

## President's Message

By Charles Guest

Happy New Year Metropolitan Bridge Unit of New York! Welcome to 2026. As we enter this tumultuous and stressful time in this country and the world, I have tried to make sure that our bridge club environment does not reflect the chaos we all see in the media. I have strived to create and foster a vibrant and inclusive community. A community, unlike our world right now, where everyone feels welcome and valued.

When I accepted the honor and challenge to serve as President of the MBU, I pledged to work diligently to achieve certain goals. Some goals have been successfully met, and others are still a work in progress.

One of my goals was to make sure we had financial transparency in all financial decisions and operations, ensuring that every member is aware of how our funds are being utilized. I feel we as an organization have improved in this area. I am grateful to our Vice President who taught me that "no man is an island unto himself." In addition, I learned that following protocol is extremely important when it comes to getting things done for the betterment of the unit. I wanted to make sure that we became tax exempt this year. Through collaborative investigation and research, I am happy to announce that we were able to acquire and maintain tax exempt status for our organization just like our parent organization. And through our highly successful fundraising endeavors, such as our AAA Tournament, steered by the efforts of our committee members led by Pat Binyard, we are solvent and in the black.

Another goal of mine as your MBU president in 2025 was to increase our membership and attract new members. We are still moving forward with that effort. We need someone to steer this effort and create innovative ideas to attract new members. I would personally like to thank Annette Wallace, Cheryl Jones, Janice McBean, and Vice President Linda Straker for their efforts to attract and recruit new members.

An especially important goal I set in 2025 and will still push forward to make it happen in 2026, is the plan to secure transportation for seniors who are no longer able to drive. Our effort is to provide them with reliable transportation services, so they are still able to connect with our organization and still able to participate in bridge events. We will continue to seek grants and donations to provide a van and/or bus for our seniors.

During the past year we have had personnel changes, regrettably we lost our previous treasurer Faye Liverpool leading up to our AAA, but we want to say thank you for your dedicated work prior to your departure. I also need to give a special thank you to Viola Porter for her willingness to pick up the mantle of treasurer to assist us in our time of need. I would be remiss to not personally thank John Demos for all his years as our Tournament Chair and Steve Bond, as our

incoming Tournament Chair. Both of you have helped our tournament be as successful as they were in 2025.

As we start this new year, I encourage more club support and collaboration among bridge clubs and other organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association. Thank you again to Tamika Phillips for her presentation about Alzheimer's. The more support and collaboration we engage in, the more it strengthens our overall community spirit. Thank you to all of you for your hard work, team play and community spirit!