

# **New Years Greetings and Highlights**

**By Dolores Watson**

## **Think Big**

As we welcome in the year 2026, we wish everyone good health, love, and prosperity. Although we continue to face unprecedented world events that challenge our sensibilities through constant media coverage, we choose to value our time and move forward with optimism, confidence and determination.

## **January General Meeting Highlights**

The Metropolitan Bridge Unit (MBU) held its general membership meeting on January 27. Unlike previous meetings held at the Community Bridge Home, this gathering was via Zoom. Charles Guest, president of MBU, presided over the meeting, which saw the participation of forty-five members. The Board 's decision to meet virtually was influenced by Winter Storm Fern which delivered freezing temperatures, snow, and ice to our area and many more.

The next General Membership meeting is scheduled for April. At that time, members will hold a Memorial Service to honor our Grand Slammers who passed in 2025.

During the meeting, President Guest announced several staff changes. Viola Porter of Mount Vernon has been appointed as Treasurer and Steven Bond will take over from John Demos as Tournament Chair. The Unit's treasury is in good standing; for full details, refer to the official Zoom meeting minutes when available. It may also be noted that Janice McBean is the longest serving Executive Board secretary within the MBU. She has consistently accepted both elected and appointed positions with remarkable competence and dedication. Valerie Brooks Vice President, reported on the necessity to identify equipment and supplies that require repair or replacement.

## **Bridge Education and Recruitment**

Bridge education and recruitment of new members is still an area of strong concern. Fortunately, Lynda Straker and Annette Wallace have joined forces to implement a strategic plan that produced positive results. To learn more about how this was achieved, please read "Recognition of New Players" which first appeared in the July 2025 Consumer and should appear in the ABA Bulletin, March 2026 issue.

## **AAA Tournament and Fundraising**

The AAA Tournament, held for several years in December at Resorts Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey, continues to be a highlight of our unit. Patricia Binyard is serving as chair again this year, and she and her team are prepared to facilitate another fun and successful event. Your participation in fundraisers is most needed, as it

significantly impacts the tournament team's ability to provide the best possible experience. Your attendance is essential.

Philippe Gerdes did an outstanding job for a second year as organizer and coordinator in planning for charter bus transportation to Resorts Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Two locations for departure and return were designated, one at CBH in Queens and the other at Atlantic and Vanderbilt Avenues in Brooklyn, New York. He made sure everything went smoothly for travelers.

### **ABA Membership Committee**

The American Bridge Association Membership Committee invites you to watch, subscribe and click "like" on its YouTube podcast channel. The committee has produced six interviews with a variety of ABA members sharing their bridge experience and addressing questions by the interviewer. Rita Thompson is the chairperson and she welcomes suggestions and participation from the membership.