



San Diego District Tennis Association
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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
June 13, 2023 at Barnes Tennis Center
Next General Meeting Monday, August 8, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 PM. Called to order by John Broderick. Attendees were Eric Alm, Mike Bauer, Cara Beltran, John Broderick, Janene Christopher, Andrew Cretella, Jeff Greenwald, M.A. Hillier, Josh Jorgensen, Steve Kappes, Steve Leffler, Anne Leistikow, Randie Lettington, Solomon Liu, Hillary Park, Aaron Sheinbein, Todd Sprague. Guests: Trevor Kronemann (USTA SoCal), and Linda Milan (USTA SoCal/SCTA Foundation).
- II. MINUTES: March 13, 2023, General Meeting. MSP. April 10, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting. MSP
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: John Broderick expressed his appreciation for the contributions of all the District board members who volunteered their time and efforts to make the May 7th TennisFest Event at Balboa Tennis Club a huge success. He noted that this was a great team effort, one of the greatest he has seen. Shattoo Mohammed and Rachel Bevis, Co-Directors did a great job as did District board members Carole Farr, Solomon Liu, Mike Bauer, Steve Kappes, Matt Previdi, and Cara Beltran.

John thanked Steve Kappes for reminding us of how Bill Stack's 1970 idea to create a USTA San Diego tennis district and willingness to doggedly pursue his dream with the Southern California Tennis Association and local tennis organizations led to the creation of the District. The 50-year anniversary of the SDDTA became a major theme of this year's TennisFest. Bill Stack was posthumously honored as a recipient of the Ben Press Award at this year's event. John also thanked SCTA Foundation for donating \$3k towards the event, Larry Belinsky for donating the SDTHOF shirts, and all other sponsors. The San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame (SDTHOF) inductees Allison Bradshaw DeNike, Todd Nelson, Walter Redondo, and (future hall-of-famer?) Hiromi Sasano generously participated in a "Hit with a Hall of Famer Court".

He called everyone's attention to the District website (<https://sandiegotennis.com>) which has benefited from Jeff Anderson's hard work as well as efforts from new board member Aaron Sheinbein to add current content. Aaron has also contributed to the District's social media presence as are Sabi Leon, Cara Beltran and others.

John asked for support at the upcoming, June 15th Parks and Recreation Board meeting which will consider whether to preserve tennis at Robb Field's Peninsula Tennis Club. That club has significantly grown membership in the past year and just concluded a very successful tournament with 50% more entrants than last year. John explained that there is a lot of local tournament action with the National Hard Courts, Southern California Pro Series with winner qualifying for Indian Wells, and the upcoming NTRP Summer Classic tournament at Mountain View.

He also singled out the 100-year anniversary of Balboa Tennis Club which was celebrated on May 21st. M.A. Hillier organized a fundraising drive which raised over \$30k for the benefit of highly ranked local player Ivan Smith who is recovering from severe injuries suffered in an automobile accident. An all-expense paid trip to the upcoming U.S. Open was awarded to one of the contributors drawn at random by Ivan.

- IV. TREASURER'S REPORT: Jim Lackritz reported that TennisFest income and expenses came in at budget. The SCTA Foundation check for \$3k came in after mailing out the meeting materials. The budget committee met. One of the Certificates of Deposit came due in April. It was rolled over at 4.75% noncallable. SDDTA funds appreciated 10%. MSP
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- a. **Grants** – Mike Bauer led a discussion on whether the collegiate scholarship program needed an additional \$1k. The \$2k budget (6234) was not changed.
 - b. **TennisFest** – As John Broderick noted in his report above, the very successful event was held May 7, 2023 at Balboa Tennis Club.
 - c. **Tennis Advocacy** – Todd Sprague – Preserving tennis courts is currently the major focus. A large number of pickleball courts are being provided by various local entities. Todd stated that there would be an announcement soon that should be helpful. Tennis is growing as well as pickleball, so the hope is to resume focus on expanding tennis opportunities soon. Todd noted the recent Chris Clarey article in the NY Times where the author played pickleball, padel and tennis with Ryan Redondo at Barnes Tennis Center.
 - d. **Marketing and Advertising** – Cara reported that the committee recently met and will continue to meet monthly. She emphasized the importance of frequently posting tennis-relevant information including tournament results, club information, etc. Steve Kappes noted that USTA National Tennis Advocacy is looking for success stories so our local efforts could contribute to that forum. Steve also pointed out that the District previously had a Community Tennis Committee, and it might make sense to revive that for further outreach. Andrew Cretella noted the participation growth in the Poway school district adult education program tennis clinics at Westview High School which he is involved with.
 - e. **Military outreach** - Steve Kappes – Weekly clinics have shifted to Peninsula Tennis Club for the summer. Club Manager Duncan Depew has been extremely helpful. Typical turnout has been around 30 participants.
 - f. **Wheelchair tennis** – No report.
 - g. **District tournament** - Janene Christopher – The tournament will be held August 25-26 and September 2-4 at Balboa Tennis Club. Hiromi Sasano will be tournament director. Janene noted everything is going well and the committee is looking for sponsors.
 - h. **Nominations** – Eric Alm reported that the committee nominates Juan Garcia, Director of Tennis at San Dieguito Tennis Club. Juan is a USPTA teaching professional and has managed the member-owned San Dieguito club for 5 years. Juan received several accolades from SDDTA Directors. MSP

- VI. OLD BUSINESS:
- a. None

- VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Committee consolidation – Carole Farr and John Broderick are considering combining some of the many District committees.
- b. League tennis – Anne Leistikow stated that because of the number of leagues, tournament participation has suffered, reducing the size of women's 4.5 doubles draws and others that are now too small for a regular single-elimination draw and require a round robin. Randie Lettington noted some of the difficulties in balancing leagues and tournaments, especially for higher level teams that tend to participate in both activities.
- c. National tournaments - Jim Lackritz gave a “shout-out” to Todd Sprague for managing two recent national tournaments at Barnes Tennis Club!

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Leffler, Secretary

John Broderick, President

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