

2018 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Inductee:

Larry Lampert

All young chess players should have a place to compete. Based on the premise of shorter and kid-friendly chess games, Larry Lampert founded the School Chess Association (SCA) in 1969. For the next 35+ years Larry showed an unmatched commitment to making Minnesota one of the leaders of scholastic chess. During this time more than 10,000 young chess players participated in Larry's SCA vision. 13 of these players went on to become USCF chess masters.

Larry was also a dedicated coach, leading Noble Elementary to four Minnesota State Elementary championships. Because of the well known hard work and discipline of his coaching lessons, Noble Elementary players had strong results and forced the best from their opponents.

Larry could expand his ideas like the branches of a tree. For example, The Merit Point System, the idea of Dick Harbeck, was perfected in practice by Larry and the SCA. This added another level of excitement to Minnesota scholastic chess. Thousands of young players eagerly tracked their merit point totals and how they related to others at their grade level. When no K-3 and 4-6 State Championship tourney existed, Larry pushed forward to make this new branch a reality. Another branch was his Summer Chess Camp—so many players together—competing and having a good time!

Larry was a legendary organizer, tournament director, coach, and teacher. Larry believed chess was a lifelong game. Larry's focus was to give all young chess players a chance to win at chess and to win at life. Years later, players can recall the image of Larry walking the tournament hall, checking out each game with patience and having a warm smile. His impact on Minnesota chess continues today with a new generation of young players following the path set forth by Larry.