

**Northwest Louisiana Community Tennis Association (NWLACTA)  
Minutes from September 4, 2024, Board Meeting**

**Call to Order-** Rhonda Rubben

**Attendance** – Board members: Rhonda Rubben, Ashley Price, Steve Craig, Todd Killen, Dede Plette, Grady Wilson, Kathrine Arterberry, Michael Pereira, Brian Bernard, Philip Campbell, Willie Paz. Others: Emily Dickson, Eric Zimmer, Cotter Wilson, Marilyn Meyers, Rodric Arterberry, Kaye Cochran, Tammie Harris, Jeff Smith.

August minutes were approved. Motion by Grady Wilson second Todd Killen

**Executive Board Reports:**

**President Report** Brian Bernard/Rhonda Rubben

- **Community Partners**
  - Nominating Michael Pereira representing Querbes and Dede Plette Co-Executive Director to the Board
  - Motion to approve: Grady Wilson, Second Brian Bernard
- **Other: Thank you notes received**
  - John's wife, Nancy, thanking CTA for support through difficult time
  - Scholarship recipients
  - Jeffery Goodman for supporting City Championship

**Treasurer's Report** Steve Craig

- August 2024
- Move banking from Red River to Origins Bank.

Motion to approve Todd Killen, second Grady Wilson

- Assets: \$256,125, including \$ 178,191 cash (\$16,622 restricted), \$ 77934 Merrill Lynch.
- Liabilities: \$2,345, credit card
- Total income: \$12,732, includes \$9828 league, \$1428 TA, \$1,081 Querbes, \$324 Love Twice, \$70 interest income.
- Total expenses: \$19,516, including \$12,511 QTC, \$2121 player gifts combo, and \$713 St. Jude's expense to date.
- Balance Sheet and P & L by MTH YTD available for review.
- Move banking from Red River to Origins Bank.

Motion to approve Todd Killen, second Grady Wilson

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

- **USTA** - Jeff Smith and Grady Wilson
  - Grady and Cotter attended the US Open. USTA spending \$750 million on Arthur Ashe. They do not plan to update the entire facility, will start with the player facilities. Grady anticipates that the state will receive some funding, just not as much as in the past.
  - Open Tennis Fest events are available and are promoted by USTA Southern. \$300 each event for public facilities. Deadline is Sept 8th. The events can be held in September and October. Two events are planned at

Querbes and four at Cockrell.

**NJTL/Outreach Report** – Rhonda Rubben

- Outreach committee meeting next month
  - VOA SALT in Broadmoor starting Sept 19th on Thursdays
  - VOA Bossier starting Oct 3rd
  - Adaptive program/special Olympics program. Currently only high school Kids with plans to grow to include adults. Eric Zimmer coordinating.
  - SPAR Camp Fall break starts Oct. 7th and winter break Jan 2-3, 2025
  - Outreach meeting coming up with more things to add
  - Reaching out to Barksdale. The school on base is under construction so having to use the gym. making it difficult to establish a pop-up day. Additional, challenge is to get the kids to and from the youth center to the tennis courts
  - NJTL conference this October, Orlando, FL. Would anyone like to attend?

**Public and Private Facilities– PRO UPDATES**

**Bossier**

- JD starting up
- Tuesday nights are full using all available courts - which is great!
- Oct 4-5 fundraiser for Providence Academy Friday and Saturday
- College match ITA Tech, Xavier, playing each other on Saturday and Sunday Oct 5-6 on hard court

**POTC**

- JD began when school started. Its packed - which is good
- Gearing up for St Jude Tournament next weekend Sept 12-15
- Hosting the club championship, running through Serve Tennis
- Pickleball busy, SALT started and busy
- Tennis is doing well

**Cockrell**

- Hosting 4 of the Open Tennis Fest events
- First event held on Labor Day with 50 players, second event held tonight
- Red ball - 4-week sessions will run throughout the year
- Tennis apprentice starting soon but may overlap with red ball
- Hosting level 7 circuit tournament October 5th
- Spar fall break and winter break camps will be held at facility

**SALT**

- Registration is ended, 27 doubles, 33 single players
- Double play began last week, singles this week and will continue through November
- New website up and running

**Southern Hills**

- Youth tennis - Calvary there 5 days a week and two other schools St Joseph's and Ascension
- Lessons and clinics gearing up, started yellow and green ball league 104 in Springs.
- Special Olympics and adaptive tennis kicking off soon
- Jill's focus is Pickleball

- Most of the storm damage has been repaired. There are a few minor things still needing attention to complete the project.

**Natchitoches**

- Willie was talking to Jeff about a high school tournament on Sept 28th first pilot team tournament. Team tournament one boy singles, one girl singles, two girls double and two boy doubles. Reaching out to local coaches to help reach players and teams.
- Tennis Apprentice will kick off the first week of October
- Level 7 tournament scheduled for October 19th
- 10U Junior Grand Prix scheduled for October 23rd
- JD programs start next week.
- Lady demons' tournament next month
- Adult Red Ball tournament held on Tuesday night. Very successful, will plan to do it again, in the Spring. Played on small court, small racket, red ball.

**Southern Trace**

- Gearing up for St Jude next weekend
- Tennis 101 started, good turn out
- UTR tournament this weekend. Orange and Green ball Friday. Yellow ball on Saturday
- Adam is coming back Saturday so we'll have three pros again.

**Querbes**

- New pro - technically on day 2 of his new job
- Junior program starting next week
- Next week Tennis Apprentice to begin
- Tennis Fest in October. Two cardio and game days. Throwing his spin on it with new games
- Looking forward to meeting the players and getting established at the facility

**Committee Reports:**

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

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

**CTA Tournament  
Junior Tennis**

- **LTA Awards**
  - All awards have been submitted, Dede was very helpful on this project.
- **Marketing**
  - Gearing up for new marketing
- **State Tournaments**
  - 40 Combo Tournament - October 25-27th - anticipate 375
  - BTC host with Cockrell and Querbes Satellite facilities
    - Player gifts - towels and sweatbands

**Junior Tennis**

- **Junior Middle School tennis league - Beginning Fall 2024**
  - Hoping for 8 teams starting at the end of October
  - Will not have a separate Shreveport and Bossier league, combining to have more play time.

Players must attend that middle school to play on their team. Yellow and Green ball

- JTT will start immediately following, will reach out to those who expressed an interest in forming a middle school but did not have enough players
- Lana Wray's team took first place at state. Alexis Green finished second place at state and received the wild card to sectionals, teams returned this week and finished 4th and Alexis's 5th place
- Great showing for junior tennis from our area. The CTA gave each team a \$250 stipend for state and \$300 for sectionals.

### **Coordinators' Reports-Community Coordinators**

#### **Tennis Apprentice –**

- Querbes and Cockrell - Coming up in mid-September.
- Natchitoches - Oct. and Nov.

### **Local League Coordinator** - Tammie Harris/Rhonda Rubben

- Mixed
  - Finished with 840 players. 33 less than last year, there is a gain in the 55 and over league. Numbers were down in 40 over and 18 over
  - Good state tournaments. 40+ 4.0 won, 4.5 team going to sectionals. 18+ did well. 55 and over 4.0 invited to sectionals
- Combo
  - 16 women's 2.5 teams. If you're having any issues, please let them know.
  - Combo 51 players up and 10 teams up from the previous year
  - Spring will be packed. 40 level will continue to play 5 courts nationally will keep the local level at 4. Need to remind teams that at state they will have to play additional players.
  - Partial round robin being considered, player is requesting a jot form be sent to the captains on how they feel about it. With the 2.5s they did a flight because it was even. Some of the players wanted more matches during the season. Adult league council will review and then bring it to the board. This will happen before registration opens in December.
  - Question: Were mixed teams down everywhere because of the change or something else? Atlanta went up. Why were ours down? Straight levels make it more difficult for upper levels to form with fewer players.

### **Other New Business: Newsletter -**

- Currently there are 1973 Facebook followers, would like to hit 2000 before the year ends.
- Please send fliers to Rhonda she will add to the newsletter.
- CTA pushes people to each individual facilities website.
- CTA is a one stop shop so share with Rhonda, she can put in the newsletter with the links. Collaborative effort to help get on teams for SALT, BLT and USTA day.
- Request each facility review their links to be sure link is correct and review for updates.

Post please **COMMENT, like, and share**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Ashley Price, Secretary