



October 2016

**RE: A Special Invitation**

All Members:

The Board would like to take the opportunity to address speculation and rumors that have been surfacing recently. The best means to do that is through open, two-way communication at a full meeting. As such, the membership is especially invited to attend the next Board Meeting, **Monday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m.**

Expenses for the entire operations of the Club have not been met despite increases in membership dues. Costs for upkeep of the course, the pool, and the Clubhouse all have increased over the past ten years. Four years ago, we were faced with large expenses when both the kitchen range and pieces of course equipment failed at the same time. Income didn't allow for replacement/updating. Our operating wages were lower as many non-manager positions were paid lower. Like many local Sabetha businesses, the Club was paying hourly employees below Federal minimum wage, something that legally had to change. Over the past several years, the board has seen the needs of our patrons and their interests change. Membership is not regularly using the dining facilities as much as they were prior to 2000, and special private events are usually being held in a larger venue. On a different note, adding some social events to the calendar for our membership, and the new pool terrace have been met somewhat favorably.

The Board of Directors partnered with financial services to form a plan that would work for the future livelihood of the Club. However, expenses continue to exceed income. We are one of the last rural, private membership golf clubs in existence that offers amenities. As a board, we need assistance prioritizing which services to retain, and which to consider eliminating or restructuring. We would like to obtain feedback from our membership as to what services should be retained, and which ones should be restructured or reduced, if any. At present, for the fiscal year, we have a much greater loss than anticipated.

Our pro-shop sees few purchases, our dining volume has decreased, and our pool will be greatly different with both a splash park and a new City pool. As the Board is working to develop a structured plan to improving finances and cash flow, we solicit member input. The next meeting of the board will be an opportunity to hear the voices of our membership, so a direction can be made going forward. It is important that if you cannot be present, but have an opinion, to express it in writing to any board member for sharing with the entire board. Information (e-mail) for board members is on the following page.

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