

# PORTAGE COUNTRY CLUB



## AKRON, OHIO

Portage Country Club is one of the top ten oldest clubs in America.

The growth of the Club paralleled the rise of the rubber industry in Akron, and it became the place for the athletic and social activities of the city's most prominent families. Today, Portage Country Club is recognized as one of the country's elite private clubs, a tribute to the success and prosperity of the City of Akron and a memorial to those who contributed to its evolution.



There were few golf courses in the world when golf was introduced to Akron in 1894 at the original site of the Portage Golf Club, a rural area then known as the "West Hill Residential District." Charles C. Goodrich, son of company founder Dr. Benjamin F. Goodrich, and Charles G. Raymond, a young executive at BF Goodrich, persuaded Raymond's father-in-law, Colonel George T. Perkins, to allow them to lay out the golf course on their farm. C.C. Goodrich, C.G. Raymond and Bertram G. Work, friend and co-worker at Goodrich, were the founding members. They rented a structure known as the "Old John Brown House," once the home of the Harper's Ferry Abolitionist, and constructed a crude nine-hole golf course around it. The balls were handmade and the clubs, if not exactly primitive, were little more than tree limbs by today's standards.

Equally primitive were the locker room facilities, located on the second story of a nearby stable. (Despite such handicaps, interest and membership in the Club grew until, on January 5, 1905, it incorporated under the name, "The Portage Country Club Company.") According to The Official Golf Guide For 1900 by Joseph Newman the nine-hole course was "fairly good though somewhat short." The Club became affiliated with the United States Golf Association in 1904.

In 1905, with membership growing, the Club moved to its present location at the corner of Twin Oaks and Portage Path. Chicago architect Howard Shaw designed the clubhouse, and the formal opening was May 19, 1906. By 1917 sufficient acreage had been acquired to expand the course to 18 holes. William B. Langford, noted golf course architect was hired in 1918 and designed a new 18-hole golf course which made Portage Country Club one of the best and most complete clubs in the United States.

The original clubhouse was destroyed by fire on February 19, 1921. The main section of the building was gutted and all the furnishings ruined. The Akron architectural firm of Good and Wagner designed an enlarged clubhouse that was formally opened in May 1923. Since this time, major improvements and additions have occurred at the clubhouse and to the grounds, but the original appearance and atmosphere of the club have been painstakingly maintained. Property was acquired to further enhance the Club's family recreational activities of golf, racquet sports and swimming. By the

Centennial Celebration in 1994, we had a renovated clubhouse with updated athletic amenities.

However, on January 30, 1999 another fire engulfed the clubhouse at Portage Country Club. It was a tragic scene: it seemed the entire roof was ablaze, much like the fire of 1921. Fortunately, none of the members or employees were seriously hurt. The fire devastated the top floor, and water damage from the valiant efforts of the Fire Department wreaked havoc throughout the first two floors. Fortunately, the golf Pro Shop and related areas were untouched by the fire, permitting a full, unfettered golf season. The staff of the Club re-christened the Recreation Complex as "Portage North" to serve as the temporary center of the Club's social activities. After renovation the club officially reopened on July 1, 2000.

Portage has had the unusual distinction of having world famous golf professionals on its staff. From 1899 to 1931, the professionals were Robert Bonar, George Cunningham, Harry W. Smith, Willie Still, and George Currie, all clubmakers and teaching pros. Colorful Al Espinosa served from 1931 to 1944. He was one of the leading competitive golfers of his day, serving on six Ryder Cup teams and qualifying 16 consecutive years for the National Open. He tied for the U.S. Open title in 1929 at fabled Winged Foot in New York, but lost to Bobby Jones in the playoff. Espinosa's most memorable day at Portage was August 25, 1922, when he fired six birdies, an eagle, and two pars to post a 27 on what is now the front nine. One of Espinosa's teaching assistants at Portage, Herman Keiser, won the famed Masters' title at Augusta, Georgia in 1946.

The most famous Portage golf professional was Denny Shute, who served from 1945 until his retirement in 1972. Shute's brilliant career began when he won the 1927 Ohio Amateur title. He won the British Open in 1933; scored back-to-back match play PGA Championship titles in 1936 and 1937; was a member of four Ryder Cup teams; and finished in the top ten in the U.S. Open six times, losing the title to Byron Nelson in a 1939 playoff. In 1957, the PGA enshrined Denny Shute in its Hall of Fame and in 2008 he was enshrined in the World Golf Hall of Fame, a lasting tribute to his great career.

Cliff Cook served the Club as Head Professional from 1972 through 1983. Rod Johnston, a certified Master Professional, came to Portage in 1984 and retired in 2012. Steve Parker is currently our Director of Golf Operations.

Although Portage has a proud history, an outstanding facility, and a superb staff, its greatness stems from its long-term success as a family club. Many present members are second, third and fourth generation members, who have literally enjoyed the Club from the cradle. They see Portage not only in the context of recreation and leisure, but also as a place where manners and character are molded.

Insistence on high standards for more than a century is the reason Portage has developed and maintained a membership of exceptional people. Perhaps more important than anything else is the Club's belief that each member's individual character ultimately determines the quality and character of the Club.





# *Discover Portage Country Club*



## *Golf*

Portage Country Club offers a recently renovated “William Langford” design 18-hole golf course, par 70 for men and par 71 for the ladies. The magnificent renovations include all new tees, reshaping of all bunkers, including drainage, sloping green surrounds and challenging chipping swells. The caddie program is second to none and offers members and their guests an increasingly rare and special golf experience. Our practice facilities include an 11, 000sqft short range and a 30 station long range that is open seven days a week during the summer season.

## *Swim and Tennis*

In the summer, our six newly renovated lighted Har-Tru tennis courts are meticulously groomed for our busy clinics, competition and social calendar, including men, women and senior USTA teams. Racquet sports don’t stop when the snow flies. Paddle anyone? We have two modern championship platform tennis courts and plenty of avid players. Families spend lazy days at the pool, their kids spinning down our circular slide, while the swim team readies to race, and young ladies flock to rehearsals for the August synchronized swimming extravaganza. “Dive-in” movies under the stars, ping-pong tournaments and scuba certification are part of the non-stop summer fun at Portage North.

## *Dining and Private Events*

Our classic atmosphere coupled with dynamic selections of fine cuisine offers a dining experience with the high standards of Portage excellence. From the elegant Shute’s formal dining room, summertime patio dining to Portage North poolside, exquisite cuisine is available at every turn, compliments of the Chef and his culinary team. Relish marvelous wines from our ever changing wine list, updated frequently and offering everything from boutique wines to popular varietals. Entertain clients or host a special family event in one of Portage Country Clubs beautiful dining rooms. The privacy of our Directors Room and the majestic views from the Ballroom will create the perfect setting for any occasion.

## *And More.....*

We are constantly in tune with our members interests. Resident, Junior, Associate and Sports Memberships include a gym membership at Personalized Wellness Center located 1.8 miles from the Club.

So come tee it up, take a dip, swing a racquet and dine under our terrace tree to see what Portage membership can mean for you and your family.



# Membership Offerings

## Resident Membership

Provides full access to all of the Club's facilities and amenities to include the 18-hole championship golf course, tennis, swimming, dining, clubhouse and all social related events and activities. Privileges will be extended to the Member, Member's spouse and dependent children as prescribed by the club. Includes Personalized Wellness Center Gym Membership.

Initiation Fee: \$5000  
Monthly Dues: \$510  
Semi-Annual Food & Beverage Minimum: \$600  
Monthly Service Staff Fee: \$50  
Monthly Capital Reserve Fund: \$100

## Junior Membership

Available to applicants under the age of forty (40). Membership provides full access to all of the Club's facilities and amenities to include the 18-hole championship golf course, tennis, swimming, dining, clubhouse and all social related events and activities. Privileges will be extended to the Member, Member's spouse and dependent children as prescribed by the Club. Includes Personalized Wellness Center Gym Membership.

Initiation Fee: \$3000  
Semi-Annual Food & Beverage Minimum: \$300  
Monthly Service Staff Fee: \$50

Monthly Dues:  
Ages 35-39: \$375/Monthly Capital Reserve Fund: \$100  
Ages 31-34: \$275/Monthly Capital Reserve Fund: \$100  
Ages 21-30: \$225/Monthly Capital Reserve Fund: \$100

### Legacy Membership

A lineal descendant or ascendant, or a spouse of a lineal descendant or ascendant, of a current member or a former member in good standing when they resigned or became deceased shall qualify under the Legacy Policy for all privileges extended thereto. They shall be entitled to a 50%

Monthly Service Staff Fee in lieu of 20% Service Charge on  
Ala Carte Food & Beverage  
(Non-Resident Members will still be charged a 20% service charge on Ala Carte Food & Beverage)

### Locker Fee & Club Storage

**Locker Fee** – billed annually on February statement, depending on size the cost is between \$160 and \$240 per year.

**Golf Service Fee** - This includes club storage, club cleaning, access to Foretees, driving range and GHIN handicap. This service will be charged to all golfing members and shall not be more than two adult fees, regardless of the number of family members having golf services. *(This is a mandatory fee for anyone who plays golf)*  
Member: \$375.00 per season, Spouse: \$375.00 per season, Children under 18 years of age: \$50.00 per season

## Associate Membership

Provides access to all of the Club's facilities and amenities. This includes the 18-hole championship golf course, limited to six rounds per year with payment of 50% green fees (excludes all golf tournaments and club championships), tennis, swimming, dining, clubhouse and all social related events and activities. Privileges will be extended to the Member, Member's spouse and dependent children as prescribed by the Club. Includes Personalized Wellness Center Gym Membership.

Initiation Fee: \$3000  
Monthly Dues: \$410  
Semi-Annual Food & Beverage Minimum: \$600  
Monthly Service Staff Fee: \$50  
Monthly Capital Reserve Fund: \$100

## Sports Membership

Provides access to all of the Club's facilities and amenities. This includes tennis, swimming, dining, clubhouse and all social related events and activities except golf. Privileges will be extended to the Member, Member's spouse and dependent children as prescribed by the Club. Includes Personalized Wellness Center Gym Membership.

Initiation Fee: \$3000  
Monthly Dues: \$310  
Semi-Annual Food & Beverage Minimum: \$600  
Monthly Service Staff Fee: \$50  
Monthly Capital Reserve Fund: \$100

## Social Membership

Provides access to the Club's dining and social events.

Initiation Fee: \$1000  
Monthly Dues: \$205  
Semi-Annual Food & Beverage Minimum: \$600  
Monthly Service Staff Fee: \$50  
Monthly Capital Reserve Fund: \$100

## Non-Resident Membership

An applicant for Non-Resident Membership must be an adult person who does not maintain the availability of a residence located within a radius of 50 miles of the Clubhouse and who is not physically within that radius on more than 30 days during any calendar year. Non-Resident Members have dining, swimming and tennis privileges, as well as limited golfing privileges (ten rounds of golf per year).

Initiation Fee: \$3000  
Monthly Dues: \$185  
Semi-Annual Food & Beverage Minimum: \$0  
Monthly Service Staff Fee: \$0  
Monthly Capital Reserve Fund: \$100

## Corporate Membership

Initiation Fee: \$1,000

## Contracts

### Resident

3-Year Contract: \$0 initiation  
2-Year Contract: \$1,000 initiation  
1-Year Contract: \$3,000 initiation

### Social

No commitment needed.

### Junior, Associate, Sports, Non-Resident

3-Year Contract: \$0 initiation  
2-Year Contract: \$1,000 initiation  
1-Year Contract: \$2,000 initiation

MEMBER	CATEGORY	MONTHLY DUES	SERVICE FEE	SEMI-ANNUAL F&B MIN	CAPITAL
1st	Resident	\$510	\$50	\$600	\$175
2nd	Resident	\$310	\$50	\$600	\$150
3rd	Resident	\$310	\$50	\$600	\$125
4th	Resident	\$275	\$50	\$300	\$100
5th	Resident	\$275	\$50	\$300	\$75
6th (or more)	Terms to be set by the Club at its discretion.				

# *Portage Country Club Mission Statement*

To preserve the history and traditions of Portage Country Club as the premier country club in the Akron area.

The Club will welcome and embrace change to ensure its future prosperity. The Club recognizes the paramount importance of providing “excellence” in all activities and amenities for its members, families and guests.

To achieve this goal of “excellence”, the Club is committed to hiring the finest talent and is dedicated to team “motivation, education and elevation”.

## **PORTAGE COUNTRY CLUB**

240 North Portage Path  
Akron, Ohio 44303  
[www.portagecc.org](http://www.portagecc.org)



Phone: 330-836-4994  
Fax: 330-836-3115  
E-mail: [ckuznik@portagecc.org](mailto:ckuznik@portagecc.org)

# *Family Traditions Begin Here....*





# PORTAGE MEANS BUSINESS

**Our new Business Member classification initiative begins with YOU!**

With this program, members will have an opportunity to invite new businesses into the Portage community. Prospects who commit 3 years to Portage will not have any initiation.

3 year commitment = \$0 initiation

2 year commitment = \$2,000 initiation

1 year commitment = \$3,000

0 years = \$5,000

*\*The below dues/fees structure is for the 3 year commitment period, and thereafter the dues/fees are subject to change in accordance with Club policy.*

MEMBER	CATEGORY	MONTHLY DUES	SERVICE FEE	SEMI-ANNUAL F&B MIN	CAPITAL	ASSESSMENT ELIGIBLE	VOTING
1st Member	Resident	\$510	\$50	\$600	\$175	Yes	Yes
2nd Member	Resident	\$310	\$50	\$600	\$150	No	No
3rd Member	Resident	\$310	\$50	\$600	\$125	No	No
4th Member	Resident	\$275	\$50	\$300	\$100	No	No
5th Member	Resident	\$275	\$50	\$300	\$75	No	No
6th Member (or more)	Terms to be set by the Club at its discretion.						

## 3 YEAR COMMITMENT ► FULLY VETTED CANDIDATES

**Eligibility Requirements—** All candidates must present a paystub from a common employer or control group, or other additional proof as requested by the Club in its discretion.

Locker and Bag Room fees are subject to the member's desire to utilize the golf course or sports facilities.

Current members may immediately make their membership a Business classification, but there will be a \$25,000 fee to add each individual thereafter.

A \$1,000 transfer fee will apply to replace a standing Business member.

## FOR YOUR BUSINESS AND PLEASURE...

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DISCUSS DETAILS, CONTACT CHRISSY KUZNIK  
AT 330-836-4994 EXT 2272 OR CKUZNIK@PORTAGECC.ORG