

Northwest Louisiana Community Tennis Association
“Promoting and developing tennis programs and activities in Northwest Louisiana.”
Minutes – April 7, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order by President David Kimball. Those in attendance include Jay Boyd, Sue Allender, Richard Verzaal, Bill Oliver, Gordy Ward, Phillip Campbell, Elana Engleman, Jeff Ruffin, Catherine Kennedy, Stevie Schmidt and Dianne Mason.
2. The reading of the March minutes was waived. The minutes stand as written.
3. Treasurer John Liles was not present due to Senior State responsibilities, but did send the March balance of \$54,943.04 (this includes the Friends of Southern Hills account (\$1,212.00) and the Play Tennis Bossier account (\$2,464.02).
4. The first tournament of the CTA City Circuit was held at POTC on March 12 - 14. Three Senior Divisions made and increases were shown in all divisions from last year, 250 players this year as opposed to 182 players. This was great considering that the tournament fell on the first weekend of Spring Break for the area schools.

The next CTA City Circuit will be held at Eastridge Country Club on April 16 - 18. Entry blanks and standings are available on our web site.
5. Flex League sign up deadline was April 6. Match play begins April 12th. For additional information contact Karen Jantz at kkjantz50@aol.com
6. The first session of 2010 Spring Fun, Friends and Fitness will be held at Querbes on April 10th. The program consists of six sessions at area tennis facilities in Shreveport/Bossier City. Check our CTA web site (www.nwlacta.com) for further information.
7. Our web person, Becky Berry has been sending out monthly reminders of upcoming events in our tennis community. Discussion was made in regards to having a weekly reminder, but it was decided to stay with the monthly reminder. If you have any tennis information you would like Becky to post, please contact her at becky.berry@lsus.edu.
8. Richard Verzaal reported on the Junior Team Tennis program. The local tournament will be held on April 29. Bill Oliver asked about the 10 and under division Quickstart league. Richard will contact Phil Trahan and get a firm set of the rules and format. Southern Trace and North Bossier have Quickstart teams ready to go!
9. The Junior Novice tournament at North Bossier was cancelled due to lack of entries and also because it was over Spring Break (reminder to Pros during the scheduling meeting - get the dates of Spring Break for Caddo and Bossier Schools). The next Junior Novice tournament will be held at Southern Hills on April 24th, deadline to sign up is Wednesday, April 21st at 6 PM.
10. Pierremont Oaks hosted at State Junior Level 4 on April 9 - 11. Check the LTA web site for all the upcoming junior tournaments in the State.
11. We were pleased to have Catherine Kennedy and Jeff Ruffin from SPAR attend our monthly meeting. Catherine and Jeff are going to revive a program in the inner city aimed at combining life skills and tennis. With the help of a \$2,000 NJTL Grant, they will be able to purchase new racquets for the children and with Jeff's enthusiasm and knowledge, introduce the children to the sport of tennis. Jeff has run a tennis program during the summer months for SPAR and has had over 200 participants. The numbers drop to about 20 dedicated players during the school year (football, basketball and school activities seem to take over). This summer, Catherine and Jeff will also be going to churches with the tennis and life skills program. They hope to have a mini-tournament every two months for the players, maybe make it into an inner-park competition. One thing Jeff would like is for some of his students to be able to come watch tennis competitions at our area clubs (the Intersectional 16's would be a great venue).

Our CTA will do whatever they need, and as always volunteers are needed and welcomed.

12. A reminder to all that Shreveport/Bossier will be hosting a session of the Adult Louisiana State Tournament of June 4 - 7. Levels 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 and 5.0 will be competing. Site Directors will be needed at North Bossier, Cockrell, Southern Hills, Querbes, and POTC. So be ready to volunteer for our tennis community.
13. Vice-President Jay Boyd brought up the subject of Expansion of the NWLACTA Board. He brought to the table the following:

"The purpose of the communication is to inform you about some changes to our CTA and to ask for your help in these changes which we believe will result in our continuing to further the growth of tennis in Northwestern Louisiana.

The current NWLACTA Board of Directors believes that it is critical that we have as many tennis enthusiasts as possible represented on the board and involved directly in growing tennis in our community. With that goal in mind, the following new structure of the board will be implemented:

- a member from each USTA member facility (9) in Caddo and Bossier parishes
- current President of SALT (or other approved designee)
- our regions LTA representative
- a member from outlying areas that have teams participating in Shreveport-Bossier leagues, but not a local CTA (currently Natchitoches)
- One at-large board member

This will give us a total of 13 board members. The executive committee will continue to be comprised of the following five members; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate Past President. These individuals will be elected annually from amongst the board members. Current executive committee will serve out their term (2010).

In order to maximize the impact and functionality of the board, we are asking that you give special consideration to your members that possess any of the following skill sets or areas of expertise: public relations, media and education.

Our board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at POTC from noon till 1:00 PM. Board members are required to attend a minimum of 75% of the meetings each year. Board members are also required to actively serve on a minimum of 2 committees.

We are asking that you select your representative to the board (can be pro or just a tennis enthusiast), so they will be available for our board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

If you have any questions, please call David Kimball (673-7784) or Jay Boyd (573-5717 or 741-7644)."

It was also added that a CTA tournament will not be scheduled at a facility if a representative from that facility is not present at the board meetings. Richard Verzaal motioned that we pass this board expansion, Bill Oliver second the motion, all were in favor.

14. We have withdrawn our bid for hosting Combo Sectionals. We just do not have enough tennis courts.
15. "Super Man" is coming back to Shreveport-Bossier. So, James Hunt is looking for junior tennis players (grades 4-5-6) to play on Lee Hedges Stadium from 10 - noon on Friday, May 7.

**NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2010
POTC - NOON**