

THPA Winter Meeting for Officers and Delegates
February 16, 2008

- 1) Othana Donnell called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.
- 2) Invocation was given by Othana

3) Delegates attending the meeting were:

Amarillo	Jean Davenport	Arlington	None
Borger	None	Bryan	None
Buffalo	Donna Thomason	Carrollton	None
Denison	None	Dumas	Melissa Slack
East Bernard	Duck Engelhart & Brian Graeber	Houston	Debra Odum
Kilgore	Kenneth Parks	Littlefield	Lisa Majors
Liberty Hill	Doug Stewein/ Royce Reid	McKinney	None
Montgomery Co	Sharon Dodd	San Antonio	None
Snyder	Johnny Davenport	Waco	Rickey & Chris Afinowicz
Independents:	Mark Slack/West Ken Alligood/East	Connie Symank/South	Tommy Wilcox/North

- 4) Othana welcomed our new Officers for 2008.
2nd VP (Publicity) – Mike Dodd
4th VP (Juniors) - Paula Poff
Other Officer's in attendance were: Othana Donnell, Lavern Wilcox, & Louise Alligood

5) Final Officer's reports for 2007.

1st VP (New Clubs) – Randy Collins – Othana said she had a letter to read later from Randy but he could not make it due to a prior commitment.

3rd VP (State Tournament Director) – Lavern Wilcox – We had a great tournament in East Bernard, thanks to all their hard work.

4th VP (Juniors) – Othana asked Jean Davenport if she had anything to report since she was in office in 2007. Jean said we gave one and one half scholarships this past year. Everything has been transferred over from Jean to Paula for the 2008 season.

Sec/Treas/Membership – Louise Alligood – The books were closed out for 2007 and transferred into the 2008 account.

As of February 15, 2008 we have a total income of \$10,301.85

Total expenses of	\$ 175.66
Net Income	\$ 10,126.19

6) Old Business

a. Report Junior Program for 2008

Debra Odum asked about the junior program and if we had ever considered increasing the dollar amount due to the increase in the cost of books and tuition. Othana gave the background as to how the program got its start and she stated that Jean Davenport has increased the amount with some incentives. There was a lot of discussion and ideas from the floor. Othana asked Paula if it would give her enough time by the State Doubles in Bryan to get a committee together and come up with a Junior Scholarship proposal to present at the officers meeting in Bryan. Paula agreed to get the committee and proposal together for State Doubles in April 2008.

b. Mailed Ballots/Report on Voting at State Singles

The amendment that went into effect in 2007 stated we could vote on site at the State Singles tournament. Randy sent a breakdown of these results:

240	Voted
153	Mailed in

87 Voted on site

64 of the 87 were on Friday. Out of the 87 a big % said they normally mail their ballot but waited just because it was there.

It was discussed that the general meeting on Saturday night should be the conclusion of the business for that year. It can't be because you don't have the results of the voting. Voting on site took an awful lot of time away from the tournament for those that manned the booth. They worked all of Friday afternoon verifying and counting the mail-in votes prior to opening the booth for voting at the tournament. Saturday afternoon was spent counting and manning the booth. There was not an increase in the number of total votes from previous years. Randy's suggestion is to go back to all mail in ballots or to have voting at the State Singles for Friday afternoon only. Donna Thomason explained the amount of time and people required to handle the voting and counting. A motion was made and 2nd to submit an amendment to go back to all U.S. Postal mail in ballots only. The Advisory Committee will open and count the ballots at the tournament site on Friday prior to the General Meeting. Motion carried. If this amendment passes it will go into effect in 2009.

c. Championship Class Format

Discussion of Format - Othana said the votes were split when a poll was taken of players in classes that had a pitcher in the Championship Class for 2007. After discussion it was decided that the officers would make the decision on the format. A motion was made by Louise Alligood to go back to "A" classes being the State Champions. Mike Dodd 2nd and the motion carried. This will be effective for the 2008 Singles.

Awards – It was suggested that the State Champion in each division have a choice of items i.e. (jewelry, jacket, trophy or cash) to choose from for their Award. After discussion, it was decided we leave the jacket as the award as it has been in the past.

Senior Men and Women Division – It was suggested we establish a senior men and women's division for our State Singles Tournament format. This would not increase the number of classes to be pitched. It would be a division that the pitchers themselves elect to be placed in. It would create two additional divisions for a championship class. Ricky A-Z made a motion to add a Senior Men and Women's division to the State Tournament format, 2nd by Donna Thomason. Motion carried.

Clarification for Men and Women senior divisions are as follows:

Senior Men/Women become eligible to pitch in the Senior Division at any time during the calendar year that they become sixty (60) years old.

- 1. Senior Men shall pitch from on or behind the full distance platforms and shall observe the thirty-seven foot foul line.**
- 2. Senior Women may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms and shall observe the twenty-seven foot foul line.**

d. **Ads for Ringer** – This is an FYI item. As everyone knows, Polly has resigned as Editor. Until an Editor is appointed all ads are to be sent to Othana with payment for those ads going to Louise. Ads must be in by the 10th of the month for the following month's publication. The Ringer will be mailed out the 17th of every other month. (Since the Winter Meeting, Dee Robak has been appointed as the Editor to complete Polly's term. All information regarding the Ringer will now be forwarded to her).

e. **Ads for Website** – Discussion of vendor and tournament ad placements. Payment of web ads will be forwarded to the Sec/Treasurer prior to placement on the website. Donna T. made the motion for vendor advertisers to have a choice of a banner placed on two pages of their choice, excluding the Home page and the News page, and a link on the Links & Supplies navigational bar. Advertisements for tournaments, open and sanctioned, will be placed on News. The motion was 2nd and passed unanimously.

- f. **Proposal for Publicity/Promotion for 2008** – Suggestions were discussed for Publicity/Promotion and Othana asked Mike to have a Proposal to present to the officers at the State Doubles tournament in Bryan.
- g. **Proposal for Winter Meeting** – There was a discussion on the rotation for the winter meetings that would be fair for everyone. Donna T. stated a rotation between the central location of Brownwood and the three larger clubs of Waco, Bryan, and Buffalo with Brownwood being the location every other year would be fair to all clubs and areas. The third weekend of February will be the date. The motion was made and 2nd. Passed unanimously. It was decided to have it in Waco in 2009, Brownwood in 2010, Bryan in 2011, Brownwood in 2012, Buffalo in 2013. The host town to be responsible for obtaining a meeting place.

Amendment proposals for 2008 ballot. –

- a. After discussion of pros and cons, Donna T. made the motion & Rickey A-Z 2nd to submit an amendment to make the State Singles Tournament count as one of the four tournaments to be eligible to pitch in the following years state singles. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. There was concern that the number of clubs eligible to host the State Singles was cut in half when we required a minimum of 24 courts completed and sanctioned at the time of selection of State Singles tournament. After discussion, a motion was made by Ricky A-Z & 2nd by Brian Graeber to submit an amendment through the winter meeting to change the number of courts back to 20. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. A suggestion was submitted to add to the number of officers for the Executive board. After discussion, it was the opinion of the group that the number of officer's for our size organization is enough. We also have delegates and Advisory Committee to work with the officers. It was decided to leave as it is.
- d. An amendment will be submitted regarding a quorum to read, one half plus one of the elected officers constitutes a quorum. This would avoid having to change if the number of officers changed.

7. **New Business**

- a. **Legality/Clarification of two new amendments** – Those in question are:
 - 1. Amendment stating two people from the same family cannot hold office at the same time. Is this amendment discriminatory?
According to governmental & civic organization legal advisors, it does not relate to race, creed, religion, gender etc. It is an amendment that relates to the issues of nepotism, qualifications & guidelines of who could hold office therefore it is not felt to be discriminatory.
 - 2. Amendment stating the minutes of closed meetings (telephone, e-mail, closed, etc.) must be forwarded to the next Ringer to be printed along with how each officer voted.
That is in violation of Robert's Rule. It was stated that a member had brought it to attention that you could disclose if 2/3 of membership requested and provided the website of Rules question/answer where this was answered. The website showed difference of opinion. One stated you could not disclose the minutes and one stated you could if 2/3 of membership requested. Othana stated the people she had checked with stated the minutes of closed meetings should not be made public. The results of the meeting shall be announced but not the discussions and/or votes. Othana advised there are specific rules on what can be in a closed meeting. Disciplinary and/or legal action would be the ones that pertain to THPA. The delegates felt this closed meetings should not be disclosed. Ricky A-Z made a motion that we submit

an amendment to remove printing the minutes of closed/executive sessions from the by-laws. Lisa Majors seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Article XIX – Awards. Section 2 is not clear on how or who votes. It also states you may only nominate someone from your own area.

Section 1. The Presidents Award will be awarded to any member picked by the President.

Section 2. Four Sportsmanship Awards will be awarded to one member from the North, South, East, and West Texas areas. All members may nominate a pitcher from their area to be put on the ballot. All nominations will be forwarded to the President & Editor by July 1.

There were many questions concerning Section 2 of this amendment. Should you be able to nominate someone from another division? Would the nominations be on the TPHA officer/amendment ballot? If decided by ballot, the awards would not be decided in time to present at the general meeting. There was discussion of what was felt the award should be and how it should be decided. Duck Englehart made a motion to submit an amendment to remove section 2. Everyone 2nd the motion at one time. Motion carried.

8. **Other Business**

Handicap tournaments are allowable thru NHPA rules. It is up to the TD to make that decision. It was suggested that if it is handicapped it not be over 70%. If a TD has to handicap a class, that information needs to be posted on your schedule.

Payment of Military Service pitchers dues

After discussion regarding the membership of our active military pitchers, A motion was made by Donna T. and 2nd by Debra Odum that we add the following to our standing rules:

THPA active members that are serving in active military service will have their TPHA dues waived and their NHPA dues paid by TPHA. The member must have been participating in tournaments prior to leaving for military service and become active in the sport upon their return to qualify. This benefit will discontinue upon their return from active duty.

Motion carried.

Othana asked if there was any other business the delegates or officers wished to discuss. There was no other business.

A motion was made and 2nd to adjourn, Motion carried.