



COLUMBUS ELKS LODGE #1195

APRIL 2025

NEWSLETTER

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Make the most of your summer; "Play here!"



Justin Lorenz
Exalted Ruler
Elks Lodge #1195

HELLO, returning and new members! We are glad you chose the Elks Country Club as a place you want to play this year. And when we say "Play Here!" we mean it literally!

Whether you joined to play golf, socialize, or give your kids a safe place to hang out this summer, you are welcome here.

The Elks has always been a good place for kids. Consider the Junior Golf program where kids learn to play a sport they can play their entire lives. The course is great place to spend the afternoon with friends or on Sundays as a family. The course accommodates all skill levels.

The Elks is also a great venue for adults to socialize - whether for dinner, over a drink, in league, or playing in a Couples' Night event.

Simply form a team with another couple, even if they aren't members ... yet. The first one is scheduled for Friday, April 11. Call the Pro Shop or use the QR code on page 4, and start making the most of your membership this month!

Leagues, events, buffets, and parties are all

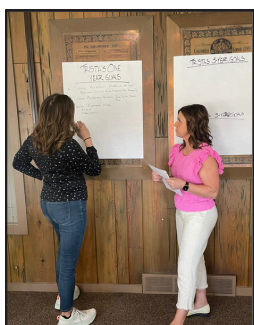
ways to enjoy the club, too, and they happen throughout the year. In fact, Memorial Day is right around the corner. The pool opens and we will have member festivities, the annual shootout fundraiser, a holiday tournament, and other family-focused activities. It's truly a great club, and we are glad you plan to "Play here!"

Want to invite someone to join the Elks

Pick up a brochure at the office to share with a friend!



Committee members Josh Johnson (above) and Ashley Saltzgaber (right) capture 1-, 3-, and 5-year goals from Pro Derrick Cedar and General Manager Trista Engel at the March 28 Strategic Planning meeting.



Elks management team sets goals

Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is famously credited for the quote, "Plan your work, then every day, work your plan." And that's what the Elks management team is doing with involvement from a new Strategic Planning Committee.

"I pulled this team together last fall," said Trista. "Our first task was to conduct the membership survey. We reviewed all the feedback from members and are now using that data to discuss the goals of the club and create a strategic plan.

"While it is everyone's responsibility to improve the membership experience and profitability of this organization," she said, "it is the purpose of the Strategic Planning Committee to help management define priorities and direction." (See more about all of the Elks' committees on page 6 of this newsletter.)

Strategic Planning Committee members include Ashley Saltzgaber, Terry Millard, Josh Johnson, and Jeanne Schieffer.

Story continues on page 2

Setting goals for the year, cont.

The group's most recent agenda included discussing each manager's one, three, and five-year goals and drafting a milestone calendar to support those goals.

"We are asking, 'What can be done to meet member needs within the current budget?' and setting the goal to have 300 members by or before 2028," Engel said. "Another strategy addresses the nearly 50% 'somewhat satisfied' or 'unsatisfied' rating members gave our shacks and golf lounge availability."

"This year, members will not only see the beverage cart out on the course more, we will also be using the upstairs lounge area on league night for players," she said.



This will utilize wait staff more efficiently, while giving members more space to socialize."

One of Eric Bice's goals for 2025 is to complete the driving range refurbishment before the Hilltop Golf Tournament in June. Above, irrigation pipe is being installed on the range.



Members pick up branches . . . and the tab

Who needs green beer when you can celebrate with sticks, leaves, and cornstalks? Thanks to the generous members who helped clean up the course on St. Patrick's Day! While another day may be needed in April, Elks' management is truly grateful for members' extra hands and hearts. We are also grateful to the Wild Elks who sponsored the first FAC on March 21 to kick off the 2025 season.

THANKS to the good crowd that attended! Do we members who want to sponsor the next one?



MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

Hello and Happy April!

We can say it is officially golf season, or it sure feels like it with the wonderful weather we've been having.

I want to say "Thank you" to those members who have encouraged NEW MEMBERS to join the Elks and to those who participated in the ALL-MEMBER COURSE CLEAN-UP on March 17. We had about 30 members help, and we got so much accomplished. Even though a blizzard hit two days later, it was successful, and the support from our members was more than appreciated. Going forward, this will be an annual event, and I hope it will grow in participation.

As for another annual event, I'd like to share some information about this year's SHOOT-OUT. Here is the what, when, why, who, and how of this event:

What: The Shoot-Out is a fun fundraiser held every year to raise additional revenue for the Club.

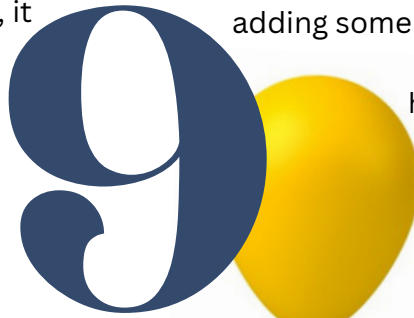
When: It will happen during our Summer Kickoff Memorial Weekend - May 23-26 - when families often get together to enjoy the end of the school year and the start of summer.

It used to be held in July, but we moved it to Memorial Day Weekend last year and want to do that again this year.

Why: The event was designed to do two things: 1) bring members together for some camaraderie and 2) raise extra dollars for the benefit of a Club project or program.

Who: The Elks staff plans the event for members, and this year, we are changing a few things and adding some fun extras, including opportunities for everyone to be a winner. So, get ready to have some fun and enjoy a few surprises.

How it works: Members are asked to donate \$100 to the fundraiser in an amount applied to their bill, starting May 1. Members can opt out by calling the office and requesting staff to remove the charge from their account. However, I hope members view themselves as investors in an exclusive club that works to serve their needs - which is what we - your Elks team - try to do every day. You have no idea how much your support - in whatever form it is given - helps the club and is appreciated!



new members have joined the Elks! Half of them joined on their own, and the other half were recruited by members. THANK YOU to those members who continue to invite others to join our Elks family! Keep the invites coming!

-Trista

THE COLUMBUS Telegram
Best of Columbus 2025

VOTE FOR US!
MAKE US THE BEST IN 2025!

go.columbustelegram.com/bestof25
TO START VOTING
to vote one per day, per category!

Vote through
APRIL 20

The Elks has been nominated in the top 5, "Best Fine Dining Restaurant" category for Best of Columbus. Vote once per day until April 20 at this link: <https://columbustelegram.com/exclusive/readerschoice/ballot-2025/>

Do you have a 2025 graduate?

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE OUR YOUNG ELK GRADUATES!

Submit:

- their name
- headshot photo
- high school or college name
- names of Elk parent(s)



Email photo and information to Elle Schultz at lesiakelle@gmail.com **by April 20**. We will include them in a special addition of the May 2025 Elks newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM OUR GOLF PROFESSIONAL

Hello from the golf shop!

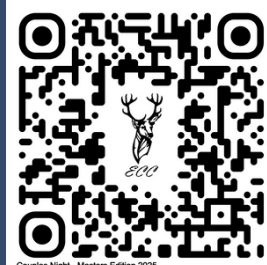
April brings everything new. New Season. New Events. New hope for your game. And also, brand new merchandise in the golf shop!

Throughout April, I will be stocking new inventory from all your favorite brands (Titleist, Callaway, Cleveland, Footjoy, Under Armour, Redvanly & more) to help your game! Come in and see us in the golf shop. You'll want to look your best this year and for our first member event of the season: Couples' Night, Friday, April 11.

This will be our annual "Masters Edition." Plan on a modified scramble with a 5:45 p.m. shotgun start. We will have our own spin on a team DCP challenge during play, and the cost of the event will include Masters-themed appetizers after play. Scan the QR code below to register.

Lastly, April will bring the first Titleist fitting event for this season. Their new GT line of metals is outperforming the rest (certainly in distance categories). But you can't go wrong with any of their wedges, hybrids, irons, or drivers and fairways. The event will be on Wednesday, April 23rd. So, mark your calendars, and be on the lookout for more details coming via email soon.

-Derrick



COUPLES GOLF NIGHT

MASTERS EDITION
Friday, April 11th

5:45 PM SHOTGUN

\$35 per member couple

\$45 per non-member couple

MODIFIED SCRAMBLE

A TEAM DRIVE, CHIP, & PUTT COMPETITION DURING
PLAY FOR A MASTERS THEMED PRIZE

MASTERS THEMED APPETIZERS



Did you know...

- In 2024, the Elks purchased a new system pump for \$4,000; an auto-fill valve for \$1,500; and refurbished the diving board for \$800.
- In 2023, the Elks bought an auto-injector for \$3,000.
- It costs \$2,500/yr to clean and sanitize the pool.
- It costs \$1,800 to repaint every other year.



FAC & Kids' Night

April 25, 5:30–8 p.m.

Bring the kiddos with you to this month's FAC! Special games, snacks, activities, and a movie will be provided to your little(s) while you celebrate the end of the work week!



MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Hello, Members!

In the last few newsletters, I have been trying to give you more insight into the maintenance side of the Elks.

This month, I want to talk about equipment.

I look at a successful course maintenance plan as a three-legged stool. Those three legs are staffing, irrigation, and equipment. If any leg is weak, the stool will topple.

It takes a lot of equipment to run a golf course, from blowers to tractors. And although we have most of the important equipment we need, it may be beneficial for you to know the age of our equipment and their replacement order.

To determine when a unit needs to be replaced, we use a formula from the USGA. It compares the hours on a mower to the miles on a car; so every 500 hours a mower is used equates to 35,000 miles on a car.

Now, I won't break down every piece of equipment for you, but I will give you a few examples of equipment we use every day and which ones need to be replaced first.

We use two greens mowers daily. One is a 2013 Toro Reelmaster with 4200 3,100 hours on it or 231,000 miles. We also use a 2006 Toro Reelmaster with 4,300 hours or 327,250 miles. We add between 400 to 500 hours on each of these mowers every year.

I assume few of us would trust or drive a 2006 vehicle daily with 327,500 miles on it; and obviously, with the age of these mowers comes added cost. This past year, we spent about \$5,000 in parts alone on these mowers.

Our fairway mower is a 2011,

5410 Reelmaster we bought used in 2014. It has been a great mower and we use it approximately 500 hours a year.



Eric and his team have mowed the greens three times already in preparation for the 2025 season. This particular mower is the 2013 Toro Reelmaster with 3,100 hours on it.

This means it now has about 6000 hours on it - or 462,000 miles. Our backup fairway mower is a 2002 Reelmaster; and we had to pay

for some repair parts this year totalling \$4,000.

Looking at all the other large mowers we have, you would find an average hour-use of 3,500 and the highest hour-use at 9,100. When combined like this, we spent a total of \$47,000 in equipment repair and maintenance. And unfortunately, due to the age of the equipment we have, this budgeted number is hard to forecast.

Yet, it is one of my main goals in working with the new Strategic Planning Committee to come up with a replacement plan for equipment needs in the coming years. I am excited to work with them to set the club up for success – not just this year but for many years to come.

Thanks!

-Eric

Course clean up is never a joke



Mark Twain used to joke that “golf is a good walk spoiled.” Yet, one could argue that good golf can be spoiled by a debris-laden course.

That's why, Justin Miller has been busy sweeping cornhusks, sticks, pine cones, and dead leaves from #13 to #3.



Above is a huge pile of debris collected by the sweeper in just one day.

NOTE: A neighborly “thank you” to the Quail Golf Course for the use of the sweeper!

Elks' leadership teams reorganize

A committee-combined Board of Trustees aims to be more efficient, organized

As with most Elks' lodges, trustees have the voting authority over club operations, dues structure, management hires, annual budgets, major purchases, and main decisions.

For our organization, other committees take on various responsibilities. The Finance Committee reviews the numbers; the Greens Committee discusses course maintenance; the Lodge Board conducts philanthropic activities for the Columbus community, its youth, and veterans; and the new Strategic Planning Committee seeks member feedback and helps develop the club's strategic priorities.

However, discussions regarding redundancies between the committee tasks, the amount of time managers spend in committee meetings, and the need to increase our members' understanding of club operations set in motion a decision to reorganize the Board of Trustees.

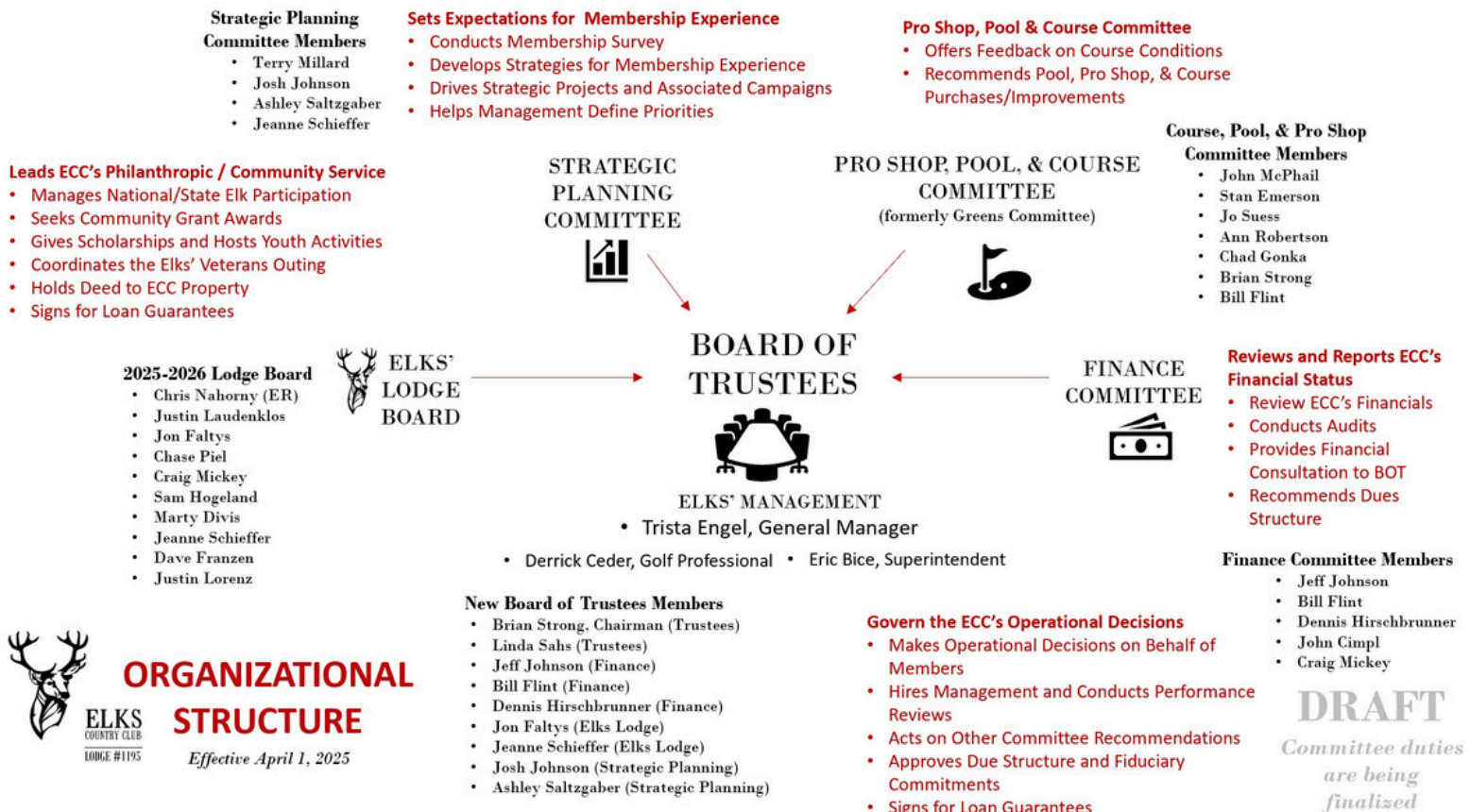
Under the guidance of Trustee Chairman Brian Strong, the board has been revamped into a 9-member entity comprised of 1-3 members from each of the other committees.

Uniting the committees in this way will help the Board of Trustees be more effective in working toward common short- and long-term goals. It also helps members better identify areas they can support.

"We want to see more members get involved in the Club," said Trustee Chairman Brian Strong. "A good mix of members with energy for fundraising, advertising, youth activities, membership organizations, as well as operational and financial experience benefit our club as a whole."

"Members are what makes this place work, whether that's in helping with the Junior Golf program, sponsoring events, serving on the Lodge board or what was initially the Greens Committee and is now the Pro Shop, Pool, and Course Committee. Elk members are truly 'investors' in the Elks," said Strong. "We are not just beneficiaries of its services. We need to have a shared commitment to its success and what it represents in the community."

If you are interested in getting involved in the coming year, send an email to elkscc@theelkscc.com.



Advertise your business; support the Elks at the same time

Branding experts say people can forget the name of a business, but they'll immediately associate its logo with their knowledge of, or experience with, the business. In other words, logos evoke emotions. Think about Coca-Cola's iconic script, Nike's swoosh, and Apple's apple.

Your business' logo can do the same, and why not connect the positive emotions from your logo with the enjoyment of playing golf?

To improve the look of the course and give members the opportunity to advertise their respective businesses, the ECC is installing new tee box markers on the course.

There are 18 men's tee and 14 new women's tee markers available. Businesses that have sponsored a tee box in the past are encouraged to sponsor again.

Annual pricing for the club's new signs is \$400 for the men's and \$300 for the women's. It's an economical opportunity to reach at least 400 golfers each week during the peak season.

Call Trista to secure yours! 402-564-1451



In addition to replacing broken faces, sponsoring businesses will be more visible with the new tee box marker signs to be installed this spring.

April 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Elk's Mtg. 8 p.m.	3	4 Private Event	COLUMBUS CUP
6	7	8 •	9	10 <i>Bridge</i>	11 <i>Bridge</i> Couples Night	12 Holiday Dance Club
13	14	OFC Men's League Starts	16	17 Men's League Starts	18 <i>Good Friday</i>	19
Easter Brunch & Hunt	21	22	23 Private Golf Outing	24	FAC & Kids' Night	26
27	28	29	 Cactus	30		May 3-4 Columbus Classic