

2025/04/13

Fellow Portage Lake Club Member,

A new Club membership year begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. We are accepting Club applications for this new year but please take a minute to read the below information regarding several changes being implemented.

As we move forward this spring you will see several changes that have been implemented or are soon to be implemented at the Club. The purpose of these changes are Club Security, Shooter Safety and Neighbor Safety.

1<sup>st</sup> Cameras. We have several cameras and a recorder that were installed this past Fall and there will be more installed this year. The ultimate goal of the cameras is to be able to identify individuals and vehicle license plates at the Club if this need arises.

2<sup>nd</sup> Member Login. Every member upon entering the Club will "card in". This will allow the Club to understand Club usage and if necessary be able to identify Club users. This system is still being explored with a goal of a 2025 implementation. In the interim, all Members will be required to sign a log book before using Club facilities.

3<sup>rd</sup> Member Safety Brief. All members are required to attend a hands-on Safety Briefing. The format of this briefing will include a verbal portion and a hands-on portion. Topics will include gun safety, gun handling, range commands and other topics. The goal is each member will have the knowledge, skill and attitude to self-RO or RO with multiple Club members present. All Club members need to be on the "same page" when using the Club Ranges, this includes Rifle, Pistol Pit and Shotgun. Our goal is to move back to open access for Club members without the need to have a designated RO present. Every Club member will be required to attend a Safety Briefing before they are given access to the Club. This is required for new, returning and life members. The Club will have multiple Safety Briefings starting once the snow leaves the Club. Previous Club members and those inquiring about joining will be notified via email as well as posting on the Club website portagelakeclub.org when these Safety Briefings will take place. The Club membership year begins May 1<sup>st</sup> and as soon as the Club is accessible Safety Briefings will be available.

Why these changes now?

Some members may believe that these changes are a result of a single incident that occurred last fall, this is not the case. There have been several incidents over the last few years, some may be considered minor and some not so much. The last incident was the straw that broke the camel's back. Some members of the club have become complacent in regards to firearms safety. Some of incidents that have been witnessed at the range include:

- Handling firearms when people are downrange.

- Actions closed when not actually shooting.
- Bullet holes in the rifle range roof.
- Bullet holes in the rifle range benches.
- Pointing firearms in a direction other than downrange, this includes at shooters along the firing line as well as toward the parking lot and club house.
- Uncontrolled rapid fire.
- Bullets not impacting the berms, this includes bullets hitting the range floor as well as bullets shot over the berms.
- Members got stuck in the driveway and then set up targets off the driveway while they waited for the tow truck.
- Bullets leaving the Club property.

The escalation of these incidents compels the board to take action.

The Portage Lake Sportsmen's Club was started in 1953 as the Chassell Sportsmen's Club. This is a 72 years existence that every past, present and future Club member can be proud of. To insure another 72 years, we must continue to operate with safety as our number one priority!

Thank You,  
Ed Glowacki  
PLSC President