



San Diego District Tennis Association  
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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING  
August 8, 2023 at Balboa Tennis Club  
Next General Meeting Monday, October 10, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 PM. Called to order by John Broderick. Attendees were Eric Alm, Mike Bauer, Cara Beltran, John Broderick, John Chanfreau, Janene Christopher, Andrew Cretella, Carole Farr, Juan Garcia, M.A. Hillier, Josh Jorgensen, Steve Kappes, Jim Lackritz, Jeffrey Lee, Steve Leffler, Anne Leistikow, Randie Lettington, Solomon Liu, Eric Mann, Hillary Park, Aaron Sheinbein, Todd Sprague. Guest: Linda Milan (USTA SoCal/SCTA Foundation).
- II. MINUTES: June 13, 2023, General Meeting. MSP.
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: John Broderick welcomed new board member Juan Garcia, Director of Tennis at San Dieguito Tennis Club. Juan was previously on the SDDTA board 10 years ago and is joining the Club Liaison Committee. John then called everyone's attention to the District website (<https://sandiegotennis.com>) and the many useful resources found within the site. He reviewed the summer and early Fall tournament schedule and noted that the District tournament has been upgraded to a level 4, there is now a level 6 tournament scheduled for University City Racquet Club and many other level 7 (one day) tournaments will be added to the schedule. He congratulated Peninsula Tennis Club on receiving their long-awaited Special Use Permit (SUP) and the resolution of the takeover attempt with the announcement of 19 new pickleball courts at Barnes Tennis Center. John announced that he would be meeting with the District committee chairs in the near future to discuss how best to work together to achieve the goals of the SDDTA.

John made note of the recent Racquet Sports Industry magazine adaptive sports article which prominently featured the District's Wounded Warrior Tennis Program (WWTP) led by Steve Kappes. He also noted that Jami Yonekura-Jones, Head Women's Tennis Coach for San Diego City College, and a past SDDTA board member, received the 2023 Women and Girls Who Ace award. He congratulated Matt Previdi who was selected as announcer/commentator for the upcoming San Diego Open WTA 500 at Barnes Tennis Center. Matt did a great job as Master of Ceremonies for the District's TennisFest event and the Balboa Tennis Club 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony.

John pointed out that M.A. Hillier, an SDDTA board member since 2006, is moving out of state and therefore leaving the Board. M.A. has a long and storied role with the District, the Balboa Tennis Club, the local tennis community, and the adaptive tennis community. She was the 2014 SDDTA Community Service Award winner. He thanked her for everything she has done. Steve Kappes expounded on M.A.'s critical role as one of the founders of the District's Wounded Warrior Tennis Program. Steve noted that M.A. used her background in recreational therapy to establish connections with the Naval Hospital that eventually led, with the involvement of Steve and Geoff Griffin, to a monthly adaptive tennis clinic at Balboa Tennis Club, then a weekly clinic and finally an annual, weeklong, national clinic for over 50 wounded warriors. As a result

of her foundational efforts, the District WWTP program has achieved national prominence. M.A. also led the recent fundraising drive that raised \$31K for local tennis player, Ivan Smith, who is recovering from severe injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jim Lackritz reported no major changes regarding the profit and loss statement. He stated that the 2023 annual budget is on the anticipated track. There is an expected \$20K deficit for the year but that will likely be more than offset by investment returns. MSP. Jim also noted that TD Ameritrade was purchased by Schwab necessitating changes in signature authorities. Geoff Griffin, Steve Kappes, Jeff Anderson are currently on the account. Jim made the motion to remove Geoff Griffin and Steve Kappes as trustees and add John Broderick (SDDTA President) and Jim Lackritz (SDDTA Treasurer) as trustees to the TD Ameritrade account. MSP.
- V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- a. **Grants** – Janene Christopher reported that there was a committee meeting on 7/31. Mountain View Sports and Racquet Club requested a grant for court resurfacing. They were referred to the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council who could then come to SDDTA for funding. A second grant request for Intersectional participants was tabled until additional information is provided that details San Diego player participation. An additional request for funds for the WTA 500 sponsorship was also discussed by the grant committee and determined not to be in the committee's purview since the request is a sponsorship, not a grant. The grant committee did vote to recommend the sponsorship through a majority vote.
  - b. **Awards** – Awards committee will meet in September after the District Tournament. Board members interested in being on the committee are welcome. We need nominations.
  - c. **Nominations** – Jim Lackritz expects to step down from his role as treasurer at the end of his current term. Therefore, a new treasurer candidate should be identified.
  - d. **Tournament** – Janene Christopher reported that the 2023 District Tournament has been upgraded to a Level 4 tournament and preparations are underway. The committee has ordered shirts and trophies and early-bird sign-up participants, who will receive reduced entry fees, have been identified.
  - e. **Marketing and Advertising** – Cara Beltran reported that the committee meets monthly. She encouraged everyone to send tournament photos, identifying participants for posting on Facebook, Instagram, and the District website.
  - f. **Newsletter** – Carole Farr announced that articles for the Fall issue should be submitted by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - g. **Club Liaison** – Steve Leffler reported that progress has been made by Parks and Recreation in issuing Special Use Permits to clubs. Peninsula Tennis Club and University City Racquet Club (UCRC) have received permits. Several other clubs are awaiting final sign-off. UCRC will offer a level 6 tournament in October. Carole Farr has started a 2024 tournament calendar which will require feedback from SCTA and the local clubs. Juan Garcia has joined the committee.
  - h. **Military Outreach** – Steve Kappes informed the board that WWTP participants will be honored at the San Diego Tennis Open on September 11 and will have the opportunity to hit on-court with WTA players. He then reported that the San Diego Veterans Tennis Classic college tournament would take place at USD October 13-15. The tournament features the U.S. Naval Academy men's

and women's teams against top level colleges which this year includes Pepperdine, Boise St, and others. Finally, Steve revealed that the WWTP participants would march in the San Diego Veteran's Day Parade on November 12<sup>th</sup>. All District board members are invited to participate in this fun event honoring our veterans.

- i. **Community Programs** – Mike Bauer pointed out the need to get the drop-in-tennis program going again. He pointed out that courts, USPTA-certified instructors, liaison with Parks and Recreation and connections with SDUSD joint-use facilities are needed. Randie Lettington is working with Karol Wong to list publicly available club clinics.
- j. **Tennis Advocacy** – Todd Sprague announced that the 19 new pickleball courts being added at Barnes Tennis Center were very helpful in resolving the takeover attempt and Peninsula Tennis Club could now proceed to more constructive efforts. He noted that attention to cost-effective insurance and court resurfacing options was needed.
- k. **League** – Randie Lettington noted that San Diego has the third-highest league participation in the nation. Two women's teams from the area are heading to Nationals (18+ 2.5, 4.5). More area league teams are expected to qualify for Nationals soon.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. WTA Sponsorship – Youth Tennis San Diego requested that the District consider helping to sponsor the Cymbiotika San Diego Open tournament at the \$15K Host Committee level. The WTA 500 tournament runs September 11-16 at Barnes Tennis Center. The sponsorship would provide the District with recognition in tournament signage, a booth, participation in an on-court event, various tickets, and the ability to promote its tennis mission. Vigorous discussion ensued concerning the relative merits of the sponsorship versus other mission-relevant opportunities such as promoting drop-in tennis or aiding clubs with court resurfacing and the effect such sponsorships might have on the balance sheet. However, the overwhelming opinion was that the benefits of this year's sponsorship outweighed any negatives. The motion passed 21-0-1. Hillary Park emphasized that all board members should help staff the booth.
- b. Rancho Santa Fe Open – John Chanfreau requested the District consider sponsoring the 2023 Rancho Santa Fe Open which is the largest women's ITF pro-challenger event in the county. After discussion of the various sponsorship levels, a motion was made and passed to support the tournament at the \$2,500 sponsor level. 20-1-1.
- c. Ivan Smith – Tennis Channel learned of the fundraising drive for Ivan Smith's adaptive wheelchair van. They plan to have a special on Ivan's story and the tennis community involvement in his support during the U.S. Open. M.A. will report on this in the Fall newsletter.
- d. Live Well San Diego - Steve Kappes recommends that the District become a recognized partner in the Live Well San Diego program of the County of San Diego that brings together over 500 organizations that are working to improve the quality of life for all San Diegans. He stated that the District clearly fits with their mission. More information may be found at [www.livewellsd.org](http://www.livewellsd.org).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Leffler, Secretary

John Broderick, President

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