

## U174 President's Post – July 2026

At our last board meeting, Brigitte Sandifer announced that, for health reasons, she would step down as president but remain on the board. I was honored—and surprised—to be elected as her successor. With such a terrific board and dedicated volunteers, I'll do my best to serve our unit in this role.

And now for some big news: our 2027 LSR has a new name...

### **Betty and Milton Freedman Houston Lone Star Regional**

Thanks to the Freedman Family's generous \$10,000 commitment, we now have a sponsor for our 2027 Regional, January 25–31, which will again be held at the Westchase Marriott. Betty and Milton were not only well-known, accomplished players—they also gave countless hours to our bridge community.

Our schedule is being finalized, chairs are being confirmed, and a flyer will soon be available.

### **The Longest Day (Do What You Love)**

Near and dear to me, I'm delighted to report that our Unit clubs have raised more than \$40,000 for the Alzheimer's Association this year through fundraisers and direct donations, not including game fees. Thank you to all our players, donors, and volunteers for your generous support and commitment to this important cause!

### **Nearly Summer Sectional**

Congratulations to tournament chairs Brigitte Sandifer and Carol Jewett for a smooth, successful tournament! Thanks to David Litman for setting up our new projectors, Director Kevin Perkins for improving table assignments and results, our ever present photographer Al Fortier, and everyone who volunteered. We couldn't do it without you! We hosted 280 tables this year, up from 268.5 last year, and once again finished ahead.

### **Awesome August Sectional**

The upcoming sectional will be held at the Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH). Tournament Chairs Fred Gregory and Susan Banks-Johnson, along with BCOH volunteers, are hard at work preparing for what promises to be a great event. BCOH will offer a \$10 cash lunch each day. Seating is limited, so please pre-register by emailing Susan at [BCOHEvents@gmail.com](mailto:BCOHEvents@gmail.com). Need a partner? Contact Susan Domsalla at [sdomsall@gmail.com](mailto:sdomsall@gmail.com).

### **October Sectional and NLM Regional**

Being held at the Arabia Shrine Center, Thursday–Saturday, October 15–17, Lesley Kellet and Judi Whaling will be the dynamic duo chairing this event. Mark your calendars and look forward to learning more next month!

### **Future Sectionals**

With the Arabia Shrine Center now for sale, our Unit Board is actively looking for future Sectional tournament venues. The unit's "Top 20" preferred site specifications can be found [on our unit website](#). While a central location is ideal for many events, we're also open to venues throughout the region, over the years we've successfully hosted tournaments from Galveston to Bryan/College Station. If you have a suggestion, we'd love to hear it!

May your bridge hands and your 4th of July be as colorful as the fireworks lighting up the holiday weekend!

Lauri Laufman

[llaufman@texas2211.com](mailto:llaufman@texas2211.com)