

As we enjoy the holiday season, it seems appropriate to reflect on the accomplishments of Unit 539 in 2022.

Our Unit provided respite with well-attended online games for the first part of the year. In May, we finally reconvened to face-to-face bridge with a genuinely spectacular *Bridge in Wonderland*-themed Appreciation Party at the Soledad Club. Our President, Lamya Agelidis, announced the Unit 539 annual race winners for 2019, 2020, and 2021 at the Appreciation Party. In addition, many Ace of Clubs certificates were presented, Mini-McKenney awards were handed out, and Jane Petering presented brand-new milestone awards from the past two years.

Our regular, alternating Sunday Unit game schedule resumed at the Soledad Club, drawing 10-13 tables; we hosted a very successful joint NLM Sectional with Unit 549 in September. We uploaded a new teaching library on our [website](#), which includes over a hundred articles written by Maritha Pottenger on Defense, Declarer Play, and Bidding.

Our Unit remained the top fundraising team in San Diego for *The Longest Day* and was one of the top 30 clubs in ACBL. Additionally, we sponsored an auction for many of the local professionals who have continued to support the TLD fundraising efforts. This year, we added a unique bidding opportunity: both Zia Mahmood and Mark Itabashi agreed to play an online match, partnering with their respective winning bidders. The match was kibitzed by more than 200 bridge players on BBO. We also supported Ray's medical missions by sponsoring a bridge game at the San Diego Bridge Club in July. This year they raised between \$35,000 and \$40,000! Since \$120 pays for life-changing surgery in Ecuador, your generosity makes an immense difference in children's lives.

Our Unit helped local bridge clubs by publicizing and encouraging our members to play face-to-face games. Our Board members continue to meet monthly to manage the Unit's operations, including maintaining the finances and website, planning, and organizing bridge events, welcoming new Unit members with free plays, ordering awards, coordinating partnerships and hospitality, and primarily supporting a membership of nearly 600 bridge players.

As we prepare our event calendar for next year, including an Open Sectional on March 3-4 (details TBD), we want to remind you of the Unit games in December. The last Unit games of 2022 are scheduled for December 11th and 18th at the Soledad Club. We will skip December 25th and January 1st to give our volunteer organizers some time with their families over the holidays. We will return to our regular schedule in January, kicking off 2023 with the La Jolla Unit game on January 8th, followed by our San Diego Unit game on the 15th. Check the Unit's [website](#) for updated information.

Thank you for your continued support of our Unit, and we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Club News: Redwood Bridge Club in Balboa Park offers games Monday through Saturday. We have games for players of all levels, from newcomers to the most experienced. Bridge classes are winding down as the holidays approach, but a series of new classes will be offered starting in January. You can check us out at our website redwoodbridgeclub.org. Please direct any questions to our club manager David Walters at davwal@yahoo.com or (619) 298-5756.

[San Diego Bridge Club](#) offers sanctioned games at 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Friday at the Masonic Center at 3366 Adams Avenue. Call John Lagodimos at (619) 847-3001 for more information.