

NOTE: All minutes are final after approval by the committee and all approved resolutions are subject to final approval by the USTA NorCal Board.

If some resolutions were not approved by the Board, or were approved by an actual vote of the Board instead of the Committee Recommendation process, note that as well.

DEI Committee Charter - [Charter](#)

Silvia Duenas-Biesler, chair of the DEI Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Silvia Duenas-Bielser (Chair), Amy An, Vince Owens, Michael Loleng, Larry Atkins, Tina Murray

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Troy Rondeau, Sr. Manager, Community Programs, Charrisha Watkins, Community Programs Representative

1. Chair Report

Item 1: Agenda Review

Item 2: Welcome

- Saying hi to all from Summer Verhoeven, Executive Director of USTA NorCal.

Item 3: Introductions

- Silvia Duenas-Bielser - Committee Chair; tennis aficionado; goal for the committee to help grow the game in any terms of players, coaches, women in the game
- Summer Verhoeven - Executive Director, USTA NorCal; has been apart of the organization for 23 years. Fortunate to be a part of things locally and nationally
- Troy Rondeau
- Charrisha Watkins - Been in tennis for 29 years with an NJTL background. CPR for Sacramento to Tahoe and responsible for DEI and NJTL at the section level.
- Amy An - mom of 2 kids. She started playing tennis during the pandemic and became a family sport with both kids playing USTA and has started playing adult leagues
- Vince Owens - part of DEI Committee for 25 years (since 2000); started a program at Northeastern University. Advocate for all things tennis, especially in the youth space and in Oakland
- Tina Murray - part of the DEI Committee for 1 year now. Ready to see the goals from the retreat come to fruition. Coming back from playing tennis as a junior to now playing and coaching as an adult.
- Michael Loleng - Third year on the committee. Has been teaching tennis since 1999. Is the AAPI Task Force chair for RSPA and on the RSPA NorCal Board. Goal is to work together as RSPA and USTA.
- Larry Atkins - Played tennis in NorCal since 1970; played tennis in high school and college. Working with Vince to get program started again at Northeastern University.

Item 4: Committee Overview Presentation

2. Staff Report

Item 1: Individual Player Grants

Sanaia Goudie applied for individual player grant - upwards of \$300

Zoe Goudie applied for individual player grant - upwards of \$300

- The Committee considered approval of the individual player grant for Sanaia Goudie of \$300. The following motion was duly made by Tina Murray, seconded by Vince Owens, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

Item 2: Black History Month/ Heritage and History months

- The marketing department will be reaching out to Jack and Jill
- Send featured story recommendations for the different heritage/ history months
 - Suggestion: Do a call out on social media to the community for each heritage and history month

- Vince suggests Terry Stewart for Black History Month

Item 3: Scholarship Update

- Opening on March 1, 2025, as the scholarship is ready to be sent out
- Eligibility is high school students going to a 2/4 year college/university
 - Adding trade/ vocational schools to the listed opportunities for scholarships to be awarded to
- Have marketing create flyer/ posters for the scholarships
- Work with PTR and RSPA to send out info to their membership database for their players/students
- The Committee considered approval of the addition of vocational/trade schools for college scholarships. The following motion was duly made by Carl Mendoza, seconded by Tina Murray, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

Item 4: NJTL/ DEI Camps

- Polished Girls Camp at Northeastern University - Saturday, March 29 (9 AM to 5 PM) - open to girls aged 12 to 18 at intermediate to advanced level.
- NJTL/DEI Weekend Camp at UC Davis - June 20-22.
- Two additional camps to come later will be for the beginner to intermediate-level

Item 5: AAPI Event - Saturday, May 3

- Will need all the assistance from committee members to assist with this event. Both on court and off court

Item 6: Calendar Document

- This document shows all updated events that are coming up for volunteer opportunities or opportunities to attend. It will be updated as the year progresses.

3. Guest Report(s):

4. Old Business:

5. New Business:

Item 1: February RSI Advantage magazine had a featured story on DEI. Michael submitted an article that will be in the April issue.

6. Next Steps:

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the DEI Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 12, 2025.