



COLUMBUS ELKS LODGE #1195

OCTOBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

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Lodge looks forward to Elks' changes ahead

Things are changing at the Elks.

Last month, I talked about our 2025-26 membership dues falling short of what is needed to cover the Club's costs. And over the past six months, this newsletter has presented information about investments we need to make in course equipment to update our facilities.

Last week, we learned we will need to hire a new course superintendent. On behalf of the Lodge, I want to thank Eric Bice for making the course the championship course it is. Quail is fortunate to hire him, and I expect the change will be good for him and his family.

Change can also be good for us, too, if we look at it as an opportunity and if we realize:

Competition demands it.

When you work in sales, you need to know your competition. You also need to know how your product compares in terms of price, features, and benefits.

For the Elks, we know our primary competition is a city-owned course that relies upon local sales tax dollars to operate. We also know the city plans to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars more in its public golf courses in the coming years. We need to do the same, as many of our younger members see the Elks as dated and in need of repair.

Yet, what makes our product better?

- **Availability.** More often than not, members can play whenever they want to, and playing in league doesn't take up to four hours for nine holes. The tee sheet is often wide open, and, if you play on a Sunday afternoon or evening, you practically have the course to yourself.
- **Benevolence.** The Elks is more than a country club and golf course. As a member, you belong to an organization that gives back to the community in student scholarships, programs that help the less fortunate in Columbus, and our veterans. Did you know, since 2020, the Elks has awarded more than \$10,000 to community causes, more than \$24,000 in student scholarships; and has raised more than \$46,000 for the Veterans Outing and related programs. Our competition doesn't do that.
- **Course Design.** Ask visitors, the Nebraska PGA, and players from other states, the Elks course is challenging, yet achievable for every level - from beginner to professional. We want to keep it that way.
- **Exclusivity.** While being family-focused, we are also a private country club. Members receive an exclusive experience of fine and casual dining options, organized social activities throughout the year, along with a swimming pool for their families. Our competition can't provide the special experiences you get at the Elks.

I remind you all of these benefits because as we strive to remain competitive as a golf course, social venue, summer pool recreation, and charitable membership organization, we will probably need to change how we operate.

We know dues have to increase. We also know investments will need to be made in our facility and the course. After 60 years, the building is seeing wear and tear. We also know our membership numbers will need to increase for the long-term operational viability of the Elks.

Sure, change can be scary, but it can also be exciting, rewarding, and enjoyable. Think of where we have seen competitors challenged to demonstrate why they are the better choice: Coke and Pepsi. Ford and General Motors. Walmart vs. Target. Apple vs. a PC.

So, let's get after it. We can do this.

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. —George Bernard Shaw

MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

HAPPY OCTOBER!

Looking out at the most beautiful golf course for many miles (without a doubt), one would find it very hard to believe it is October. Fall golf, minus those nasty, little black bugs, is honestly the best! Hopefully we will see many more nice days ahead.

Many changes it seems have surfaced in the past couple of weeks. The most important of these changes is - of course- the resignation of our superintendent, Eric Bice.

When Eric decided to look at taking a different career path, we talked for quite some time about all the pros and cons, and how it would affect not only him and his family, but the Club, whom he called his "family for 28 years."

I thought to myself, "What a selfless statement and one of great benevolence. I wish Eric and his family nothing but the best and cannot thank him enough for all he has given to this course, club, pool, its members, and his peers.

Eric is committed to seeing our club continue to thrive and grow by helping to set up the next super, so you can expect to see him around occasionally. "Thank you again, Eric, for all your commitment through the years." I am thankful I got to be a part of the latter years of it.

A couple of other changes I would like to mention that you, our members will see, are some friendly faces out on the course and in the clubhouse. The maintenance crew is doing a terrific job mowing and managing the course. I sure appreciate your dedication to keeping it nice for our members.

Please also help me welcome back Enerio Cervantis, who helps Karen in the kitchen. He has been recovering from severe injuries due to a vehicle accident earlier this summer, but he stepped through the kitchen's swing doors for our third pasta night of the season, and it is good to have him back.

These changes do not take away from the fact that we do need to hire more staff.

Our summer help is back in school and, as with Eric, career opportunities have changed for some of our long-term employees. So, if you know someone who would be a good worker, needs part-time hours, and has a customer-service personality, please encourage them to apply.

The last item I would like to update you on is the All-Member Meeting we have every fall. The Strategic Planning Committee and the Board of Trustees are diligently putting information together for charting a new course for the future of the club. We are still pushing for a date yet in late October, and as soon as the date is set, you will receive notice.

Once announced, I ask that you make every effort to attend. The club needs EACH and EVERY ONE of its members to gather during this meeting and be open to hearing what the committees have been working on.

-Trista



**JOIN OUR TEAM AT THE ELKS COUNTRY CLUB! WE'RE
LOOKING FOR FRIENDLY, HARDWORKING, AND
MOTIVATED PEOPLE TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:**

- **LINE COOKS**
- **BARTENDERS/SERVERS**
- **GOLF SHOP**
- **MAINTENANCE**

**CONTACT US VIA EMAIL AT ELKSCC@THEELKSCC.COM
OR CALL US AT 402.564.1451**

MESSAGE FROM OUR GOLF PROFESSIONAL

Hello from the golf shop!

FALL GOLF IS HERE! Make sure to come out and enjoy the perfect fall conditions while you still have the chance. The beginning of October, right before the leaves fall is the best time of year to play.

Speaking of fall golf, October brings one of my personal favorite events of the year: THE GLOW GOLF SCRAMBLE. This year's event is not limited to just couples! So, if you have a foursome (inviting guests is encouraged), register your team online or contact the golf shop. Depending on registration numbers, we will split the field into a couple's division and an "open" division.

This year's event will be a part of our club's 60th birthday celebration. We will have "FAC-style" live music and complimentary apps for the membership starting at 5pm. If you have signed up for GLOW GOLF, we will shotgun start at 6:45pm (sunset). Following play, there will be chili and cinnamon rolls for golf participants. The evening will also feature a cart decorating contest. Bring your own supplies to decorate your cart and our staff will choose a winner!

Lastly, it's time to start spending your pro shop credit that you have worked hard for this year! The final date to spend your credit is December 21st. It's a hard cut off date this year now that we have worked our way around to a single calendar-year type of rotation. I would encourage you not to wait too long so you don't miss out on the newest offerings in the golf shop.

October Golf Calendar

- October 5th – NJG Fall Junior Series (1pm shotgun)
- October 6th – A-3 Girls District Golf (10am)
- October 9th – HDR Outing (12:30pm shotgun)
- October 11th (Elks CC) & October 12th (Quail Run) – Columbus Cup
- October 18th – Glow Golf Scramble (5pm "FAC-style" with a 6:45pm shotgun start)

-Derrick



NEON & NINE
GLOW GOLF

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 72 PLAYERS
(18 TEAMS)

\$30 PER PERSON

CART DECORATING CONTEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
6:45PM SHOTGUN

SIGN UP AS A FOURSOME (DOESN'T HAVE TO BE TWO COUPLES)

INVITED GUEST ARE ENCOURAGED

APPETIZERS & LIVE MUSIC STARTING AT 5PM



CELEBRATING
60 years together!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

COMPLIMENTARY APPETIZERS & MUSIC
5-7 PM

STOP BY THE CLUBHOUSE ANYTIME ON SATURDAY TO ENJOY CELEBRATORY CUPCAKES!

CALENDAR

October Elks Country Club



- 1 Pasta Night
- 3 Prime Rib
- 5 NJG Event 1pm
- 6 Class A Girls Districts
- 9 HDR Event
- 11 Holiday Dance
- 15 Elks Lodge Meeting @ 7 p.m.
Pasta Night
- 18 Saturday FAC & Glow Golf
- 21 OFC
- 23 Sequoia Event
- 29 Cactus
- 31 Halloween

- Elks-sponsored
- External organization/
Business/Other

Golf tournaments and outings requested by external entities are typically held on weekdays, keeping the course available for members. The Nebraska Open is an exception in that it is an NPGA-endorsed event, the second-largest golf event in the state, and a rewarding event for the club from a revenue and public relations standpoint.

