

A Signature Event Returns: The Metropolitan Bridge Unit AAA Bridge Tournament

By Rita Thompson

The Metropolitan Bridge Unit hosted its annual AAA Bridge Tournament from December 5-8, 2025 at Resorts Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Each year, players gather for four days of competitive bridge, camaraderie, and celebration, and this year's tournament continued that tradition with energy and enthusiasm.

The Awards Luncheon, a longstanding feature of the tournament, was held to recognize outstanding play throughout the year. The program honors achievement across all levels of competition, ensuring that excellence is acknowledged wherever it shines and reaffirming the MBU's commitment to celebrating skill, dedication, and sportsmanship.

The luncheon featured entertainment by **Kelley Andre**, a New York-based singer, songwriter, bandleader, DJ, actor, and event producer. His soulful, high-energy performance had the entire room engaged and added a vibrant touch to the celebration.

Lois Wright presided over the awards presentation with her characteristic poise and efficiency. AAA Committee Chairperson **Patricia Binyard** offered remarks of appreciation, including a special acknowledgment of **Rita Thompson** for her ongoing contributions to the organization in a variety of areas.

In the months before the event, the AAA Committee hosted several successful fundraisers to help support the tournament. These included a Jazzy Soirée and Tricky Tray Auction, a raffle featuring a grand prize of three nights at Resorts Hotel & Casino and the ever-popular Super Bowl Pool. These events not only raised essential funds but also strengthened community spirit and engagement.

The tournament was guided by a dedicated leadership team, beginning with AAA Chairperson **Patricia Binyard**, whose steady oversight anchored the event. **John Demos**, serving as Tournament Chair, coordinated the many moving parts with precision, while **Annetta Wallace**, the Director-in-Charge, ensured that all games and rulings were handled with expertise.

Creative presentation and communication were shaped by **Rita Thompson**, who led graphic design and publicity. The welcoming atmosphere of the tournament was brought to life through the efforts of **Steven Bond**, who oversaw decorations and hospitality. Entertainment was curated by **Victoria Williams**, who also co-managed the Partnership Desk alongside **Patricia Jackson Thomas**, ensuring that players were paired smoothly and efficiently.

Supporting the AAA Chair were the committed members of the AAA Committee: **Jacqueline Andrews**, **Philippe Gerdes**, **Marilyn Legall**, **Donna Lewis**, **Raye Liverpool**, and **Theresa Stahling**. Their collective work contributed greatly to the success and spirit of the tournament.

Plans for the 2026 AAA are already in motion, and **Patricia Binyard** has once again agreed to serve as Chairperson ensuring that the MBU moves confidently into another year of competitive play, community engagement, and superbly organized festivities.