

THPA Winter Meeting for Officers and Delegates
February 6, 2010

- 1) Rickey Afinowicz called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
- 2) Invocation was given by Earl "Tiny" Walters
- 3) Delegates attending the meeting were:

Amarillo – None
Borger - Jean Davenport
Buffalo – Paul Kennedy
Cameron – Steve Layne/Shawn Taylor
Denison - None
East Bernard - None
Kilgore – Ron Henson/Terry Applegate
Liberty Hill – Doug Stewien/Mike Wagner
Montgomery Co – Donna & Tandi Thomason
Snyder – Johnny Davenport
Independents: - None

Arlington – Ron Sanderson
Bryan – Todd Hannath/Doris Hieden
Little Elm – Coyce Allen
Carrollton - None
Dumas- None
Houston-Wayne Callicoatte/Patsy Marburger
Littlefield - None
McKinney – Larry & Pamela Lee
San Antonio - None
Waco – Ken Alligood/Jim Anderson

Officers in attendance were: Rickey Afinowicz, Ron Murphy, Earl "Tiny" Walters, Lavern Wilcox, Louise Alligood, Paula Poff, & Clayton Afinowicz.

4) **Final Officer's reports for 2009.**

2nd VP (Publicity) – Ron Murphy – Ron said his promotion contest last year was okay but he asked if anyone had any new ideas for promotion so more people would participate.

He asked that tournament directors send him contact names, telephone #'s and addresses for their local Newspapers and Radio station and after their tournaments send him the results and he would try to have them published. He said they will still pass out flyers at county fairs and non-sanctioned tournaments. It was suggested that we try to get information in the community news on TV, newspapers & radio and there is no charge for this service.

4th VP (Juniors) – Paula Poff

Polly said the juniors would do a few fundraisers and a few of Buffalo's concession this year. She said we have \$11,000 in the scholarship fund and we gave out \$750.00 this past year. This year we will have a new incentive program. The junior who has the most wins by the cutoff date of September 4th will receive an additional \$250 for their scholarship. If they are not in high school they will not qualify for the cash but will in turn receive a plaque.

3rd VP (State Tournament Director) – Lavern Wilcox – The State doubles will be held April 10th in Dumas. The State Hi/Lo doubles will be held July 24th in Littlefield and the State Singles will be October 8, 9, & 10th in Buffalo. Lavern said she wanted to explain how to sanction a new player. They have to pitch 100 consecutive shoes. It must be witnessed and signed by 2 THPA/NHPA members. It must be pitched on a regulation court no more than 30 days prior to the deadline date of your first tournament. The paper work should be sent to the Secretary.

Sec/Treasurer – Louise Alligood stated the THPA books were closed for 2009 and she transferred \$7,005.81 into the 2010 account. As of today we have a balance of \$10,264.34, this takes into account the dues that have come in. We have delayed ordering the schedule card for 2010 because we have had so many changes in names of tournaments and where they are going to be held. They will be ordered this next week and I will get them to everyone as soon as possible.

Another question is when do the TD's want their sign-up taken off the web? It was decided it would be left on until Sunday after the cut-off date.

1st VP (New Clubs) – “Tiny Walters – Tiny had nothing on new clubs.

5th VP (Editor) – Clayton Afinowicz

This past year the total cost of the Ringer for 7 issues was \$4,393.83. This past Ringer we ran some business ads to offset the cost.

All officers discussed presenting a new award during the general meeting at the State Singles. It was decided that this award be named after THPA legend Coke Bowker and will be named the Coke Bowker Player of the year award. There will be two of these given; one for the adults and the other for the juniors. The award will be given to the players in each category who have obtained the highest number of game wins throughout the year; please note that this is not based on tournament wins. On top of that, the junior that wins this award will have an additional \$250 added to their scholarship. Clayton will accumulate the information starting with the first tournament of the year. The results will be posted in the Ringer. The cut-off date for this award is the same as for the State Singles.

Old Business

Rewrite (what happened and how do we fix it?)

The rewrite passed but not by a 2/3 majority. The rules committee and I would like to understand why it didn't pass and how we can improve on it.

Some input was:

- 1) It should have been listed as how it is now and what it is being changed to and why.
- 2) Some people liked some of the rule changes in the rewrite but not all of them so they voted against the complete package.
- 3) List each amendment separately.
- 4) There was discussion about amendments being submitted and were thrown out. Some were thrown out because they contradicted other rules.

After much discussion about how to present the amendments, Wayne Callicoatte made a motion and 2nd by Paul Kennedy to table any decision until a later time. Motion carried.

Jim Anderson reported that in 2011 all clubs have to re-sanction their pits. He doesn't know if there will be a grandfather clause included. If not some pits will have to be redone. He asked about grandfathering and they haven't gotten back with him. We have a new regional director and we will just have to wait and see. He also suggested we have pitchers sign a waiver before they play each tournament. NHPA sent a memo stating that if you are pitching and or in the confines of the court area and get hit by a horseshoe, in most cases our policy does not cover you. It is assumed that if you enter the court area as a pitcher or scorekeeper you do so at your own risk.

Any club that serves adult beverages at their Friday night socials should think of having a waiver for pitchers to sign. If anyone knows where we might get a copy of a waiver, we could re-do it to meet our requirements. Rick said we would try to get a waiver and get it out to everyone.

New Business

Use of portable pits at the state singles tournaments

Rick said our By-Laws now do not say we can use portable pits at the State Singles tournament. It states that at the State Doubles portable pits may be utilized. Do we need to send in an amendment to say we can use portable pits at our State Singles? Wayne said he didn't think it would be necessary to send in an amendment because it doesn't state that we can't use them.

Voting

Rick stated that we had problems this past year with 18 people voting twice. Since we had no way of checking, we had to throw those 18 out. His suggestion was to have people sign their ballots. If we come up with duplicate ballots, we could easily go to the person to see which way they voted. If we want to do it this year, we can add it to the standing rules and if it works out we could send in an amendment next year.

There was a lot of discussion about how to run the voting from voting at the state tournament to having sealed boxes at tournaments with a log in sheet to keep an accurate account of those who cast their vote.

That way they wouldn't have to sign the ballot. After much discussion a motion was made and 2nd to sign the ballots, move voting to standing rules this year and if this solution works we can send in an amendment next year. Motion carried.

Cost of the Ringer

Clayton said last year it cost \$4,393 to print and mail out the ringer which averages out to approximately \$628 per issue. We have a lot of new ads that will help offset the cost, but with more ads come the cost for more pages. There have been some concerns about the content of some of the ads such as the Scott Liquor ad because this is a family sport. There was no more discussion on the ads. Clayton was looking into bulk mailing but that was voted down. We tried that before and a lot of them were never received. Rick brought up again the need for the stats in the Ringer. He said like it and some don't. It was decided to leave the stats in.

No Shows

No shows are a big problem at tournaments. A lot of clubs have gone to computers and when someone doesn't show you can't just change the name on a card, you have to make changes on the computer and re-print cards. It hurts clubs when you buy trophies for 8 man classes and you have one or two no-shows in one or more classes. This year Buffalo, Waco, Houston, MCHC and Liberty Hill are going to pre-pay for their tournaments. If someone doesn't show it doesn't hurt as much since they have sent in their entry fee. There were a lot of suggestions from 1.) sending in an application to play in a tournament that would have a disclaimer statement at the bottom to sign, which would be great but so many people are signing up on line and paying by pay pal that it wouldn't work. 2.) If someone didn't show and hadn't paid, the tournament director could notify all clubs not to let him/her play until they had paid for the first tournament. That would mean work on TD's keeping up with all the correspondence. 3.) Another suggested that if a person doesn't show or pay at a club's tournament, that club's T.D has the option of collecting his first entry fee before he can pitch in another of their tournaments. For now the clubs listed above are going to pre-pay to see how it works out. How other clubs work it out is totally up to your tournament director.

Tournament suggestions

Rick asked if anyone had suggestions as to how we can make our tournaments more fun. Wayne said if people would come, make a full day of it like it used to be and just have fun.

Other Comments

Johnny Davenport said he thought we needed to do something to honor Bob Graham. He was instrumental in getting the THPA started. He was president for 6 years. He also pushed for the THPA Hall of Fame. Rick suggested that we have a Bob Graham Lifetime Achievement Award and have a plaque made to give to him at the State tournament for all his accomplishments.

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