

## 2009 NJTTC, Inc. General Membership Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the NJTTC, Inc. general membership was convened at approximately 8PM on April 28, 2009 at the Club location at the second floor of 226 North Avenue in Westfield, New Jersey by Alan Ziegler, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of NJTTC, Inc. All members of the Board were present: Wayne Chin, Dan Guttman, David Rosenzweig, Simon Shtofmakher and Alan Ziegler. Proper notice was deemed to have been sent to the Club members of record. Light refreshments were provided.

A short membership report was given by the Chairman, in which he stated that there were, as of the date of the meeting, somewhat over 200 members, 30% of which were juniors and 12% of which were female. The Chairman said that this was comparable to the past two fiscal years, both of which ended on August 31 with between 240 and 250 members, and were the largest Club membership for at least the past two decades.

The Chairman then introduced David Rosenzweig to give credit to those members who had helped the Club, but the Chairman first pointed out the many and extraordinary efforts Rosenzweig himself had made on behalf of the Club in the areas of tournament organization and Club maintenance matters. Rosenzweig then thanked by name various members (many of whom were not present) for their volunteer efforts and contributions to the Club. Rosenzweig also gave an abbreviated report on tournaments, which constituted about one fifth of the Club's total revenue for the fiscal year, and the net revenues of which were two to three times higher than those for the period prior to 2005.

The Chairman then gave a financial report, showing that the Club was fiscally sound and had a bank balance that would enable the Club to meet its current obligations through the end of the fiscal year. He stated that the Board had considered both optimistic, straight extrapolated and pessimistic scenarios for the next year and concluded that it was prudent to have a membership fee increase to cover both anticipated and unanticipated expenses in the next two years. The membership fee increase would be approximately 10% for adults and somewhat less for juniors. The anticipated expenses included a needed conversion to gas heat (which would only be practicable if tied to the extension of the lease term which ends in two years). The need for a reserve to cover repairs to the floor and improvements to the lavatories was also discussed.

Wayne Chin then presented a long list of Board accomplishments over the past two years, which was forced to function without the normal assistance of a president and also, for much of that period, without any other officers. These accomplishments included substantial maintenance and repair of the facility, Club events, national publicity and a newly forged relationship with the Westfield community.

Dan Guttman discussed the new volunteer inducement policy. He explained that very few members had filled out the volunteer form that was attached to the 2008-09 membership form and that the Trustees had concluded that the old approach to reliance

on the good will of the members to handle Club daily operational matters had faltered. The new policy would create at least three tiers of volunteer membership discounts; e.g., (i) the President and maybe the Treasurer would have completely discounted membership fees, (ii) League Chairs, Trustees, the Tournament Director and other comparable positions might have membership fees discounted by half and (iii) others providing specified assistance would receive a lesser dollar discount.

Rosenzweig announced the new coaching policy, which would provide calendared reserved tables for coaches and a substantial web write up provided by coaches. In exchange, coaches would have to meet certain USATT-related eligibility requirements and pay a registration fee and an hourly table usage fee.

The Chairman pointed out that a mailing (and emails to those with electronic addresses) had been sent to all members informing them that the Board consists of five people with staggered five-year terms, and each year an election has to be held to fill the one position on the five member Board whose term is up at the end of that fiscal year. The Chairman said that although nominations were open only until May 13, so far no qualified member had expressed interest. The by-laws that explain eligibility are posted on the Club's website. The Chairman, whose term expires at the end of the fiscal year, announced to the assembled members that he was not running for a new term.

A spirited discussion then followed in which some members expressed concern that a rate hike during a time of economic conditions might lead to a decline in membership. Others said that the coaches added value to the Club that the new coaching policy insufficiently recognized. Moreover, some expressed the view that as coaches would likely pass on the hourly table usage fee to their students, this might either cause a reduction of coaching business for the coaches or else be an addition economic burden on membership, equivalent to a much higher membership fee.

Alan Ziegler, Chairman

## Recent NJTTC Trustee Accomplishments (last two years)

April 28, 2009

- **Membership**
  - Number of members at new recent high (details provided orally by the Chairman)
- **Facility**
  - Clean up
    - Disposed of Table 9 and got replacement
    - Disposed of lumber by front door
    - Cleaned and organized storage room
    - Got rid of old wood ladders (FreeCycle)
    - Disposed of old orange bench remnants
    - Bought new garbage cans and cleaned up lot
    - Cleaned high wall above landing
    - Cut down and disposed of non-functional heaters on court 7 and in office
  - Repairs and painting
    - Repaired all playing court walls and repainted
    - Repaired and repainted entrance hallway
    - Painted floor molding on left side of court 1
    - Re-glazed window in men's room and painted metal frame
    - Painted men's room door
    - Painted walls / storage room door by men's room
    - Replaced ladies' room ceiling tiles
    - Repaired broken chairs (glides) and restored donated tables
  - Improvements
    - New HVAC system
    - Replaced and programmed thermostat
    - New windows, entrance door, awning and shades
    - Replaced PA amplifier / speakers / wiring
    - Replaced pay phone with cheaper business line with call gate
- **Lease**
  - Established good working relationship with landlord – beginning to have lease extension discussions
- **Tournaments**
  - Revived tournaments – 2x-3x net revenue vs. 2005-2006 season (details provided later in financial report)
  - Two NJTTC tournaments sponsored for a total of \$1,000
  - Arrangement with Limáni restaurant to provide sandwiches for tournaments – raised several hundred dollars for NJTTC
- **NJTTC Web Site**
  - Rebuilt and improved
- **New Vending Machines**
  - New vending machines (drinks and snacks) via outside provider (awaiting delivery)
- **Publicity**
  - Developed stronger ties among NJTTC, Westfield leaders and surrounding community
    - Organized NJTTC-based TV program (now on YouTube) with Westfield Mayor Skibitsky

- Conducted NJTTC table tennis demo with David Zhuang at Thomas Edison High School in Westfield
  - Successful Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce event at NJTTC
  - Managed NJTTC fair booths for Westfield Spring Fling and FestiFall
- Photographs and videos of several NJTTC events
- NJTTC articles in The New York Times and other papers
- **Future Items**
  - Playing floors
  - Bathrooms
  - Online tournament entries and payments
  - Conversion of oil burning furnace to gas