



Chess Club Observer

Newsletter of the Springfield Chess Club

Winter 2016-- Vol. 19, No. 1

President: Tom Knoedler
Vice President: Leonard Ferguson
Secretary: Evan Gresen

Treasurer: David Long
Publicity Director: Jimmie Cecil
<http://www.springfieldchessclub.com>

Club Launches Scholastic Program

During its business meeting on November 18, the club started a pilot scholastic program by creating the position of Scholastic Director, and appointing Leonard Ferguson to be its first officer. Besides offering lessons, Leonard would like to organize a scholastic tournament in Springfield some time in the coming months, although this remains in the early planning stages as of press time. Other events may be added at a later time. For more information, see Leonard.

The club is now offering **scholastic memberships** for those enrolled in primary or secondary school. Scholastic memberships cost \$5 per year, and come with all benefits of club membership, except that scholastic members are not entitled to a vote at club business meetings. Scholastic memberships expire on June 30. First-time scholastic members may pro-rate their first year's dues based on the number of months remaining in the current or upcoming academic year, defined as September through June, rounded up to the next whole dollar.

Those who were *club members in 2015* and are *eligible for scholastic membership* may **convert their membership** to Scholastic and *extend it to June 30, 2016 at no charge*. This is a *one-time option* and must be exercised by January 31, 2016. See membership form on page 2.

The Springfield Evening Kiwanis club has folded, so their annual scholastic tournament will not be held this year unless another organization can take over.

New Club Officers Seated

At our club business meeting on November 18, we took nominations for club offices for the coming year. Leonard Ferguson was nominated to the position of Vice President, while the incumbent Vice President, Evan Gresen, accepted a nomination to the previously vacant post of Secretary. The other three officers were renominated to their respective positions.

Each nominee was unopposed, so the club passed a motion to elect them by acclamation.

Have You Renewed?

If not, please do so today! Your expiration date is on your mailing label. If your membership has expired, please use the membership form on page 2 to renew your membership for another year, at the cost of \$8!

Welcome New Members

Michael Gustin, of Springfield, has joined the Springfield Chess Club. Welcome to the club! Membership now stands at 23.

2015: The Year In Review

Useless Statistics

Membership: **23**. Membership at end of 2014: **15**. Percent change: **+53%**. Renewal rate: **100%**
Average tournament attendance: **11** (2 tournaments).
Average attendance in 2014 (2 tournaments): **27** Percent change: **-59%**
Average rating in 2015 tournaments: **1468**
Average in 2014: **1493** Percent change: **-1.7%**

Tournament Winners

March: James Healy, Bill Smythe (3-1)
November: James Davis (3-1)

Meetings

The Springfield Chess Club meets weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the White Oaks Mall food court, and also meets twice a month, on the second and fourth Friday of each month, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. in the café section of Barnes & Noble. Both locations are near the corner of Route 4 and Wabash Ave.

Area Tournament Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Reg Ends</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Jan. 23	Peoria	8:45	Murrel Rhodes	(309) 682-0675

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

USCF ID (if any): _____

(Scholastic only) Grade: ____ School: _____

[] Convert 2015 membership to Scholastic, and extend membership through June 30, 2016 at **no charge** (must be eligible, and reply by Jan. 31, 2016)

(note: club rosters will no longer appear in the newsletter)

Regular annual dues are currently **\$8**. Scholastic annual dues are currently **\$5**.

Make checks payable to:
Springfield Chess Club.

Bring to club, or mail to:

Springfield Chess Club
David Long, Treasurer
401 S. Illinois St.
Springfield, Ill. 62704