

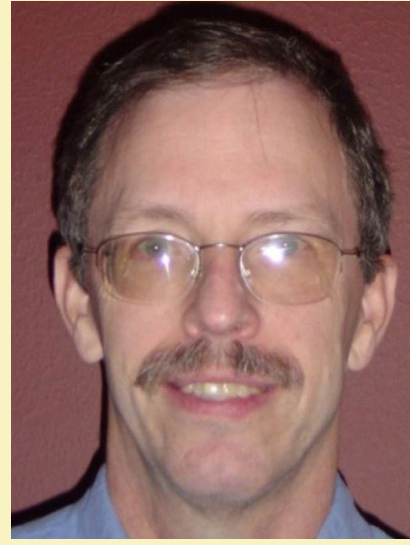
# MEET THE CANDIDATES



**Fred Gregory** worked as a chemical engineer for the past 40+ years. He retired from his current position as Process Safety Manager and Technical Fellow at Lubrizol's Deer Park facility at the end of 2024. Fred is looking forward to having more time to devote to hobbies such as playing bridge at the local club and at tournaments. He says, "It has been a challenge to balance work with my bridge life!"

Fred started playing bridge at age six with his grandparents and parents using the traditional Goren methods. His parents had the same group of friends playing bridge at each others' homes for over fifty years. Fred took a bridge hiatus when he got married and had children (three) but picked it back up in 2015 when his son suggested he try it once again.

Since resuming the game, Fred plays regularly at the Bridge Club of Houston. He hasn't missed a single Lone Star Regional and has attended almost all the local sectional tournaments as well. During the past decade, Fred says, "I have met some of the nicest and friendliest people ever and look forward to contributing to the bridge community in the greater Houston area."



**Joe Quinn** has been playing bridge since graduating college in 1972 with a degree in Chemical Engineering and an MBA. His career took him all over the world working as a project director with Fluor. Joe spent 16 years working overseas mostly in Europe (UK, Denmark, Poland and Switzerland) with a couple of years in Saudi Arabia. The rest of his career was divided between Texas and California. He went to part time employment in 2020 and with his extra time he started teaching bridge part time. Joe enjoys teaching bridge especially seeing the enthusiasm of his students.

Joe is a Grand Life Master with two national championships and numerous high placings in other national championships. His favorite bridge partner is his wife, Shawn, who has won several world championships and over 20 national championships. They don't get to play together as much now as they have a twelve-year-old daughter with whom they enjoy spending time.



**Cindy Schaefer** is a native Houstonian who grew up in New Jersey before returning to the University of Texas to study chemical engineering. She worked in the chemical industry, focusing on process safety for the last 25 years of her career.

Cindy first learned bridge from Geoff and Wilma Booth. After retiring, she took several classes from Dave Glandorf, Education Director at Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC), and admits that she has repeated at least one class. Cindy appreciates playing with and learning from the friendly people at the CLBC. She says, "Now I'm somewhat addicted."

Aside from bridge, Cindy's hobbies include playing clarinet in Gulf Coast Concert Band, reading (she's in two book clubs), and walking. With her husband, Alan – who also plays bridge, they have a son, a daughter and three wonderful grandchildren.

Cindy is interested in helping to encourage more people to play bridge and join this wonderful community.



**Lisa Z. Sommer** was born and raised in China. She attended Beijing University and earned her BS in business. Lisa taught at Beijing Institute of Economics for six years as an associate professor. She worked for a British satellite television and communication company as sales manager for four years.

Lisa moved to Houston in 1994 with her husband, Charles. She worked for Upstream (Norwegian company) as sales manager, and Tidewater (New Orleans company) as a market analyst. Since 2003, Lisa works an independent consultant for the oil and gas industry with her focus on upstream technology between United States and China. This work allows her to travel internationally but also provides lots of free time to play bridge and golf.

Lisa learned bridge from her husband about 30 years ago and they played lots of party bridge. She started playing duplicate bridge in 2000 and is now a Gold Life Master. Lisa says, "I truly love the game and greatly appreciate the club owners' and directors' contribution to the game. If elected, Lisa would, "...like to focus my efforts on attracting new people to the game."



**John (Eric) Watson** played bridge socially from age 13 and duplicate from 1990 when he joined the ACBL. He is currently a Silver Life Master. Eric worked as a director for Houston Bridge Studio and Sue Williams' Sugarland Duplicate Bridge Club. He purchased her club in 2015.

Eric has a BS in education from UNC Chapel Hill and an MBA from the University of Houston in Marketing and Finance. He served three years as an artillery officer in the US army and worked both as a banker and paralegal.

He has over 25 years of experience as a director and 10 years as a club owner and manager. Eric currently owns, manages, and directs Fort Bend County Duplicate Bridge with an open game every Tuesday morning at Arabia Shriners in Houston.

Eric was appointed to the Unit 174 Board of Directors in 2023 and immediately applied his years of experience to the difficult task of bringing the unit back to pre-COVID levels of membership and open game participation. He has the time, energy and experience to help the unit continue to grow.



**Judi Whaling** is an Olympian who competed under the name Judi Genovesi in the 1976 Olympics in Ice Dancing, placing 15th. She was the 1977 National Champion and placed 9th in the world. Judi graduated from Boston College (cum laude) with a degree in business. She ran and finished the Boston Marathon in 1981 and won a local women's golf championship in 2003. Judi owned and operated an interior design business for over 25 years.

After retirement, Judi decided to learn how to play bridge because she, "Wanted to give my brain exercise by learning something new, difficult, and hopefully enjoyable." She fell in love with bridge and met a lot of new friends!

If elected to the board, Judi would like to help grow the game of bridge and promote a welcoming and nurturing culture in Unit 174. She recognizes that it can be very intimidating for a newcomer to play in a duplicate club game.