



December 2024

Board Members - 2024

President – Russell Seagal

Vice President – Bob Schwartz

Treasurer – Theresa Kennedy

Secretary – Judy Brown

Membership Director – Jim Quigley

Activities Director – Manny Robledo

Social Director – Linda De Villers

Contact any of us via email:

Russell: rustytennis10s@gmail.com

Bob: bobschwartz11@hotmail.com

Theresa: tak10s@yahoo.com

Judy: judysb62@gmail.com

Jim: jq07017@gmail.com

Manny: lovejoy@comline.com

Linda: lindadevillersphd@yahoo.com

Comment Cards are available in the clubhouse if you prefer to drop us a note that way – Just fill one out and drop it in the podium slot at the clubhouse.

Tennis Club Webpage:

<https://lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs/tennis-club/>

Notes from the President:

For those of you who didn't make it to the General Membership Meeting last week, I'm happy to report that the board members who were interested in serving again in 2025 were all reelected — and Suzanne Frank, who volunteered to fill the Social Director role, was also elected. In addition, the minor changes we made to the bylaws were approved.

Those of us on the board frequently ask ourselves why member engagement sometimes seems subdued. Is it because our members are generally satisfied with how things are going? Our social events and tournaments are popular and renewals are coming in at a steady pace. But when we ask for input — via these monthly newsletters, emails, comment cards and the occasional survey — we hear crickets. Responses come in by the handfuls (and are often split down the middle!) so it's hard to know what the membership is thinking. Of course, as individuals, we all talk to the people we play tennis with, as well as others at the clubhouse. When it's time to make decisions on behalf of the Club, we consider the diverse opinions we've heard and use our judgment as to what is best for the majority.

Occasionally we hear a few complaints about our decisions (almost never from the people who gave us feedback in the first place). We listen and continuously evaluate the course of action that will accommodate the majority opinion. All that said, if you would like to see us move in a certain direction in the new year, please **Speak Up!** Otherwise, we are left to assume that our members are largely content just to play tennis, engage in friendly competitions, socialize with other players — and not be bothered with the nuts and bolts about how it all comes together.

From the Social Director:

Thanks to everyone who got fancy for our Holiday Party and enjoyed a fun night of dancing, dining and conversation — without the thunk of tennis balls. The party favors — thanks to Theresa — were a big hit, and 10 lucky winners took home prizes such as vodka, wine, chocolates and cocoa. Sadly our co-social director, Melissa Fort, had to resign from the board due to personal reasons, so we are especially thankful to Suzanne Frank for pitching in. She not only organized the raffle but also handled many details that made the evening a success. Best of all, Suzanne enjoyed herself so much that she has volunteered to be Social Director for next year!



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From the Treasurer:

The Tennis Club accounts are in good standing. We'll be using funds to update the whiteboard, and our BBQ grill likely needs some maintenance work done. In 2025 we hope to host more social events for your enjoyment.

On another note, I am the one who tries to keep the Club webpage current. Unfortunately, the major overhaul of the Laguna Woods Village website has complicated our ability to update our page. Progress has been made and I was able to post pictures from the recent Club Championships. We appreciate your patience and encourage you to keep checking our website at <https://lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs/tennis-club/>.

From the Activities Director:

In the course of updating the bylaws, we learned that our insurance coverage does not prevent nonmembers from participating in our tennis competitions, so we have decided **to allow guests to compete under the following conditions:**

- Members have the opportunity to sign up first, but there are still open slots
- The guest partners with a member
- The guest pays a higher entry fee

This change will be effective with the first tournament in 2025 that is not filled up with members.

From the Membership Director:

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2025. All it takes is a filled-out application/renewal form and \$20. As a member, you receive the Member Directory delivered electronically and updated every two months (available as a printed copy upon request in late January). Members also receive monthly newsletters and emails about special events, pay lower fees than nonmembers for tournaments and two annual dinner dances, and can enjoy complimentary coffee, tea and cocoa at the clubhouse. New members also receive a welcome can of tennis balls. And speaking of new members, please say hi to:

- Peter Jones, 2022peterjones@gmail.com
- Nancy Szen, tennishhi@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events:

- **Russell's Drill Session** — Sunday, December 22nd, 3:00 PM. Call Russell at **818-681-4889** to sign up. If you leave a message, be sure to mention "drills"
- **Board Meeting** — Monday, January 6, 2025, 11:30 AM. Come join us at the clubhouse
- **Compass/GPS Tournament** — Wednesday, January 29th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. We need our fearless leader Russell to man the grill, hence the Wednesday date