The 1980s were dominated by players from the Fischer boom led by Yasser Seirawan who twice (1985 and 1987) was a Candidate for the World Chess Championship. Seirawan and other “boomers” including Larry Christiansen, Nick de Firmian, John Fedorowicz, and Joel Benjamin were among those who led the U.S. Chess Olympiad teams to three bronze medals and two fourth place finishes this decade. US Chess had 63,279 members in 1992, eclipsing the previous record of 59,779 set back in 1974 during the tail end of the Fischer era. Gata Kamsky played a match for the F.I.D.E. World Championship in 1996 and was first board on the U.S. team that won gold in the 1993 World Team Championship—the first time the U.S. had finished first in an open team event in which the Soviet Union or Russia had competed.
1980

President: Gary Sperling, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

January

Chess Life & Review changes its name back to Chess Life.

February 15 – 18

The U.S. Amateur Team Championship is held in Somerset, NJ. The Heraldica Imports team wins the championship. The team members include Roman Dzindzichashvili, Jose Saenz, Ignacio Yepes, and Jose Cuchi.

May 3 – 4

The National Elementary School Championship is held in Minneapolis, MN. Lincoln Elementary School from Minnesota wins the team championship.

May 9 – 11

The National High School and Junior High School Championships are held in Philadelphia, PA. Joel Benjamin from James Madison High School wins the individual championship. Sandeep Joshi wins the Junior High School Individual Championship.

May 24 – 26

The U.S. Amateur Championship is held at the Campus Inn in Ann Arbor, MI. Robert O’Donnell wins the championship.

June 15

The U.S. Junior Championship (Invitational) is held in Los Angeles, CA. Joel Benjamin wins the championship.
1980

President: Gary Sperling, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

June 11 - 29
The U.S. Chess Championship is held at Thiel College in Greenville, PA. Walter Browne, Larry Christiansen, and Larry Evans finish in a three-way tie.

August 3 - 15
The U.S. Open Chess Championship is held in Atlanta, GA, at the Dunfey Hotel. Florin Gheorghiu, and John Fedorowicz are co-champions.

September 22 - 30
The U.S. Armed Forces Chess Championship is held in Washington, D.C., at the American Legion’s Hall of Flags. The Army team wins the championship.

October 17 - 19
The National Open is held at Palmer House in Chicago, IL. Calvin Blocker wins the open.

November 27 - 30
The American Open is held at the TraveLodge International Hotel in Santa Monica, CA. Walter Browne, John Grefe, and David Strauss tie for first.

December 26 - 30
The U.S. Intercollegiate Team Championship is held in Atlanta, GA.
1981
President: Gary Sperling, Dr. Tim Redman, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

February 14 - 16
The U.S. Amateur Team Championship is held at the Marriott Hotel in Somerset, NJ. The Materialists team wins the championship. Members of the team include Eugene Meyer, Robin Spital, Gordon Zalar, and Peter McCluskey.

April 24 - 26
The National High School Championship is held at the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. Joel Benjamin is the repeat individual champion, and Stuyvesant High School wins the team championship.

May 9 - 10
The National Junior High School Championship is held at the Registry Hotel in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area.

May 9 - 10
The National Elementary School Championship is held in Tucson, AZ. Kenneth Wright wins the tournament.

May 23 - 25
The U.S. Amateur Championship is held at the Chicago Palmer House. John Tomas wins the competition.
1981

President: Gary Sperling, Dr. Tim Redman, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

June 8 - 12
The U.S. Senior Open Championship is held in Sun City, AZ. Rea Hayes wins the first competition.

June 10 - 24
The U.S. Women’s Chess Championship is held in Brigham City, UT. Diane Savereide wins the championship. She and Rachel Crotto, who placed second, will represent the U.S. at the Women’s World Chess Championship.

June 19 - 21
The U.S. Junior Open Championship is held in Abington, PA. Moshe Khatena, David Griego, and Andy Lerner tie for first place.

July 9 - 30
The U.S. Chess Championship is held in South Bend, IN. Walter Browne and Yasser Seirawan are co-champions.
1981

President: Gary Sperling, Dr. Tim Redman, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

July 19 - 28
The U.S. Junior Chess Championship Invitational is held in Scottsdale, AZ. Jay Whitehead wins the tournament.

August 2 - 14
The U.S. Open Chess Championship is held in Palo Alto, CA. Florin Gheorghiu, Larry Christiansen, Nick de Firmian, John Meyer, and Jeremy Silman tie for first place.

September 15 - 18, 21 - 22
The U.S. Armed Forces Championship is held in Washington, D.C.

November 26 - 29
The American Open is held at the Sheraton La-Reina Hotel in Los Angeles, CA
1982

President: Dr. Tim Redman, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

February 13 - 15
The U.S. Amateur Team Championship is held in Somerset, NJ, at the Marriott Hotel. The winning team is the Metalheads N’ Mutants from Long Island, NY, consisting of Tony Renna, Jonathan Schroer, Andy Metrick, and John Kennedy.

April 16 - 18
The National High School Championship is held in Philadelphia, PA. The individual champion is Sandeep Joshi and the team champion is Boston Latin in a tie breaker. The team includes Joshi, Edward Lung, Michael Diener, and Lawyer Times.

April 24 - 25
The National Elementary Championship is held in Bloomington, MN. The Mighty Pawns from Philadelphia, PA, and the Hudson Fish from Hudson, NY, are co-champions. Marco Robert wins the individual championship.

May 1 - 2
The National Junior High School Championship is held in New Windsor, NY. The co-champions in the team championship are Vaux of Philadelphia and Woodrow Wilson from Terre Haute. The individual co-champions of the eighth grade division are Pail Homer and Stuart Rachels. The individual co-champions of the ninth grade division are Andrew Metrick and Issa Youssef.
1982

President: Dr. Tim Redman, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

May 29 - 31
Sergey Kudrin wins the National Open held in Fort Worth, TX.

May 29 - 31
The U.S. Amateur Championship is held in San Mateo, CA, at the San Mateo Dunfey Hotel. Steven Jacobi wins the tournament.

June 24 - 28
The U.S. Junior Open Championship is held in Crossville, TN. David Gertler and Stuart Rachels are co-champions.

July 14 - 23
In South Bend, IN, Joel Benjamin wins the U.S. Junior Chess Championship (Invitational).
1982

President: Dr. Tim Redman, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

July 25 - 29
The U.S. Senior Open is held in Scottsdale, AZ, at the Inn at McCormick Ranch. Larry Evans and John Crudo are co-champions.

August 8 - 20
The U.S. Open Chess Championship is held at the Radisson Plaza in Saint Paul, MN. Andrew Soltis and William Martz are co-champions.

September 7 - 15
The U.S. Armed Forces Championship is held at the American Legion’s Hall of Flags in Washington, D.C. The Air Force team wins the championship.

December 26 - 30
The Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship is held at the Holiday Inn in Columbus, OH.
1983

President: Dr. Tim Redman, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

January 7 - 9
The National High School Individual Championship is held in Trevose, PA, at the Hilton Hotel. Patrick Wolff wins the championship.

February 19 - 21
The U.S. Amateur Team Championship is held at the Marriott Hotel in Somerset, NJ. The Costigan Team wins the championship. The team is comprised of four brothers: Thomas, Richard, William, and Andrew.

March 11 - 13
The National Open is held in Las Vegas at the MGM Grand Hotel. Leonid Bass wins the open.

April 23 - 24
The National Junior High School Championship is held in Terre Haute, IN, at the South Vigo High School. Vaux Junior High wins its seventh consecutive title.

April 29 - May 1
The National High School Team Championship is held in San Jose, CA, at the Hyatt San Jose. James Madison High School wins first place.

April 30 - May 1
The National Elementary Championship is held at Auburndale School in Cordova, TN. Ilya Gurevich wins the elementary championship.
1983

President: Dr. Tim Redman, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

May 28 - 30
The U.S. Amateur Championship is held in Parsippany-Troy Hills, NJ, at the Parsippany Hilton. John Jarecki and Don Connors are co-champions.

June 15 - 23
The U.S. Junior Championship (Invitational) is held at the Manhattan Chess Club in New York. Maxim Dlugy and Joel Benjamin are co-champions.

July 14 - August 1
The U.S. Championship is held in Greenville, PA. Walter Browne, Larry Christiansen, and Roman Dzindzichashvili tie for first place.

July 24 - 28
The U.S. Senior Open is held at the McCormick Ranch in Scottsdale, AZ. Don Bicknell wins the tournament.

August 8 - 19
The U.S. Open is held in Pasadena, CA, at the Huntington Sheraton. Larry Christensen and Viktor Korchnoi are co-champions.
1983

President: Dr. Tim Redman, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

**August 19 - 21**
The U.S. Championship for the Blind is held at the Fort Finley Motor Inn in Findlay, OH. Joe Kennedy wins the championship.

**September 20 - 28**
The Armed Forces Chess Championship is won by the Air Force team consisting of Airman First Class David Bragg, Staff Sergeant Chester Richey, Senior Airman Emory Tate, Lieutenant Paul Waldowski, Technical Sergeant Andrew Hoos, and Captain Charles Meidinger.

**November 5 - 6**
The U.S. Junior Open Championship is held in Saint Paul, MN, at the Expo Center. Doug Eckert wins the open.

**December 26 - 30**
The Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship is held in Worcester, MA. Yale University wins the championship.

**December 27 - 29**
The National High School Individual Championships are held at Buena Park High School in Buena Park, CA. Joey Waxman wins the championship.
1984

President: Dr. Tim Redman, E. Steven Doyle, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

February 18 - 20
The U.S. Amateur Team Championship is split into two tournaments, east and west, which both are happening at the same time. The eastern tournament is held in Somerset, NJ, and the western tournament is held in Anaheim, CA. The winners of the eastern tournament are the Collins Kids Varsity, and the western winners are the Quadupled Pawns.

March 23 - 25
The National Open is held in Las Vegas at the MGM Grand Hotel. Walter Browne wins in a tiebreaker.

April 13 - 15
The National High School Team Championship is held in Philadelphia, PA, at the Philadelphia Centre Hotel. Stuyvesant High from New York and George Washington High from Philadelphia are co-champions.

April 28 - 29
The National Elementary Championship is held in East Syracuse, NY, at Pine Grove Junior High School. Pulaski Middle School from Virginia and Pojoaque Elementary School from New Mexico are co-champions. Evan Turtel is the individual winner.
May 5 - 6
The National Junior High Championship is held in Tucson, AZ, at the Marriott Hotel. Pulaski County High School from Virginia and Sunnyside High School from Arizona are co-champions of the Ninth Grade Section. Danny Edelman wins the Ninth Grade individual championship. In the Eighth Grade Section, Orange Grove School from Arizona and Pulaski Middle School are co-champions. Robby Adamson wins the individual championship.

May 26 - 28
The U.S. Amateur Championship is held in Somerset, NJ, at the Somerset Hilton. Ten players tie for first place, and Mark Pinto wins in a tie break.

June 17 - 21
The U.S. Senior Open is held in San Diego, CA. Louis Levy wins the championship.

June 17 - 29
The U.S. Junior Championship (Invitational) is held in Ojai, CA. Patrick Wolff wins the tournament.

July 8 - 29
The U.S. Championship for men and women is held in Berkley, CA. Levy Alburt wins the open championship and Diane Sawareide wins the U.S. Women’s Championship.
1984

President: Dr. Tim Redman, E. Steven Doyle, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

July 27 - 29
The U.S. Junior Open Championship is held in Saint Louis, MO. Dennis Younglove and Doug Eckert are co-champions.

July 27 - 29
The U.S. Blind Championship is held in Findlay, OH. Albert Sandrin wins the championship.

August 4 - 12
The U.S. Open is held in Fort Worth, TX, at the Fort Worth Hilton. Roman Dzindzichashvili and Sergey Kudrin are co-champions.

September 1
Diane Savereide becomes the first women to achieve a US Chess rating of over 2300 when she appears on the September list at 2346.

October 8 - 14
The U.S. Masters Championship is held in Estes Park, CO. Larry Christiansen wins the open.

December 26 - 30
The Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship is held in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. Columbia University wins the championship. The team members were Earl Hall, Jeremy Barth, Simon Yelsky, and Mark Ginsburg.
1985

President: E. Steven Doyle, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

February 16 - 18
The U.S. Amateur Team Championship is held in Somerset, NJ, for the eastern tournament, and Pasadena, CA, for the western tournament. The eastern tournament is won by the team We Don’t Have One and the west is won by the International Players Chess News.

March 15 - 17
The National Open is held in Las Vegas, NV, at the Imperial Palace Hotel. Dmitry Gurevich wins the open.

March 29 - 31
The National High School Championship is held in Saint Louis, MO. The individual winner is Danny Edelman and the team champion is Stuyvesant High School from New York.

April 20 - 21
The National Junior High School Championship is held in Terre Haute, IN. Marco Robert wins the ninth grade individual championship and Anatoly Trubman wins the eighth grade individual title. The ninth grade team winner is Martin Junior High School from Tennessee, and the eighth grade winner is Orange Grove Junior High School from Arizona.

May 4 - 5
The National Elementary Championship is held in Charlotte, NC. Hunter College Elementary School wins the team championship, and K. K. Karanja wins the individual title.
1985

President: E. Steven Doyle, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

May 25 - 27
The U.S. Amateur Championship is held in Syracuse, NY. Michael Shvartsman and Carl Magnuson are co-champions.

June 16 - 21
The U.S. Senior Open is held in San Diego, CA. Eugene Martinovsky, Alexander London, and Hugh Noland tie for first, and Martinovsky wins in a tie breaker.

June 21 - 23
The U.S. Open Computer Chess Championship is held at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. Fidelity Elite EX wins the tournament.

June 22 - July 1
The U.S. Junior Championship (Invitational) is held at the Manhattan Chess Club in New York City. Maxim Dlugy wins the championship.

July 1 - 25
Yasser Seirawan takes second place in the Biel Interzonal, becoming only the second American to qualify for the Candidates in the post Bobby Fischer era.
1985

President: E. Steven Doyle, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

July 18 - 21
The U.S. Junior Open Championship is held in Berkeley, CA. Adam Lief wins the championship with a perfect score of 8-0.

July 26 - 28
The U.S. Blind Championship is held in Findlay, OH. Joe Kennedy wins the championship.

August 4 - 16
The U.S. Open is held in Hollywood, FL. Yasser Seirawan, Boris Spassky, and Joel Benjamin tie for first, and Seirawan wins in a tiebreaker.

September 23 - October 2
The Armed Forces Chess Championship is held in Washington, D.C., at the American Legion Hall of Flags. Army SP4 Roberto Rodriguez and Air Force Sergeant Bobby Moore tie for first place.

October 5
Chess fans in the United States celebrate National Chess Day.
January 1
Yasser Seirawan is the top-rated player in the United States (2686) followed by Lev Alburt (2660) and Max Dlugy (2628). Dlugy, the reigning World Junior Champion, is also the highest-rated player under 21.
Diane Savereide is the highest-rated woman at 2281, followed by Irene Aronoff (2252), and Inna Izrailov (2213).

February
The U.S. Chess Hall of Fame is established with Bobby Fischer and Paul Morphy as charter members.

March 14 - 16
Grandmasters Walter Browne, Dmitry Gurevich, and Sergey Kudrin are joined in first place by FIDE Master Joe Bradford at the National Open held in Las Vegas. Each member of the quartet scores 5½–½ to tie for first in the 726-player event.

June 21 - 30
John Litvinchuk wins the U.S. Junior Chess Championship (Invitational), held at Concordia College in Bronxville, ahead of four future grandmasters: Alex Fishbein, Ben Finegold, Ilya Gurevich and Patrick Wolff.
1986

President: E. Steven Doyle, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

July 22 - 26
Future Grandmaster Alex Sherzer wins the U.S. Cadet Championship held in New York City with a score of 5½ from 7.

August 3 - 15
Larry Christiansen takes first place in the U.S. Open held in Somerset, NJ, with a 10-2 score to become the first clear winner since 1979.

November 14 - December 2
The United States, led by Yasser Seirawan’s defeat of World Champion Gary Kasparov, beats the Soviet Union for the first time in a Chess Olympiad. Seeded fifth, the Americans led for much of the event before falling back to third in the final round.
1987

President: E. Steven Doyle, Harold Winston, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

May 24 - 26

Ilan Kreitner wins the U.S. Amateur held in Knoxville, TN, with a score of 5¼ from 6.

June 14 - 19

Dr. Eugene Martinovsky wins the U.S. Senior Open on tiebreak over eight other players. The 161-player event, held in San Diego, CA, attracts entries from 28 states.

June 15 - 24

Patrick Wolff dominates the U.S. Junior Championship (Invitational), held at the Manhattan Chess Club. The future U.S. Champion scored 8 out of 9, with Alex Fishbein and Ben Finegold second and third with 7 and 5½ points respectively.

July - August

Inna Izrailov has an outstanding performance in the 1987 Women's Interzonal Tournament held in Smederevska Palanka, Yugoslavia. Izrailov scores 9½ from 15 to tie for 6th in a 16 player field. Izrailov's result, along with that of Diane Savereide in the 1979 Alicante Interzonal, ranks as the best by an American woman from the 1930s to the early 1990s.

July 24 - 26

Top-rated player Joe Kennedy (1994) of Fort Wayne, IN, wins the U.S. Blind Championship with a score of 4½-½.
1987

President: E. Steven Doyle, Harold Winston, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

August 1 - 23
Yasser Seirawan ties for second in the Zagreb Interzonal to qualify for the Candidates. This is only the third time an American has done this since Bobby Fischer became World Champion in 1972. The others are Robert Byrne in 1973 and Seirawan in 1985.

August 13
Harold Winston defeats Yasser Seirawan to become US Chess Federation President. Lev Albut becomes the first grandmaster elected to the US Chess Federation Policy Board (now Executive Board).

August 2 - 14
Lev Albut wins the U.S. Open, held in Portland, OR, with a 10-2 score. The event, only the second ever held in the Pacific Northwest, attracts 537 players.

September 1
Yasser Seirawan is the top-rated American player at 2715, followed by Larry Christiansen (2690) and Joel Benjamin (2673). Anna Akhsharumova is best among women by over two hundred points at 2486, trailed by Diane Saveride (2264) and Irene Aronoff (2255). Patrick Wolff heads the top juniors under 21 list at 2532 while Samuel Reshevsky is the top senior (65 and older) at 2479.
1987

President: E. Steven Doyle, Harold Winston, Executive Director: Dr. Gerry Dullea

November 2 - 18
Joel Benjamin and Nick de Firmian tie for first in the U.S. Championship held in Estes Park, CO.

November 7 - 18
Anna Akhsharumova wins the U.S. Women’s Championship with a perfect 9–0 score, three points ahead of Dolly Teasley. Both the U.S. and U.S. Women’s Chess Championships are held at the Stanley Hotel, inspiration for the movie The Shining.

November 26 - 29
Yasser Seirawan tops the 707-player American Open to take home $10,000. Nick de Firmian and Igor Ivanov share second in the event, organized by the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club.

December 26 - 30
Yale University, led by Patrick Wolff and John Litvinchuk, dominates the 1987 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship held in Columbus, OH.
April 22 - 24
The National Elementary Championship is held in Detroit, MI. Among the winners are Michael Klein, as well as Jonathan Ruch in the Primary competition.

May 20
The U.S. Chess Hall of Fame and Museum, located at the US Chess headquarters in New Windsor, NY, opens its doors to the public for the first time. US Chess President Harold Winston and U.S. Chess Hall of Fame Chairman John McCrary share the ribbon-cutting duties.

July 26 - August 4
FIDE Master Stuart Rachels wins the U.S. Junior Championship (Invitational) held in Amherst, MA. Future grandmasters Patrick Wolff and Ben Finegold tie for second.

August 7 - 19
Grandmaster Dmitry Gurevich wins the 5th U.S. Open Chess Championship, held in Boston, MA.

October 8 - 10
International Master Jack Peters wins his fourth American Open title in the 24th edition of this annual event, organized by the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club. Igor Ivanov, Cyrus Lakdawala, and Kamran Shirazi tie for second.

October 1 - 16
Michael Wilder wins the US Championship held in Cambridge Springs, PA.
1989

President: Harold Winston, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

April

Yasser Seirawan (2725) is the top-rated American player, followed by Boris Gulko (2697) and Nick de Firmian (2679). Anna Akhsharamova is the top rated woman (2560), and Alex Fishbein (2560) the top player under 21.

June 9 - 11

Michael Rohde wins the National Open in a tiebreak over Victor Frias, Max Dlugy, Sergey Kudrin, Eugene Meyer, Alexander Ivanov, and Larry Christiansen. 945 players competed in the event, which was held in Las Vegas.

July 7 - 16

Alex Sherzer and Ben Finegold tie for first in the U.S. Junior Closed Chess Championship, held in Washington, D.C.

Lev Alburt wins the U.S. Open Chess Championship with the outstanding score of 8½ from 9, a half point ahead of Max Dlugy. 638 players competed in the event, which was held in Chicago, IL.

September 1

Julie Ann Desch (today Julie O’Neill) becomes the first female editor of Chess Life magazine.

September 22 - 24

Grandmasters Yasser Seirawan, Dmitry Gurevich and Joel Benjamin tie for first in the FIDE Continental Action Championship held in San Mateo, CA. The event attracts 258 entries from nine countries.
1989

President: Harold Winston, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

November 9 - December 3
Yasser Seirawan, Roman Dzindzichashvili, and Stuart Rachels tie for first in the U.S. Chess Championship, which is held in Long Beach as part of a month-long chess festival. Rachels becomes only the second untitled (neither grandmaster or international master) player to become champion. The first was John Grefe, who shared the title in 1973.

November 23 - 26
Grandmasters Gata Kamsky, Larry Christiansen, Walter Browne, Nick de Firmian, and Max Dlugy tie for first in the American Open.

December 31
Igor Ivanov wins the year-long Grand Prix competition put on by US Chess. Michael Rohde is second and Alexander Ivanov third.

July 6 - 16
Alexey Root wins the 1989 US Women’s Championship in Spartanville, SC.
1990

President: Harold Winston, GM Maxim Dlugy. Executive Director: Al Lawrence

April 1
Boris Gulko (2729) is the top-rated player in the United States. Yasser Seirawan (2724) is second, and John Fedorowicz (2705) is third. Elena Akhmilovskaya (2590) is the top-rated woman, and Gata Kamsky (2676) the top junior.

April 27 - 29
Alex Fishbein wins the National High School Championship in Kansas City, MO. The event attracts 901 players, a then-record turnout for a scholastic event.

May 4 - 6
Josh Waitzkin and Robert Seltzer tie for first in the National Junior High School Championship, held in Salt Lake City, UT.

May 11 - 13
Future World Junior Chess Champion Tal Shaked wins the National Elementary Championship in Hollywood, FL. 878 players compete in the three-section event.

May 26 - 28
75-year-old Edgar McCormick repeats his 1961 victory in the U.S. Amateur Championship, held in Somerset, NJ.
1990

President: Harold Winston, GM Maxim Dlugy. Executive Director: Al Lawrence

June 8 – 10
Dmitry Gurevich, Jeremy Silman, Sergey Kudrin, Gregory Kaidanov, Alexander Ivanov, and Igor Ivanov tie for first in the 1113-player National Open held in Las Vegas, NV.

June 16 – 23
Fourteen-year-old Bobby Seltzer of West Roxbury, MA, wins the U.S. Junior Cadet Championship with a 7-0 score, 2⅔ points ahead of the field. Alex Sidelnikov is second and Josh Waitzkin finishes third in the event, which is held at the Manhattan Chess Club in New York.

July 14 – 22
The US Chess Federation hosts the FIDE World Youth Championships for Boys and Girls Under 14, 12, and 10 for the first, and to date, only time in its history in Fond du Lac, WI. Over 300 participants from 45 countries participated, including a young Judit Polgar.

August
Lev Alburt wins his third U.S. Chess Championship in seven years in Jacksonville, FL. This is the first year the US Chess event utilizes the knockout (single-elimination) system.

August 1
Max Dlugy becomes the first, and to date only, grandmaster to be elected US Chess Federation president.
1990

President: Harold Winston, GM Maxim Dlugy. Executive Director: Al Lawrence

August 5 - 17
Yasser Seirawan wins the second of his U.S. Open Chess Championship titles in Jacksonville, FL.

August – September
In Santiago, Chile, Ilya Gurevich becomes only the fourth American (after William Lombardy, Yasser Seirawan, and Max Dlugy) to win the World Junior Championship in Santiago, Chile.

November 10 - 17
Mark Lanin and Gerald Fielding tie for first in the 10th Annual U.S. Senior Open Chess Championship, held aboard the cruise ship S.S. Norway, which sails around the Caribbean during the event.

November 16 - December 4
The U.S. team of Yasser Seirawan, Boris Gulko, Larry Christiansen, Joel Benjamin, John Fedorowicz, and Nick de Firmian takes second place in the 29th Chess Olympiad held in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. The strongest-ever U.S. Women’s Olympiad team, which includes Elena Akhmovskaya, Anna Akhsharumova, Esther Epstein, and Alexey Root, places sixth.

November 22 - 25
Walter Browne and Igor Ivanov share top honors in the 26th American Open held in Los Angeles, CA.

December 31
For the third year in a row and the eighth time in the last nine, Igor Ivanov wins the US Chess Grand Prix.
1991

President: GM Maxim Dlugy, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

February 16 - 18
Collins Kids (the group of young chess players first formed by John W. Collins in 1972) graduates John Ltvinichuk, Sal Matera, William Lombardy, and Joseph Ippolito win the 1991 U.S. Amateur Team Championship held in Somerset, NJ.

April 1
Sixteen-year-old Gata Kamsky (2746) tops the US Chess Federation rating list. He is followed by Yasser Seirawan (2665) and Alex Yermolinsky (2653). Elena Akhmovskaya (2519) is the top-rated woman.

April 12 - 14
Paul Rohwer of Nebraska wins the National Junior High School Championship in Dearborn, MI, with a score of 6½ from 7.

April 26 - 28
Rigel Capallo and Nawrose Nur tie for first in the National Elementary School Championship held in Rye, NY. The multi-section event attracts a then-record 1,113 entrants.

May 3 - 5
Josh Waitzkin wins the U.S. National High School Championship in Atlanta, GA.
1991

President: GM Maxim Dlugy, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

May 25 - 27
Being ranked 54th at the start of the tournament does not stop Class A-player David Collins from going on to become the upset winner of the 1991 U.S. Amateur Championship, finishing ahead of 46 experts. The annual event is held in Somerset, NJ.

June

Josh Waitzkin wins the U.S. Cadet Junior Championship (open to players under 16) in New York. Alexander Sidelnikov is second, and top-seed Stanislav Garber finishes third.

June 4 - 6
Six-time U.S. Chess Champ. Walter Browne wins the 640-player National Open held in Chicago, IL.

June 17 - 26
Top-seed Alex Sherzer (2583) repeats as U.S. junior chess champion by winning the annual round-robin event in Bloomington, IN.

July 14 - 19
Ray Satterlee, Carl Wagner, Louis Levy, and Ron Gross tie for first in the U.S. Senior Open Chess Championship held in San Diego, CA.

July 28 - August 9
Gata Kamsky wins his first U.S. Chess Championship. In this year, the tournament is held alongside the U.S. Open Chess Championship in Los Angeles, CA.
1991

President: GM Maxim Dlugy, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

July 28 - August 9
Michael Rohde and Vladimir Akopian tie for first in the 1991 U.S. Open Chess Championship. The 624-player event, the best-attended U.S. Open since Pasadena in 1983, is held in Los Angeles, CA.

August 1
The current US Chess Federation Policy Board is the strongest ever by rating, with one grandmaster (Max Dlugy), one international master (John Donaldson), one FIDE master (Bill Goichberg), two national masters (Frank Camaratta & Jerry Hanken), and two experts (Randy Hough & Gary Sperling).

August 17 - 24
Irina Levitina and Esther Epstein tie for first in the U.S. Women’s Chess Championship held in Highland Beach, FL.

August 30 – September 12
The American team of Patrick Wolff, Ilya Gurevich, Alex Fishbein, Daniel Edelman, Ron Burnett, and Vladimir Strugatsky finishes 2nd in the World Under-26 Team Championship held in Maringa, Brazil.

November 28 – December 1
Joel Benjamin wins the 27th-annual American Open held in Los Angeles, CA.

December 27 – 30
The University of Illinois-Urbana team (Vivek Rao, Mark Brodie, Wilfred Stevenson, and Chris Merli) wins the Pan Am Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship.
1992

President: GM Maxim Dlugy. Executive Director: Al Lawrence

June 5 – 7
John Fedorowicz, Gregory Kaidanov, Igor Ivanov, Ilya Gurevich, and Joe Bradford tie for first in the National Open in Las Vegas, NV.

July 19 – 26
Vadim Tsemekhman (later Eric Torman) of Michigan wins the U.S. Junior Chess Championship held in Bloomington, IN.

July 20 – 23
Future World Junior Chess Champion Tal Shaked wins the U.S. Cadet Championship.

August 1
US Chess membership surpasses 60,000 members for the first time (63,279), breaking the previous record of 59,979 set in 1973 during the “Fischer Boom.”
1992

President: GM Maxim Dlugy, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

August 19 - 30
Former Women’s World Chess Championship Candidate Irina Levitina repeats as U.S. women’s chess champion.

November 8 - 22
Neil Falconer finishes first in the U.S. Senior Open Chess Championship held aboard the M.S. Noordam, which cruises Alaska’s Inside Passage.

November 26 - 29
Cris Ramayrat, Jeremy Silman, David Strauss, and Anthony Saidy tie for first in the 28th American Open held in Los Angeles, CA.

December 2 - 20
Patrick Wolff wins the U.S. Chess Championship held in Durango, CO.
1993

President: GM Maxim Dlugy, Denis Barry, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

April 1
US Chess Federation Executive Director Al Lawrence reports the organization has set a new membership record (72,014) in its 55th year.

June 11 – 13
Gata Kamsky, Sergey Kudrin, Alex Yermolinsky, and Max Dlugy tie for first in the National Open in Las Vegas, NV.

August 7 – 15
Alex Shabalov wins the first of what would prove to be four U.S. Open Chess Championship titles in Philadelphia, PA.

September 8 – 19
Elena Akhmovskaya and Irina Levitina, who both played matches for the Women’s World Championship, tie for first in the U.S. Women’s Chess Championship held in Normal, IL.

October 24 – November 3
The U.S. team of Gata Kamsky, Alex Yermolinsky, Boris Gulko, Gregory Kaidanov, Joel Benjamin, and Larry Christiansen wins the third World Team Championship, which is held in Lucerne, Switzerland. This marks the first time an American squad finished ahead of Russia (or the Soviet Union).

December 2 – 14
Alex Yermolinsky and Alex Shabalov win their first U.S. Chess Championships, tying for top honors in Long Beach, CA.
1994

President: Denis Barry, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

April 1

US Chess membership under President Denis Barry surpasses 70,000 members (73,485).

April 29 – May 1

Walter Browne wins the National Open in Las Vegas on tiebreak over Gregory Kaidanov, Vladimir Akopian, Jaan Ehlvest, and Ali Mortazavi.

July 15 – 27

Joe Kennedy wins the U.S. Blind Championship held in Columbus, OH.

July 26 – August 5

Elena Akhmovskaya wins her third U.S. Women’s Chess Championship in four years in Bloomington, IL.
1994

President: Denis Barry, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

August 7 – 19
Georgi Orlov, Dmitry Gurevich, Ben Finegold, Smbat Lputian, Leo Kaushansky, and Albert Chow tie for first in the U.S. Open Chess Championship held in Chicago, IL.

October 11 – 26
In Key West, FL, Boris Gulko wins the U.S. Chess Championship. He is the only player to win both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. Chess Championships.

December 31
Alexander Ivanov of Brookline, MA, edges out Michael Brooks of Kansas City, MO, to win the 1994 Novag Grand Prix. This is Ivanov’s third title, and either Alexander or his namesake Igor Ivanov (no relation) win the Grand Prix every year from 1982 to 1994 (except 1987, when Jay Whitehead takes the title).
1995

President: Denis Barry, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

April 1
US Chess Federation membership continues to grow, crossing the 80,000 member mark (81,808).

April 7 – 9
David Arnett and Nawrose Nur tie for first in the 27th National High School Championship held in Chicago, IL.

May 5 – 7
Julian Hodgson, Walter Browne, and Tal Shaked share first place in the National Open in Las Vegas, NV, with Hodgson winning on tiebreak.

July 10 – 18
Tal Shaked and Gabriel Schwartzman tie for first in the U.S. Junior Championship Invitational. The event is held in Bloomington, IL—a city exceptionally active in youth chess, thanks to promoter Garrett Scott.

July 14 – 16
Columbus, OH, once again hosts the U.S. Blind Championship. Don Beaulieu is the winner.

July 15 – 16
Gabriel Schwartzman wins the U.S. Junior Championship (Invitational) in Bloomington, IL.
1995

President: Denis Barry, Executive Director: Al Lawrence

August 6 - 18
Alex Yermolinsky wins the U.S. Open Chess Championship in Concord, CA.

October 15 - 19
Ray Schutt ties with Eduard Gufeld in the U.S. Senior Open Championship and defeats him in the playoff.

November 18 - December 6
In Modesto, CA, Nick de Firmian, Patrick Wolff, and Alexander Ivanov tie for first in the U.S. Championship.

November 18 - December 6
Anjelina Belakovskia and Sharon Burtman share top honors in the U.S. Women’s Chess Championship in Modesto, CA.

December 31
Alex Yermolinsky wins the yearly Grand Prix ahead of perennial champion Igor Ivanov.
1996

President: Denis Barry, Donald Schultz. Executive Director: Al Lawrence, George Filippone (acting)

April 25 - 27
Alexander Ivanov, Dmitry Gurevich, Enrico Sevillano, and Pavel Blatny tie for first in the National Open in Las Vegas, NV.

June 6 - July 11
In Elista, Russia, American Gata Kamsky loses a match for the FIDE World Chess Championship to Anatoly Karpov 7½-10½.

June 14 - 16
Greg Shahade wins the U.S Junior Open Championship in Terre Haute, IN.

June 22 - July 2
Boris Kreiman and Jorge Zamora tie for first in the U.S. Junior Championship (Invitational) in Parsippany, NJ.

July 12 - 29
Alex Yermolinsky wins the U.S. Championship. Steven Doyle organizes this event as well as the U.S. Women’s Championship and U.S. Junior Invitational in Parsippany, NJ. This marks the first time all three competitions have been held in the same location in the same year.
July 16 - 19
Anjelina Belakovskaia repeats as U.S. Women’s Chess Champion in Parsippany, NJ.

August 4 - 16
Gabriel Schwartzman wins the U.S. Open in Alexandria, VA.

September 15 – October 2
The American team consisting of Boris Gulko, Alexander Yermolinsky, Nick de Firmian, Gregory Kaidanov, Joel Benjamin, and Larry Christiansen takes third place in the 32nd Chess Olympiad held in Yerevan, Armenia.

November 28 – December 1
Alex Yermolinsky wins the American Open in Long Beach, CA.

December 31
Gata Kamsky (2784) tops the US Chess Federation rating list. He is followed by Alex Yermolinsky (2698), Gregory Kaidanov, and Yasser Seirawan (2689). Elena Akhmilovskaya (2476) is the top woman, and Gabriel Schwartzman (2608) is the best junior.
1997

President: Donald Schultz, Executive Director: Michael Cavallo

April 25 - 27
Asuka Nakamura wins the National Elementary Championship held in Knoxville, TN.

June 21 - 29
Tal Shaked wins the U.S Junior Championship (Invitational) in Bloomington, IL. Through this victory, he qualifies to represent the United States in the World Junior Chess Championship.

July 13 - 28
Tal Shaked becomes the fifth American to win the World Junior Championship held in Zagan, Poland. He defeats top-seed Alexander Morozevich while on his way to an undefeated 9½ from 13 score in the event.

August 1
The US Chess Federation reaches a record 83,291 members under President Don Schultz and Executive Director Michael Cavallo.

August 3 - 15
Alex Yermolinsky wins his second U.S. Open title in Orlando, FL.
1997

President: Donald Schultz; Executive Director: Michael Cavallo

August 23 - September 12
Joel Benjamin wins the U.S. Chess Championship, while Esther Epstein takes top honors in the U.S. Women’s Chess Championship. Both events are held in Chandler, AZ.

October 12 - 18
In Deerfield Beach, FL, Arthur Bisguier wins the U.S. Senior Open Championship.

October 25 - November 2
The U.S. team of Alex Yermolinsky, Joel Benjamin, Boris Gulko, Nick de Firmian, Gregory Kaidanov, and Larry Christiansen narrowly fails to repeat as champions, finishing second in the 4th World Team Championship held in Lucerne, Switzerland. All team members play above their rating in one of the most successful team efforts in U.S. chess history.

December 31
Igor Ivanov wins his ninth Novag Grand Prix title ahead of Alex Shabalov and Rashid Ziatdinov.
1998

President: Donald Schultz, Executive Director: Michael Cavallo

July 9 – 12
Vinay Bhat and Dmitry Schneider tie for first in the U.S. Cadet Championship in Nashville, TN.

July 18 – 19
In Ithaca, NY, Jennifer Shahade becomes the first girl to win the U.S. Junior Open Championship.

August 1 – 9
Judit Polgar becomes the first woman to win the U.S. Open Chess Championship, a record that remains intact over 20 years later. She prevails on tiebreak over Boris Gulko.

October 31 – November 8
At age 14, Irina Krush wins the first of her seven U.S. Women’s Chess Championships in Denver, CO. She is the youngest-ever holder of the title.
1998

President: Donald Schultz, Executive Director: Michael Cavallo

October 31 - November 19
Nick de Firmian wins his third U.S. Chess Championship in Denver, CO.

November 8 - 13
Arthur Bisguier repeats as U.S. Senior Open champion in Denver, CO.

December 31
Boris Gulko (2714) heads the US Chess rating list just ahead of Yasser Seirawan and Alex Yermolinsky, who both rate 2704. Elena Akhmilovskaya (2453) is the top woman, followed by Irina Krush (2399). The latter is the top-rated player under 16 with 10-year-old Hikaru Nakamura at (2237) number nine.
1999

President: Donald Schultz, Bob Smith, Executive Director: Michael Cavallo, Dr. Gerry Dullea

March 19 - 21
Jaan Ehlvest, Ilya Smirin, and Gregory Kaidanov tie for first in the National Open in Las Vegas, NV.

April 8 - 11
Patrick Hummel of Las Vegas, NV, becomes the National High School Champion.

May 7 - 9
Hikaru Nakamura wins the National Junior High School Championship in Columbus, OH.

July 27 - August 5
Marcel Martinez wins the U.S. Junior Invitational Championship held at the Mechanics’ Institute Chess Club in San Francisco, CA. This is the first championship to include two women (Irina Krush and Jennifer Shahade) as competitors.

August 10 - 20
The 100th U.S. Open, held in Reno, NV, ends in a six-way tie for first among grandmasters Alex Yermolinsky, Alexander Golden, Eduard Rozentalis, Alex Shabalov, Gabriel Schwartzman, and FIDE Master Michael Mulyar. This event, organized by Jerry and Fran Weikel, attracts a U.S. Open record of 26 grandmasters, a record which still stands.

August 23 - 31
Anjelina Belakovskyia wins her third U.S. Women’s Chess Championship in five years in Salt Lake City, UT. Boris Gulko becomes a two-time U.S. chess champion.