

## 2022 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Inductee:

### Roger Hale

Roger Hale loves chess and has a talent for finding solutions for projects he is passionate about.

As a child, Roger learned chess from his father. In young adulthood, he played casually and always enjoyed it. However, it was not until 2006 at the tender age of 72 that Roger played in his first rated chess tournament. At that point, the Chess Castle was on life support with no regular home and Roger embarked on a journey to find a suitable site in the Metro area, resulting in the opening of the rejuvenated Chess Castle of Minnesota in the historic Waterbury Building in 2009. In the ensuing 10+ years Roger spent countless hours nurturing what became the heart and soul of Minnesota Chess.

Roger was the founder of the Northeast Chess Castle and the chief activist/financier. He also appreciated invaluable contributions along the way from Dan Voje, Jackson Wahl, Dave Kuhns, and two lawyer friends who offered pro-bono services. Whether it was managing the club, directing tournaments, securing furnishings, or drafting a lease agreement – these individuals made important contributions to help the Chess Castle thrive. Roger quickly realized that the keys to success for the club were having a facility to call “home base,” having a good manager, and having enough Tournament Directors to run the 150 tournaments per year at the club.

Hundreds of chess players received benefit from Roger’s success in creating a place for Minnesota chess to call home. We are fortunate that after spending 45 years in a successful family and career hiatus, Roger chose rejuvenating a chess club in Northeast Minneapolis as one of those passionate projects he wanted to tackle. When it comes to chess, Roger has played in close to 400 events since entering rated chess tournaments and loves the intellectual challenge, the timelessness, the international reach, the history, the diversity, the enormous range of people young and old that love this game which knows no social or economic boundaries among its participants.

Other organizations which have benefitted from Roger’s civic involvement include Walker Art Center, Public Radio International, and The Ploughshares Fund. In each of these organizations Roger ultimately became Chairman of the Board and displayed his unique talent for finding solutions for projects he is passionate about.

Roger Hale is much deserving of this induction into the Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame based on his remarkable service to the betterment of chess in Minnesota through his rejuvenation of the Chess Castle of Minnesota in Northeast Minneapolis. This Chess Castle site served as the pillar of the Minnesota chess scene from 2009-2020.