

Northwest Louisiana Community Tennis Association
"To promote and develop tennis in Northwest Louisiana"
Minutes – November 7, 2012

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jay Boyd. Those in attendance include John Liles, Sue Allender, Elana Engleman, Shelly Naisbitt, Bonnie Cox, Phillip Campbell, Todd Killen, Kay Cochran, Sue Watts, Joe Thomas, Eddie Copete, Grady Wilson, Terri Bianca, David Kimball, Ken Jantz, Susan Torma, Mark, Janet and Trent Moore.
2. A motion to waive the reading of the October minutes was made by David Kimball. Sue Watts second the motion. All were in favor. The minutes stand as written.
3. Treasurer John Liles reported a balance of \$107,136.63. This includes the Red River Bank account for the 10 and Under grant (\$25,587.55) and the Capital One account (\$81,549.08) which includes the accounts of Play Tennis Bossier (\$1,964.89), Friends of Southern Hills (\$1,1291.00) and Bossier Tennis Center 10's (\$1,435.). John did tell everyone that the CDLM grant has been filed.
4. We had a special presentation at our November meeting. Airline High School Senior, Trent Moore, chose how to string a tennis racket as his senior project. His mentor was Richard Verzaal and said it took 4 ½ hours to string his first racket and now can string a racket in 1 ½ hours. He presented the rackets that he strung to Susan Torma, who represented FDDOC Winner's Circle, in support of their work with underprivileged children.
5. Community Coordinator, Shelly Naisbitt, gave her report.
 - a. On the fundraising update, Shelly has been busy. A \$250 donation to 10 and Under Tennis was received from the Aaron and Peggy Selber Foundation, Inc. A donation of \$70 was received from Becky and Mike Vanitger. Our thanks. We had to cancel our Fall Fundraiser due to outside conflicts (LSU vs. AL), but the next day Shelly received a check for \$10,000 from the Beaird Family Foundation. This foundation awards grants to qualified non profit organizations, mostly in the Shreveport-Bossier City region of northwest Louisiana. It has supported a wide range of interests, including education, housing, health care, social services, the arts and community. Shelly started applying for this grant last spring, but ran into too many obstacles (tax returns, etc.) but was able to get everything together for the fall cycle. Shelly put our goals as follows: to increase the number of elementary schools offering tennis by 5, increase the number of after school programs offering tennis by 4, to increase the number of USTA entry level play days by 17, and to increase the number of participants in 10 and Under tournaments by 500. We also hope to purchase 100 racquets, 50 nets and \$1,000 worth of balls. Great work Shelly.
 - b. The FDDOC had 114 children sign up for the Saturday play days. Rain was a big problem but we had about 50 students show up each

- Saturday. The largest turnout was on the last Saturday (52) when Shelly handed out FREE admission tickets to the State Fair.
- c. The fall session of Fun, Friends and Fitness was small in size (9 signed up) and huge on enthusiasm. In fact four of the players have already sign up for league play. We usually have small numbers for the fall session and discussed ways of increasing the numbers for this session. We are going to look into business cards that Shelly and anyone else can carry with them that will tell of any upcoming tennis events and who to contact along, with our web address.
 - d. The Super Senior State tournament and the year end CTA City Circuit (The Masters) were both great successes.
 - e. Upcoming tennis events in November and December include ATLAS tournament at North Bossier Tennis Complex (11/15); Ryan Harrison/Bryan Brothers Fundraiser for Wounded Warriors (11/18); Junior Novice Tournament at Querbes (11/17); Senior and Super Senior State Combo in Monroe (11/16 – 18); Bossier Play Day (12/9 from 3:30 – 5:30).
6. Bonnie Cox reported for 10 and Under Coordinator Robby Lockwood the following:
 - a. As mentioned above, the CTA Fundraiser was cancelled due to lack of entries. Thanks to everyone who donated time or items. The items will be held for future door prizes at other events.
 - b. It is now time to start thinking and talking more about the private Junior Team Tennis league (POTC, Southern Trace, East Ridge and Indoors). We will most likely rotate it among the facilities. If you represent one of the above clubs, please contact Robby (rvtiger@gmail.com or 318-525-7751) by November 15 about what day or time would work for you in the spring.
 - c. The ongoing after school programs are doing well at Stoner and Sunset Acres Elementary in the FDDOC as well as Stockwell Elementary in Bossier City.
 7. Women's League Coordinator Terri Bianca reported that we will be having the captains meeting for the 2013 Men's and Women's Adult Leagues on December 11 at 6 P.M. at North Bossier Tennis Complex. The team captain or a representative must be present. Please note that this meeting is usually held in January, but due to the new division changes, we have moved the meeting up. Just to remind everyone, starting in 2013 the age divisions will be 18 and up (3 doubles, 2 singles); 40 and up (3 doubles, 2 singles), 55 and up (3 doubles) and 65 and up (3 doubles). Due to the addition of the new division we will probably have to use Wednesday evenings as an overflow night of play. Again this depends on the number of teams that are interested in playing each division. John Liles did say that the numbers were down in Georgia using the new age restructure. If you have any questions, please contact Terri at 318-423-3277.
 8. Jay Boyd reported that the NWLaCTA did bid on Senior State (55 and Up); one of the sessions of Adult State; and 40 and Over Mixed.
 9. Bob Patterson with the Marketing Committee sent word that a dinner for tennis players has been tentatively planned for January 24th (a Thursday)

at East Ridge Country Club. The cost will be about \$25 per person. He will have more information at our December meeting.

10. Adult Committee Chairmen, Joe Thomas, held a meeting in regards to the New USTA age restructure and explore the use of a petition to express our views to the USTA. This was made available to players who competed at the recent Super Senior State Tournament on October 5 - 8. The committee decided to contact all the CTA's in Louisiana (our thanks to Gordy Ward for getting their e mails together). The following was sent to them: "The Shreveport/Bossier City CTA wishes to share its opinion regarding the Age Restructure beginning in 2013. As we all know, the USTA refers to tennis as the sport of a lifetime. Their recent actions however do not support this statement. These actions include the elimination of competitive tennis for many of those players who are 60+, 70+ and beyond. The most glaring of these examples is requiring players in their 50's, 60's, 70's and beyond to compete in mixed doubles with 40 year olds. We are not pleased with the changes. A petition was circulated at the Super Senior State championship held in Shreveport/Bossier City area recently to add back at a minimum a 55+ mixed doubles league structure. Will you please share with us your feelings regarding the age restructure? Have you taken any action such as petitions, letters, formal complaints or phone calls? We are interested in what other CTA's throughout the State of Louisiana are doing or what you propose to do." Joe will report at the December meeting what the response was.
11. Our CTA is still in the hunt for a Junior Tennis Committee Chairman. If you are interested or know someone who would like to help, please contact Jay.
12. We were pleased to welcome the new Director of Tennis for Pierremont Oaks Tennis Club (POTC), Todd Killen. Todd wishes to reestablish the bond between POTC and the NWLaCTA. He wants to have CTA tournaments, Fun, Friends and Fitness and other CTA events back on the POTC tennis courts. (As do we!!!!)
13. The USTA-Louisiana Annual Meeting will be held in Lafayette on December 7th and 8th. We are proud to announce the following winners from our CTA: Member Organization of the Year: Southern Trace Country Club; Special Event of the Year Certificate of Merit: NWLaCTA 10 and Under Adopt a Unit; the Charles Turner Volunteer Service Award Certificate of Merit winner: Bonnie Cox; and the Education Merit Award winner: FDDOC Children's Winner Circle. Our congratulations to all and hope to see you in Lafayette for your award presentation.

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012
NOON - EAST RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB**