

# LMA Trust Report

April 2025

Chuck Unruh, Chair

The Life Member Asset Trust (Trust) is a solely owned US Chess Grantor Trust. Trustees invest and manage life member assets and the funds from the sale of US Chess Life Memberships. Dividends and interest from investment activities reimburse operations for the annual Life Membership expenses. The Trust has eleven Trustees elected by the Delegates at the annual meeting. Our Trustees have between them US Chess leadership experience measured in decades.

The Trust assets and funds are separate from operational accounts. In the first three quarters of the fiscal year, US Chess sold approximately 62 Life Memberships. The Trust receives the proceeds from the Life Member sales by agreement with operations. Life Member funds are then placed into the investment markets.

US Chess Life Membership sales are solid, and the Trust welcomes the 62 new Life Members in the current fiscal year. Our last Life Member Survey focused on inclusion and several notifications over a period of six months. Survey results confirm at least 7,500 Life Members with good addresses. US Chess membership is approximately 117,000 and Life Members represent 6.4%.

Over the last eight years, Trustees have set investment strategies and tactics for portfolio distributions adequate to meet the future Life Member expenses. The investment program has cost averaged into conservative dividend producing holdings. The public investment markets to date face headwinds given the recent market contraction, yet the longer-term results of the yearly investment strategies continue to meet the goals and guidance of the original investment plan.

Each year, the Trustees approve a strategic investment plan for the Life Membership Assets and funds under management named after the city of the next Delegates Annual Meeting. Madison #2 is the current investment plan since the 126<sup>th</sup> US Chess Open is scheduled for August 2025 in a return to Wisconsin. Meanwhile, the Trustees begin a review this June of the proposed Grand Rapids #2 Investment Plan. Like the previous Madison 2 Investment Plan, the Grand Rapids Investment Plan focuses on defensive equity and fixed income. Currently, the Trust portfolio is 57.22% invested in public securities and 42.78% insured Cash Deposits or US Dollars.

The Trustees will present the new investment plan for the 2025-26 fiscal year at the 1 pm Friday August 1 Finance Workshop during the 2025 Delegates Annual Meeting. Investment results for the previous year and a brief strategy discussion are on the agenda, along with a short question and answer session.

LMA Trust Assets Under Management as of March 31st, 2025:

	2024	2025	Gain/(Loss)
Charles Schwab Securities	\$ 1,723,542	\$ 1,869,913	\$ 143,371
	=====	=====	=====
Total:	\$ 1,723,542	\$ 1,869,913	\$ 143,371

Teamwork, dedication and ownership style management by our volunteer Trustees has made the Life Member Grantor Trust a success since its creation on January 1, 2013. I appreciate and thank all the Trustees for their service and continued dedication to LMA Trust goals.