

**NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION**  
***"To promote and develop tennis in Northwest Louisiana"***  
**Minutes – April 6, 2016**

1. The meeting was called to order by President Bob Patterson. Those in attendance include Mike Correal, John Liles, Sue Allender, Kaye Cochran, Jay Boyd, Bonnie Cox, Rhonda Rubben (with FDDOC), Phillip Campbell, Cindy Sweatt, Tammie Harris, Elana Engleman, Robert Verzaal, Rachel Morgan and special guest Shreveport Mayor Ollie Tyler.
2. A motion was made to waive the reading of the March minutes by Tammie Harris. John Liles second the motion. All were in favor. The minutes stand as written.
3. President Bob Patterson gave his report from the past month:
  - a. The NWLaCTA City Circuit Kick-off Party Tournament held at POTC was a great success. We had 177 players compete and everyone had a great time. Bob wanted to thank Kaye Cochran and Tammie Harris for manning the information table and everyone at POTC (Pros Grady Wilson and Todd Killen) for running such a great tournament.
  - b. Sessions of Tennis Apprentice are in full swing throughout the Shreveport-Bossier area. Querbes has 32 adults signed up for their new Spring session.
  - c. Bob wanted to remind all the players and Pros that in USTA league play, we have had quite a few rainouts and they do need to be made up in a timely fashion. In other words, ASAP. Women's Coordinator, Tammie Harris, has been sending out e mails to the Pros and Captains about matches that need to be re-scheduled.
  - d. Reminder to all that we are hosting the Louisiana State 55+ Tennis Tournament on April 22 – 24. We will be using courts at North Bossier, Querbes and Southern Hills.
  - e. The National Football Foundation Tournament held on March 18 had a small turn-out. This was the first year for the tournament and was a late addition to our tennis schedule.
  - f. A Member/Guest Tournament will be held at POTC this weekend (April 8 – 10) for the members of East Ridge and POTC. Southern Trace Country Club will be holding their Member/Guest Mint Julep on April 29 – May 1.
  - g. Cindy Sweatt wanted to give everyone the latest update on our dear Pro Eddie Copete. He is at M.D. Anderson and is still in remission. Please continue to keep Eddie in your thoughts and prayers.
4. Rhonda Rubben with the FDDOC wanted to give our CTA the latest on the FDDOC happenings. She is getting ready to apply for a new grant and would like to include the NWLaCTA as a partner in this venture. The FDDOC is an after school program aimed at lower income children with 1 1/2 hours of math and reading tutoring and 1 ½ hours of a physical program such as tennis or robotics. The Broadmore Middle School has been in this program and even is competing in Middle School Team Tennis with the help of Christie Pylant and Anner Means. The grant is due next Friday (April 15) and Rhonda would be needing assistance with the tennis program. Jay Boyd, Bonnie Cox and Kaye Cochran have worked with Rhonda at different schools over the years.

5. Elana Engleman has an afterschool program in Bossier called "Serving Up Love" and is looking for child sponsors at a cost of \$25 per child. She also is asking the CTA and the 10 and Under Grant initiative if there is any way she could give each child a new racquet upon completing this program. If interested in sponsoring a child, please contact Elana at North Bossier Tennis Complex.
  
6. Jay Boyd, John Liles, Grady Wilson and Phillip Campbell attending the LTA meeting in Baton Rouge and after the meeting watched the Cajun Wheelchair Tournament. The focus on the meeting was establishing a Patrons Foundation to aid junior players as a scholarship for travel expenses, etc. Also targeting Millennials through communication (snap chat, instagram, Facebook, etc.) Robert Verzaal (our only millennial) mentioned that we can do instagram ads through Facebook. Another program that the LTA is looking into is a Young Adult League (YAL) for players under 30. To be played on Friday nights and maybe have day care available.
  
7. Community Coordinator, Kaye Cochran gave her report. She is looking at ways to bring tennis to area neighborhoods. She is looking at Town South and Airport Park that have playable tennis courts. Also the neighborhoods around Southern Hills and Cockrell tennis facilities. She will see if a pro is available to teach a session of four lessons at these courts. Rhonda Rubben mentioned that the FDDOC could also help at the schools in these areas. Elana Engleman had a great idea about bringing tennis to the neighborhoods. When a street has a National Night Out, we could bring one of the portable tennis nets with racquets and balls and introduce them to the sport of tennis.
  
8. Women's Coordinator Tammie Harris had the latest numbers for our USTA Adult League:

	Women	Men	
18 and Up	368	222	
40 and Up	282	140	
55 and Up	127	65	
65 and Up	28	15	
TOTAL	805	442	1,247

(increase of 49 from 2015)

9. Tammie is also the Flex League Coordinator and wanted everyone to know that the Singles Spring Flex League registration is open until April 25. Play will begin May 2.

10. Mixed Coordinator, Karen Jantz, sent word that the 2016 Mixed League Captains Meeting will be held Thursday, May 5 at East Ridge Country Club at 6 P.M. Please have your Captain or someone from your team plan to attend.
11. Jay Boyd gave the 10 and Under Grant Initiative.Coordinator report. Jay met with Bill Phillips with Southern and the funds are still available, but we are looking for a new coordinator. If interested, please contact Jay. Also we are looking at a 10 and Under Committee and hopefully have Elana Engleman, Grady Wilson and David Kimball on board along with Jay. If you are interested in assisting this committee, please contact Jay.
12. The State Tournament bids for 2017 – 2018 will be due soon. We do need to get together and have hotels, etc. on board. WHEN Querbes courts are resurfaced, we could have enough courts in Shreveport/Bossier to bid for a Sectional Tournament. Bob will be sending out an e mail blast looking for volunteers in our community willing to help get the tournaments up in Northwest Louisiana.
13. John Liles will be heading a Financial Committee and anyone can assist. We are always on the lookout for new people with new ideas.
  - a. John did want to say that the CTA Kick-off Tournament made \$1,717.
  - b. He also has been in talks with Jeff Ryan, with the USTA in charge of the Federation Cup and Davis Cup. The USA Davis Team plays Croatia on July 15. When they win they could play France on September 16 – 18. Jeff Ryan was wondering if we could possibly hold the Davis Cup tie here in Shreveport. John is looking at Centurylink and asked Mayor Tyler about the possibility of Hirsch Coliseum. This would be a great boost for tennis and our area not just Nationally but also Internationally.
  - c. Our CTA will also be donating to our area High School Tennis teams that will be attending the State Tournament (Byrd, Evangel and Caddo Magnet).
14. Bob asked the area Pros about what is happening at their clubs:
  - a. Head Pro, Phillip Campbell, reported that at Southern Trace Country Club the March rains took out the lower clay courts and will not be playable for their Member/Guest. But good news is that they are adding a roof on the pavilion.
  - b. Robert Verzaal, the Pro at Querbes has been busy with the Elementary and Middle School Team Tennis matches. As mentioned earlier, he has around 32 beginner adults for Tennis Apprentice. He plans of having a Step Up League to follow this session. A designate level 4 Junior Tournament is slated for this weekend (April 8 – 10) and has over 100 players signed up. He is also looking at the Rally Family Program, a way for the whole family to play tennis together.
  - c. North Bossier's Pro, Elana Engleman, is getting ready for her One Day Tournament circuit. Also she had been contacted by Airline High School about needing tennis equipment for their classes (this is after the classes have

already started). Please check with any High School before they begin a tennis block to see if they are in need of racquets, etc.

15. Shreveport Mayor, Ollie Tyler, was very impressed with what we are doing for tennis in Shreveport. Our CTA did mention that we do bring in a lot of money with our State and Junior Tournaments to the Shreveport/Bossier area, by way of dollars spent in hotels, restaurants, shopping, etc. We thanked her for taking time out from her busy schedule to attend our monthly meeting and she is always welcome.

**NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016**

**NOON – POTC (NOT EAST RIDGE)**