It is with great sadness that I write this post. South Texas has been hit by an event unparalleled in history. I pray that everyone is safe.

Our home was hit by Hurricane Harvey’s destruction from floods and we have much work ahead of us to begin to find some semblance of normalcy. I am not sure anyone can understand the overwhelming mental and emotional distress associated with such an event. I never could imagine anything like this in my worst nightmare. In the next few months I need to focus on rebuilding our home and our life. The mental and emotional stress is simply overwhelming right now. Nancy and I appreciate all of the prayers and kind words from our bridge family.

I am going to step down from presidency of UNIT 174. I will not be able to devote the time needed to address the responsibilities of the position. I am truly sorry that I cannot continue. I am honored that the Unit members and the Board elected me to this position. The Unit 174 board is an exceptionally dedicated group of individuals whom I am proud to call my colleagues and friends.

I really enjoyed the Club Connection visits to the various clubs. It was fun to interact with the various Unit members, particularly at clubs in the outer edges of our unit: College Station, Galveston, Lake Jackson, and Montgomery, to name a few‒clubs where most of the board members do not regularly play. The members appreciated our visits even to the clubs where we frequently play.

We have had some exceptional tournaments this year. The April tournament broke all records in attendance. The June and recent August tournament increased attendance over the previous year, bucking the national downward trend. Houston is truly a bridge community and FAMILY.

We will have a new format for the GNT qualifiers. There will be qualifying games at the clubs. I would love to see our members put together their teams and compete successfully in the National events. John Caudill and David Henke will be sending out the details from the recently published Conditions of Contest approved at the District board meeting on September 2nd. Stay tuned.

We have an outstanding tournament planned at the Greenspoint Hilton. We are going to try to put more fun into bridge with a Casino Night on Saturday.

And of course, do not forget the Lone Star Regional at the end of January, with lots of new things in the I/N area and the TEXAN CHAMPIONSHIP PAIR GAME. It is vital that we surpass 3,000 tables at this regional.

Most of you have asked what you can do for me. Continue to play bridge. Come to the tournaments in October and January. Let’s set records. Show the world of bridge that Hurricane Harvey is no match for Houston and South Texas. Support the Houston Community in this time of need.

MY WIFE AND I WILL BE BACK AT THE TABLE!