

This is TPA's first Member newsletter. At some point this will become a regular email blast, on a biweekly or monthly basis.

January 18, 2022 Newsletter



See the TPA website at tallahasseepickleball.com

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Membership Status.

TPA began accepting members in August of 2021, and now has 122 paid members. Based on email lists and numbers of followers on local Pickleball Facebook pages, there may be 700 to 1000 players in the Big Bend area. So TPA membership is somewhere between 12% and 17% of the player population. That's not bad for less than 6 months after startup.

501(c)(3) Status ... Fundraising

TPA is now officially tax exempt! We received notification of our approved 501(c)(3) status in December. This important milestone opens the door for us to seek sponsors and donors for some much needed projects. We will be looking for help from our members to make this work.

Many potential TPA projects will need financial support beyond what we can provide through our small membership fees and tournaments. Examples include: shade structures at Tom Brown Park and Southeast Park; providing permanent nets, posts, and fencing to encourage Tallahassee and Leon County Parks and Recreation to convert a tennis court into 3 Pickleball courts at sites around the area; helping to finance light fixtures for courts; water bottle fillers; and other project ideas that TPA members will identify to the board. Future newsletters and Facebook posts will announce projects needing financial support. You can help by providing project ideas and identifying potential sponsors.

City of Tallahassee Adds New Instructors and Clinics!

Great News that Parks and Recreation is expanding its services and giving Lenin Mongerie some much-needed assistance. New instructors have been introduced at events like the recent Extravaganza and the ongoing Pickleball Ladder Leagues at Tom Brown Park. Barbara Cairns, Anne Davis, Mike Dennison, and Tom Saxton are now teaching Pickleball clinics and private lessons. This is an important expansion of services to accommodate our rapidly growing Pickleball community. You can schedule clinics and private lessons on the Pickleball pages of the talgov.com website.

New Courts! at Deer Lake Middle School

Deer Lake Middle School recently completed 4 new Pickleball courts and makes them available to the public during after school hours and weekends. This is great news for the north Tallahassee area where courts are scarce. The new courts are already getting a lot of play from TPA members and other local Pickleballers.

Deer Lake Middle School is using the courts to teach Pickleball in PE classes, so we can expect to see a lot of young new players on the courts in the coming months. Which means we need to work hard to add more courts in the Tallahassee area!

T-Shirt Sales Results

TPA conducted a T-shirt sale in late 2021 and delivered the shirts in December. We sold more than 50 shirts in 4 color combinations, and purchased a few extra for display and sale at the PB&YAY! tournaments. Keep an eye out for players wearing the TPA logo. Thanks to Abdel Gonzalez for the logo design. If there is sufficient interest we may do another order in 2022.

We still have the following t-shirts available: Garnet/Gold -1 Ladies' Small; Orange/Green - 1 Ladies' Large; White/Garnet - 1 Ladies' Medium; Grey/Garnet - 2 Men's Large, 1 Ladies' Medium. (Email or see a board member if you are interested)

Volunteer Pickleball Referees Needed the Capital City Senior Games

TPA will be providing volunteer Pickleball referees at the 2022 Capital City Senior Games, and we need your help. We will need roughly 20 volunteers in order to cover all courts. We need so many because many of our volunteers will also be playing in the Pickleball events.

Referee training will be provided based on the USA Pickleball Level 1 certification criteria. We will provide informal training to cover the essentials: score keeping; NVZ foot fault monitoring; correct server and receiver location; and responding to line call challenges (referees do not make line calls, but provide "IN / OUT" responses on request, and only if they clearly saw it). This will be fun for the referee volunteers and for the players since most of us seldom have the experience of playing in a refereed game. Training will include the opportunity to practice refereeing games at Tom Brown Park and the community centers.

If you would like to give refereeing a try, please fill out the [Referee Volunteer Form](#).

TPA Official Facebook Group

Our Facebook group is [Tallahassee Pickleball Association](#), a public group that now has 104 members. Take a look, join the group, and add your Pickleball posts and comments. (No marketing or soliciting, please.)

See also the [Big Bend Pickleball \(Tallahassee, Florida\)](#) group operated by Barbara Cairns. Barb's group has 422 members.

PB&YAY! Tournament

Stay tuned for registration information about the next bimonthly PB&YAY! Pickleball tournament. This tournament has been regularly held for more than a year now and registration always fills up quickly.



**Pickleball Central's Rewards Program (Use Code CRTPA)
Save 5% and 5% comes back to TPA in an annual Pickleball Central
gift card!**

**This is a great way to save money on your purchases from
Pickleball Central and support TPA at the same time!**

Get a 5% discount and TPA gets a 5% credit when you order from pickleballcentral.com using order code CRTPA. For every purchase using the discount code CRTPA, Pickleball Central will credit TPA's account with 5% of the purchase price. Each year TPA can use the funds on account to purchase nets, balls, and other equipment. So you get a discount and contribute to your Pickleball association at the same time. Sweet!

Update Your Profile Data

Help us improve our communications by making sure your email address and telephone number are up to date on the [TPA website](#). Please fill out the form at [this link](#) and we will update it for you. Your contact information is treated as private, and is not visible to other members.

Note that the form also includes a place for your address. Why your address? We need demographic data to demonstrate the need for courts in various regions of Tallahassee and Leon County. For example, there is a shortage of courts in northeast Tallahassee, and we need data to demonstrate this to the city / county planners. In order to protect your privacy, we will strip off the names and keep the addresses in a separate file *without names* for demographic analyss. If you are still concerned about providing your full address, just give us your zip code.

Reach Out!

Give us your comments, suggestions, and questions via email to tallahasseepickleball@gmail.com, or via post/comment on the Tallahassee Pickleball Association Facebook group, or simply talk with one of our board members at the courts. Your feedback can help focus our communications with the Parks and Recreations staff, identify new projects to undertake, and improve the website, Facebook group, and this newsletter, etc.

Email: tallahasseepickleball@gmail.com

TPA Board Members

Current board members are listed on the [TPA website](#) About page.

President, Fred Markham; VP, Ebo Barefoot; Treasurer, Betsy Lieberman; Directors - Cathy Bedsole, Rod Houck, Oz Osmun, Christian Weiss.

Abdel Gonzalez and Cathy Bedsole manage the PB&YAY! Tournament

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