

Dues and Life Membership

I would like to have done some more “fact checking” before publishing this, but since it is of current interest, here it is to the best of my memory. Everything here is correct, but there are some details I will add after looking them up. Chris J

From before 1890 to after 1940 dues were a constant, at \$5.00 per year. The club was adamant about collecting dues until a member resigned in writing. There are several notations (primarily before WWI) about the club employing a collection agent to secure payment of delinquent dues, and other notations of members resigning, but having the resignations refused since their dues were not paid up to date. Presumably the collection agents followed up.

In one incident, the famous shuetzen and gunsmith A. Hubalek of Brooklyn, New York who joined in 1931, resigned in 1938, submitting a check to bring his dues up to date to the time of his resignation.

Life memberships got their beginnings in 1890 when the club needed funds for improvements to Schuetzenpark. The club issued notes secured by the property, for \$100 each. Interest was stated as 5%, which was paid by applying it to dues. This procedure was repeated in 1900. The last of the notes were paid off from 1923 to 1933 during the contract sale of Schuetzenpark. In 1933 a resolution was adopted that those members who had held such notes would become “Honor” (Note not “honorary”) members after having paid dues for 10 years. By 1938 those members were being referred to as “Life Members” rather than “Honor Members”. I have not yet found when Life membership was opened to anyone after payment of 10 years of dues and not just the holders of the previous notes.