



Chess Club Observer

Newsletter of the Springfield Chess Club
Winter 2022 -- Vol. 25, No. 1

President: Leonard Ferguson
Vice President: Yuan Wen
Secretary: Josh Turner

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

Survey Results are In

Last November, Jimmie Cecil prepared a survey for the Springfield chess community, to help the club better meet the needs of local chess enthusiasts. The results of the survey were read and discussed at the club's annual business meeting on December 1.

To summarize the results, the majority of respondents discovered the club online, with the club's own web site springfieldchessclub.com being the most common means of first contact.

Approximately two thirds of respondents said that the club's meetings were convenient (it is not known whether the same two thirds said so for both meeting times/locations.) For those who did not, the most requested meeting day was Saturday. Most respondents are members of the US Chess Federation, and a large majority is interested in playing rated tournaments.

For complete survey results, see page 2.

Club Dues Increase

Also at the annual business meeting, the club approved a dues increase for adult members from \$8 to \$12, effective Jan. 1, 2022. Scholastic dues are unchanged. If you have already paid dues for this year, you are grandfathered in and do not need to make up the difference.

Mall Closing Earlier, Meetings Held Earlier

White Oaks Mall is closing at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays until further notice. The club will now hold its weekly meetings from 5 to 7 p.m. The schedule for monthly meetings at the library remains unchanged, for now.

Club Gets Two New Officers

At the annual business meeting, the club elected Yuan Wen as vice president and Josh Turner as secretary. The other three club officers were renominated unopposed.

Welcome New Members

Nolan Price, of Springfield, has joined the Springfield Chess Club. Welcome to the club! Membership now stands at 24.

Have You Renewed?

Most adult memberships expire on December 31. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership as soon as possible.

Complete Survey Results

How did you learn about the Springfield Chess Club?

Springfieldchessclub.com 57%, Facebook 10%, chess.com 10%

If other, how?

Long-term member, Word of mouth, Poster on wall

Are you a paid member of the Springfield Chess Club?

Yes 53%, No 47%

If not, why not?

Haven't got around to it yet, not enough time, not local resident

How often are you able to attend club meetings?

Weekly 26%, Twice a month 11%, When I can 52%, None of these 11%

Are the Wednesday evening meetings convenient for you?

Yes 68%, No 32%

Are the monthly Monday meetings at the library convenient for you?

Yes 63%, No 37%

If these days are not convenient, what days would be?

Sat. 75%, Tues. 13%, Fri. 13%

Are current club dues affordable for you?

Yes 100%

Have you visited the club's web site springfieldchessclub.com?

Yes 100%

Do you read the Chess Club Observer newsletter?

Yes 47%, No 53%

Would you support a moderate increase in club dues?

Yes 95%, No 5%

Are you a member of the US Chess Federation?

Yes 58%, No 42%

Are you interested in playing rated tournaments?

Yes 90%, No 10%

Are you interested in playing tournaments among club members only?

Yes 58%, No 42%

Open ended questions:

What do you like best about the club?

Most answers by far involved friendship and socialization; tournaments/competition were next.

What would you like to get out of the club?

Majority of answers involved practice/experience; friendship and tournaments also mentioned.

What would you like to change about the club?

Frequent answers: more tournaments, more meetings, different locations*, and higher turnout.

Do you have any suggestions for club activities?

Impromptu blitz/rapid tournaments, ladder events, online play, puzzles/games, carpool to tournaments, bughouse, more tournaments, change club schedule.

* One respondent mentioned inability to drive to the meeting locations. Don't forget that the mall and library are both accessible by bus, on both day and night routes! Go to www.smted.org for information about local public transportation.

Come join us! The Springfield Chess Club meets weekly on Wednesday evenings, 5-7 p.m. at the White Oaks Mall food court, and on the second Monday of each month, 6-7:45 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Lincoln Library. Meetings are canceled on holidays when the hosting facility is closed. At other times, try the online Springfield Chess Club at <https://www.chess.com/club/springfield-chess-club-1>.

SCC memberships expire on December 31 (regular) or June 30 (scholastic). If your membership is expiring (check your mailing label), please renew today! To renew, return this stub and a check payable to Springfield Chess Club to:

Springfield Chess Club, c/o David Long, 401 S. Illinois St., Springfield, Ill. 62704.

New members, please use the full page forms available at: www.springfieldchessclub.com/join.htm.

Name: _____ \$12 Regular \$5 Scholastic

Write any changes to your contact information below. If no changes since last year, check here →