board members: Rhonda Rubben, Ashley Price, Philip Campbell, Brian Furqueron, Michael Pereira, Grady Willson, Steve Craig, Dede Plette Others: Brian Bernard, Hassan Abbas, Emily Dickson, Tammie Harris, Eric Zimmer and Jeff Smith

February minutes were approved. Motion by Grady Wilson, second Michael Pereira

Executive Board Reports:

President Report Brian Furqueron

- **BOLD Tournament**
 - Great success, 127 total entries (2024 196 -Mardi Gras Parade and other factors contributed to lower registration)
 - Special thanks to Hassan, Grady, Jake, Phillip Megan, and all POTC staff
 - Witnessed some high-level tennis along with a great Junior exhibition
- **Community Partners - Update**
 - \$13,500 to date up from \$9500 in 2024
 - Also received various “in kind” donations for the tournament
 - Eagle Distributors – Beer, Tennis balls - Norm Duhon
 - Friday Night Meal - Horn Holdings, Dwain Turnley
 - Coffee/Donuts - CRI
 - Gifts and Certificates for Spin to Win/Drawings - Pros and various local businesses and players
 - Clarkes - \$500 GC, Painting - Jennifer West, Wilson Racket – LTA, were our BIG give aways (Spin for Prizes)
 - Beverage’s leftover will be given to the Red Cross tournament on 3/24

Treasurer’s Report Steve Craig

- March 2024 & Year to Date Review
 - Assets: \$271,068, including \$187,455 cash (\$21,072 restricted), \$ 79,912 Merrill Lynch.
 - Liabilities: \$2643, credit card on 2343
 - Total income: \$21,933,
 - Total expenses: \$6,079 including \$1,028 Junior Tennis, \$1,815 General Expenses
 - Balance Sheet and P & L by MTH YTD available for review.

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

Grady

- The first board meeting of 2025 will be March 29th
- Annual National conference on March 22nd

Jeff

- USTA facility grants have greatly increased the available funding
- Last year it was 1.2 million this year up to 10 million
- Possibility of up to 200k per project, Southern board is considering what their match will be Last year it was 50k. Don't know if they'll match the 200k but it will be more than 50k match, this is for new construction and additional, new construction. Lights, wind screens, etc.
- Jeff will send the link to Rhonda for information. Available for public facilities, not private.

Public and Private Facilities– PRO UPDATES

Bossier:

- Tennis Apprentice started last Thursday. 39 in attendance
- Katy build coming up 4/10-13

BLT:

- Season is going well, BLT Board Meeting will be held next Monday
- Working with CTA on 70+ tournament this month

Cockrell:

- Spring break camp next Tuesday and Wednesday - NJTL is sponsoring
- JD full swing, HS matches for 4 schools using Cockrell
- Adult league going well
- Apprentice starts 3/18
- March Women's history event on 3/27 No Man's Land

POTC:

- The Super Bowl tournament was held in early February with over 30 players.
- Bold tournament: Rhonda and Dede did a great job setting up and organizing the tournament. Jake and the staff worked hard for 2 weeks prior to getting the courts ready
- JD doing well about 25 kids, one group on Mondays for orange ball have about 15 kids
- Rally for Relief upcoming 39 players signed up
- April 5th and 6th hosting Independence Bowl level 5 National, 256 players from all over. Will be using POTC, QTC, and BTC.
- Hassan is serving as the Racket Sports Professionals Association of Louisiana president. They will be hosting lunch and learn for pros and HS coaches - informal meeting to get to know each other and learn new things from each other. No date set yet but look out for that.

Natchitoches:

- Completing 4th week of Tennis Apprentice. They're going well.
- JD begins 3/10 and St Mary's HS invitational tournament March 22nd.

Querbes:

- JD off and running. People continue to come in. First session up to 55 kids. 25, 3-7yr olds, 9, 8-10yr olds and 21, 11-15yr olds spread out over two days. An increase from fall
- Top dressing of the courts starting Monday. Querbes clay will be shut down for 4 days.
- Michael will be certified as an official so that he can work some tournaments.
- March 17 Tennis Apprentice starts. 21 on Mondays, 10, Thursdays and 14, Saturdays.
- No new information about the repair/replacing of the paint of the courts. Brian is working on it.

SALT:

- In the middle of spring season running smoothly
- Reworked the website and had some growing pains but ironed most of that out, questions on rescheduling need to be email to Brittany Mitchell.
- Captains are doing a great job rescheduling due to the weather.
- Working on getting new salt banners for all the facilities. Hoping to have them by the next meeting
- Salt singles are up to them on scheduling – like a flex league

Southern Hills:

- Youth tennis is going well. Schools come every day of the week. Calvary is coming for 4 days with 25 kids. St. Joseph's one day with 5 kids., Ascension on Friday with 10 kids.
- Yellow ball/green ball league 80 signed up
- Unsanctioned level 7 yellow/green ball league tournament kick off. 32 signed up. 16 green and 16 yellow balls
- Between that and private lessons it was good for youth tennis. Adult tennis is still lacking.

Southern Trace:

- Resurfacing the courts soon, possibly the week of 3/17.
-

Committee Reports:

CTA Tournament – Rhonda Rubben/Dede Plette

- Special thanks to Valarie Thiels, Kaye Cochran, Ashley Price and Audrey Robinson for volunteering and to those that baked all the homemade desserts!
- Junior Team Tennis - Emails and flyers are out to promote spring season -
 - Sat/March 22nd at QTC and Cockrell
 - Sun/March 30th at BTC and POTC
- High School Tennis League
 - Spoke to Caitlyn yesterday about the kids that were cut from their high school tennis teams.
 - LHSAA can't have it under high school name because of their liability and rules.
 - Want the kids to play with their schools but will name differently.
 - Want this recreational league same format as in the spring.
 - Some of the schools try out in the fall so I want to do it in the spring.
 - Will ask the HS coaches to support it and give the information to the kids. This will help them get ready for try outs the following year at their schools.
 - Hassan suggests instructing the kids to get a USTA number and then create a junior circuit yellow ball tournament in the spring. Because if you get odd numbers, it'll be easier to combine.
 - I would like to have this organized before the first try outs in the fall

State Tournament

- 70 Tournament - March 21-23 at Bossier Tennis Center
 - 22 teams registered 187 players
 - Five states. Mississippi, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana represented
 - Working with BLT on hospitality and food
- **Scholarships**

- Any HS student can apply. One is need based and one is Merit based.
- Need based can reapply for up to 4 years.
- Last year 10 recipients received awards.
- **Marketing**
 - Working on video clips and Tennis USTA campaign for BOLD tournament. “Tennis is Us”
- **Outreach/NJTL Committee - Rhonda Rubben/Dede Plette/Katheryn Arterberry**
 - Spring 2025
 - **Broadmoor VOA/SALT/CTA & Bossier After school Programs –**
 - **Thursdays, 4-5pm**
 - Spring Program begins this Thursday
 - **Adaptive CPSB School Year Program - Tue/Thur mornings 9-10:30**
 - Spring begins next week @ Querbes
 - **Spring Break Camps - March 11 & 12, 1-3pm - Cockrell**
 - **BAFB - Meeting Friday to discuss outreach programs**
 - **Bossier Adaptive - Beginning Program in March - 6 weeks**
 - **Caddo/Bossier Adaptive Tennis Teams Competition in May**
 - **2025 Foundation Grant Application - March Application**
 - **2025 Southern Grant - Submitted Adaptive Grant \$1k last week. Starting at Bossier. Received \$400**
 - **Outreach/NJTL Committee**
 - Working on NJTL Cockrell Specific Strategic Plan - Katheryn Arterberry
 - Should have meeting set in March for 2025 Goals
- **Tennis apprentice**
 - Bossier 40 attended this spring
 - Cockrell still in registration
 - Natchitoches is running smoothly
 - Querbes has three different days
 - Monday 3/17, Thursday 3/20, Saturday 3/22
- **Adult**
 - 55+ season ends March 28th and the 18+ 2.5s need to finish by March because they have playoffs. 18 & 40 leagues end April 11th.
 - There has been a lot of rain and rescheduling. Facilities are going above and beyond to accommodate reschedules.
- Mixed - Tammie Harris**
 - Held meeting for mixed and tri level. Registration is open season begins 4/12
 - Tri and mixed switched seasons. Tri state tournament was moved from Aug to Sept. so no more overlap. Already have teams registering.
 - Should players reach out if they don't have a team, Tammie will reach out to get them on a team and plug those players in
- Tri-level**
 - Starting a women's day league - 12-week session, beginning mid May. Tri-level night starts later once mixed is finished - 8 weeks
 - Tri-level will count towards your rating. Will calculated at the end of the season.
 - 3.5-4.5 and 4.0-5.0 there's a big chance you can go straight to state or even possibly straight to sectionals if you don't get to state. You may get to go straight to sectionals.
 - Upper level there isn't as much play opportunity. Trying to get play opportunities for the tri-level. Rhonda will be sending info about that.

Other New Business:

- Rhonda requested the pros get your information to her for the newsletter as soon as possible
- Grady - not anything new. ELC Electronic line call being tested in lower levels, target is junior tennis
 - 4 or 5 companies developed software. wing vision and play replay. small monitors on the court. super accurate. if someone questions a call, matter of seconds
 - Providing grants for clubs to have that, don't know the dollar amounts 3-5K per court
 - After they demo, then some of the committees will work on how many challenges
 - We'll be seeing this mostly for juniors and big tournaments. Equipment needs to be put up if it's raining and doesn't work at night.
- Steve Craig - Thank you, to the CTA, for your contribution and help with the Red Cross Tournament. All the money stays here locally. They have worked on 14 house fires in the last two months locally. Don't make the local news but they do a lot of the community.

Other New Business: Newsletter -

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

We're at 2,050 followers on Facebook 270 on Instagram

The meeting was adjourned. Motion Brian Furqueron, second Rhonda Rubben.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Price, Secretary