



COLUMBUS ELKS LODGE #1195

NOVEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

5113 63RD STREET COLUMBUS, NE 68601 402.564.1451 THEELKSCC.COM ELKSCC@THEELKSCC.COM

Lodge officers to discuss, vote on operation concept

Fall: it's the season of change, and change is something we have covered in this newsletter nearly every month since I became the Exalted Ruler for Lodge #1195 in April, and we won't change that now.

Whether it has been the new governance structure for the Elks, the transition of the golf lounge upstairs for more efficiency, or the changing (and increasing) costs associated with running the club, we - as an organization - are having to adjust.

Over the past six months, the majority of us members have enjoyed playing golf, swimming in the pool with our kids, and eating some of the best food the club has ever had. Meanwhile inside, the Board of Trustees, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Finance Committee, Golf & Pool Committee, and our club management have been wrestling with ideas for how to make necessary investments to the facility and course while not assessing club members beyond their means.

They have actually discussed a new idea with our Nebraska State Elk representatives which involves the Lodge's ability to relinquish the operational responsibilities of the course and country club. Benevolent and Protective Orders of Elk across the United States exist to serve their communities through philanthropic works for veterans, students and youth, and programs that better the lives of local citizens. Only a dozen or so out of 2,000 lodges own and operate golf courses.



CHRIS NAHORNY
Exalted Ruler
Elks Lodge #1195
nahorny31@gmail.com

Our committee representatives believe it may be possible for the Lodge to retain ownership of the club while allowing a separate entity to operate it. What that entity is and how it would be financed is not known and may take a lot of work to establish, but it is worth a discussion.

The Lodge officers will be doing just that at its November 12 meeting. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Club, and, as with all Lodge meetings, members can attend. Since the idea is conceptual in nature and since no entity has been established, the officers will only vote on whether or not the idea is worth pursuing. More information will be shared in the future, assuming the Lodge votes in favor of the idea and the idea comes to fruition.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of the Elk members who have reached out, said prayers, offered support, or simply been there when my family and I needed them over the past few weeks.

We have been reminded that Sammy's journey is a difficult one, yet we also are witnessing a young man - our son - exhibiting amazing bravery, strength, and resilience.

I can't tell you how proud I am of him or how much I love him, but I can express my appreciation for all of you who support our family and are with us in this fight. *Thank you.*



Winter Lounge Hours

Wednesdays: 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Fairway to Five Happy Hour: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Thursday – Saturday: 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

This Sunday, November 2nd, will be the final Sunday for drink service in the Golf Lounge. Stop in for one last round from 12–5 PM!

Dining Hours

Place reservations
and to go orders
after 4 p.m.

Please do not leave
to go orders on
Club voicemail.

Wednesday 5-9 pm
Thursday 5-9 pm
Friday 5-9 pm
Saturday 5-9 pm

Reserve your table 402.564.1451



MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

HAPPY NOVEMBER!

The landscape of color throughout the course is quite a sight! I am such a fan of the seasons. It may be because it comes with so much change. The trees burn with different colors, their leaves drop, the temperatures shift, and we change up our menus and trade out our wardrobes.

And just like the seasons, the club has been changing, too. In the past four years, we have hired a new GM, a new golf pro, and a new chef. We have also seen a turnover in staff, including the resignations of a bookkeeper and the maintenance superintendent. We purchased a fleet of new golf carts, built a new bridge, redone the driving range, added a new sand bunker, hired new staff of country club caliber, and implemented a new customer information program and billing system --- all of this while absorbing daily office duties and trimming costs where we can. We restructured the Board of Trustees, created a strategic committee, and improved our financial records. And the changes continue.

STATUS OF HIRING A HEAD SUPER

We are currently in the heat of interviews for the new Head Superintendent. The hiring committee's timeline is to have informal interviews completed by Nov. 7; formal (in person) interviews done by Thanksgiving; and send out an offer by mid-December. This is contingent on applicants' schedules during the holiday season.

Finding the best person is our number one goal! Meanwhile, our assistant superintendent, Justin, and our grounds crew are doing a great job in this interim. So, please give a shout of thanks if you see them.

STATUS OF DUES

What are the dues going to be next year? The Board has not officially voted what that amount will be, but as we have stated in this newsletter, they need to increase to keep up with inflation and rising costs of goods and services. That said, the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees do not believe we are in the same state of urgency, as in previous years, to get the prepaid dues coming in to pay our bills. The longer we can manage using current revenues and cash flow, the better. I say this knowing that various pieces of equipment in the club or on the course could break tomorrow, and we will need to alter our direction.

'TIS THE SEASON!

Our weekends are booked in December and January, but we still have openings available for weekday events. Please call the office, and we'll try to help you plan an unforgettable party with family, friends and, of course, wonderful food!

Finally, I want to thank you - the members - for your support this past year. We have made great strides and are setting the foundation for our future. My hope for all of you is to continue to stay positive, for "To whom He gives great triumph, He gives great rewards."

-Trista





With friends!



How do you celebrate
60 years?



With appreciation!



With
cupcakes!



With glow golf!



With creativity!



MESSAGE FROM OUR GOLF PROFESSIONAL

HELLO FROM THE GOLF SHOP!

I want to begin with a **“Thank you!”** to everyone who participated in the Glow Golf Scramble in October. It’s always one of those events everyone looks forward to, and this year was no different.

Kim and Allen Grossnicklaus took home top prize for the cart decorating contest, and congratulations to the winners of the event: Pat and Annie Sokol and Eric and Karla Hall.

Another HUGE **“Congratulations!”** is due to one of our Junior Members, Molly Goc. She won the NSAA Class A State Girls Golf Individual Championship on Oct. 14 at the Riverside Golf Club in Grand Island. Molly is a former Hilltoppers Jr Golf Program participant, and we are very proud of the player she has become.

I have no doubt you will see Molly working on her game at the club so make sure to congratulate her the next time you see her practicing!

The state tournament was a nice cherry on top of what was already a school record-breaking type of senior season for Columbus High School Girls’ Golf, so I want to also say congratulations to the team and their coaches, Anne Robertson and Jackie Eickhoff. Great job, ladies!

The golf event calendar has come to an end this season (aside from a holiday sale about which I will share more information on soon), and I just wanted to take a moment and thank you all for supporting the club this year.

As we start our process of “winterizing” our golf operations, please keep in mind we are looking at **Nov. 15 as a final, “full service” day.** What that means is:

- you can no longer post scores to GHIN;
- golf cart traffic will also end for the season;
- the driving range will close;
- the golf lounge/pro shop/bag room may not be staffed at all hours of the day, and
- the golf course might be winterized (sanded greens, no flagsticks, longer tees/fairways, etc.) to help prevent winter damage.

If you store your clubs or pushcart, please plan to pick them up for the season. We will start parking some of our



Congratulations to Hilltoppers Jr Golf Alumni Molly Goc on her Class A state gold medal! Her focus and commitment to the game earned her the top win. She is only the second individual state champion from Columbus winning her title 50 years and within three days from when Cathy Curry took the title in 1975. The ECC is proud of your efforts, Molly, and can’t wait to see what the future holds for you!

cart fleet away for the winter as traffic slows. This is an important part of prolonging the life span of our new carts!

Last, but not least, it is time to start spending the pro shop credit you worked so hard for this year! **The final date to spend your credit is December 21.** This is a hard cutoff date now that we have worked our way around to a single calendar-year rotation. So, don’t wait too long and miss out on the newest offerings in the golf shop.

Thanks and thank you for a great season!

-Derrick

The Elks are involved

This year the Elks helped fulfill its philanthropic mission by awarding a \$2,000 Spotlight Grant to the Columbus Area United Way's Women United initiative. The grant will be directed to the CAUW's Student Health Fund and Mental Health Voucher Program which cover the medical, dental, and mental health costs for students who cannot afford them.

Last year, the Student Health Fund paid for 100 school lice kits at a total cost of \$17,000. There were 58 requests for medical/dental assistance, but only 53 requests were met; and 40 youth who received mental health vouchers for counseling sessions which can cost up to \$185 each.

In addition to the Spotlight Grant, more than 12 Elk women were involved in an Oct. 21 fundraiser to raise money for the fund. The Elk women were involved either as a member of the CAUW's Women United Steering Committee or as an attendee of the fundraising event.

The Elks Country Club also provided the event's menu of soup and sandwich.

TOP RIGHT: Four Elk women are members of the Women United Steering Committee, including Jo Sueß, Sue Christensen, Jeanne Schieffer, (back row left) and Cammy Otten (back row right). Other committee members represented the United Way and various businesses and organizations in the Columbus community.

RIGHT: The Elks team of Sarah Weber, Cathy Kurtenbach, Jill Lorenz, Karla Porter, Kim Arlt, Kelly Kapels, Katie Loveless, and Peg Ziola won "Best Table Design" at the Glam for Good event.

BELOW: Elks Secretary Jeanne Schieffer, Treasurer Craig Mickey, and Leading Knight Jon Faltys (in red) present a \$2,000 Spotlight Award Grant to Leslie Larson, Aaron Uhlig, Adam Urkoski, and Josh Johnson of the CAUW Campaign Committee. The grant will be used to directly fund the Student Health and Mental Health Vouchers programs.





APPETIZERS & ENTERTAINMENT

SPONSORED BY

Rick & Julie Haney

Ron & Ann Ernst

Tom & Sue Zabawa

Stan & LeAnne Emerson

Steve & Cammy Otten

Roger & Karen Iwanksy

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH 5-7PM

Mark your
calendars!

A festive poster for a Christmas event. The background is a solid red color. In the center, a large, stylized white outline of a square frame contains the text. At the top of the frame is a small white snowflake. The text inside the frame reads: 'christmas' in a white serif font, followed by 'BUFFET & SANTA'S VISIT' in a smaller white sans-serif font. Below that is 'DECEMBER' in a white serif font, followed by '7TH' in a large white serif font. Underneath is 'COME SEE OL' SAINT NICK' in a white sans-serif font, followed by '11-1 P.M.' in a white sans-serif font. At the bottom of the frame is another small white snowflake. Below the frame, the text 'CALL FOR RESERVATIONS' is written in a white sans-serif font. On the right side of the poster, there is a detailed illustration of Santa Claus with a white beard, wearing a red suit with white trim and a red hat with a white pom-pom. He is smiling and winking. There are also white snowflake illustrations in the corners of the poster.



CALENDAR

November | Elks Country Club

- 5 Pasta Night
- 7-8 Prime Rib Special
- 13 FAC
First Night of Pool League
- 14 Elks Lodge Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
Bridge Club
"Fairway to Five Happy Hour" 3-5 p.m.
- 15 Final "Full Service" Day for Golf
Formal Dance Club
- 18 Bridge Club
OFC
- 19 Pasta Night
- 20 Harvest Dinner
- 26 Cactus
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday - Elks Closed

• Elks-sponsored • External organization/
Business/Other

