



Portland Elks The 188 News

April 2026

Dear Members and Officers,

Spring has finally arrived!! This is the time of the year when many households clean and get ready for the upcoming year. We can also say the same for us at the Portland Elks lodge. Spring means approving a new year budget and lining up our officers, trustees and activities for the next Elk year.

The trustees of our Portland Elks lodge met on March 30 to review and finalize our budget for the upcoming year. This budget is inclusive of our projected operating costs to run our lodge in addition to funds needed to support our community outreach activities. Once this budget is approved, we will begin to organize and plan for these events and activities. The officers and trustees will welcome any ideas you may have to support our community through charitable outreach. Please attend one of our general meetings and present your ideas.



I want to give a huge thank you to all who volunteered to assist with the Hoop Shoot breakfast at our lodge on March 7. We were able to prepare and serve breakfast to over 200 children, parents and individual Hoop Shoot volunteers. After the breakfast, they were bused directly to the Deering High School gymnasium where the regional hoop shoot event took place. We have Harper Small in the 10-11 age group from Augusta Lodge 964 advancing to the Nationals with a score of 20/25. Best wishes to Harper as her journey to the Nationals begins.

Finally, I have chosen Gary Littlefield for Elk of the Month. You may know Gary as the one who is always on the floor looking for 50/50 ticket sales on Wednesday nights. In addition, Gary has volunteered to assume the position of Inner Guard for the upcoming Elk year and is always willing to assist in cleaning up after the three card challenge. For the past several years, Gary has also volunteered at our Harvest Craft Fair selling raffle tickets and helping out in the kitchen. Thank you Gary for your commitment to the Elks and your willingness to volunteer.

Fraternally yours,

Joseph Winschel
Exalted Ruler



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EXALTED RULER PRESENTS AWARDS



Congratulations



Top Left: **Charleen Durgin, *Officer of the Year***

Top Right: **Kim McDonough, *Elk of the Year***

Bottom Left: **Steve Haines, *Citizen of the Year*** (Stevens Square Community Center/Blue Wave Basketball)



2025—2026 LODGE OFFICERS

Joseph Winschel
Exalted Ruler

Martha Binette
Esteemed Leading Knight

Paul Poore
Esteemed Loyal Knight

Brenda Farris
Esteemed Lecturing Knight

Victoria Doughty
Secretary

Charleen Durgin
Treasurer

Lorraine Taylor
Chaplain

Stephanie Ingraham
Esquire

Sandra Smith
Tiler

Robert Pomerleau
Soloist

Tim Smith
Trustee (1 year)

Kimberly Toppi
Trustee (2 years)

Gary Rairdon
Trustee (3 years)

Joan Harmon
Trustee (4 years)

Barbara Hebert
Trustee (5 years)

TIME TO ORDER A BRICK!

If you want to remember a loved one or honor a family member, or a friend who has done a good deed, an engraved brick at Lodge 188 leaves a lasting legacy.

Bricks are \$50 each and are placed around the Elk at the main entrance to the Lodge.

Applications are on a table in the hallway leading to the Lounge. Completed forms and a check may be turned in to Joe Winschel. Bricks will only be ordered when there are at least 5 new bricks to be engraved.

Our sincere thanks to all those who have placed an order.

LODGE 188 MONTHLY MEETINGS

House Committee: April 6, 5:30 pm

Trustee Committee: March 30, 4:30 pm
April 13, 4:30 pm
April 27, 4:30 pm

General Meeting: April 13, 6 pm
April 27, 6 pm

Veteran Committee: April 27, 5 pm

Any member, in good standing, is welcome to attend any meeting held at Lodge 188. To attend the General Meeting, please bring your member ID card.

NEWS FROM LODGE SECRETARY, Victoria Doughty



I want to thank all of the members who have already sent in their dues for the 2026 – 2027 Elks year. You have been keeping me very busy processing all of your updated information. The card for 2026-2027 is green, and you can start using it on April 1, 2026.

For those who have not paid their dues yet, remember when you send in your payment, please send in the form you received from the Grand Lodge with your payment. Please do not tear off the bottom of the form, it has information on it that I use to update your files. Thank you!

One final reminder, if you have not paid your dues by April 1, 2026, you will not be allowed into Portland Elks Lodge 188 or any other Elks lodge.

Here's sending you happy wishes and warm spring days!



HOUSE COMMITTEE NEWS Joan Harmon, Chair



Reminder to our Members:

1. All guests must be signed in at the door, by the member bringing the guest. The MEMBER signs the book, not the guest. This also includes SPOUSES of members.
2. The member is responsible for their guest and guests must leave with the member. Guests are not allowed to stay in the lounge once the member who signed them in has left.
3. The door to the Member's Lounge can ONLY BE OPENED BY AN OFFICER or the bartender on duty. Even if you may know the person trying to get in, PLEASE DO NOT OPEN the door. Allow an officer to do so.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:
Donna Cox, Pamela Westcott and Bill Napolitano.



KATHRYN PAQUETTE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW OPEN

The family of Kathryn A. Paquette will be offering two, \$1500 scholarships in her memory to members or close family relation of Elks Lodge #188. In order to be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be full time students at an institution of higher learning the fall semester of 2026 and be a member (or close family relation to a member) in good standing of Elks Lodge # 188.

Applications may only be obtained in Lodge 188 Secretary's Office or by contacting:

Carl R. Paquette, 3012 Inspire Drive, Leland, NC 28451; Tel: 207-956-3588 OR Via email: carlrpaquette@gmail.com

Completed applications must be received by May 9, 2026. Applications will be reviewed by the Paquette family. The selected recipients will be notified by May 16, 2026. The scholarships will be presented to the recipients at the June 8, 2026 general meeting of the lodge.



ACTIVITY COMMITTEE NEWS, Kim Toppi, Chair

On Sunday, March 21, at Lodge 188, students from around the country who are recipients of an Elks National Scholarship, were on hand to help our lodges' Activity and Veterans Committees fill 200 bags with non-perishable food items as part of the ENF Gratitude Grant our lodge received. Lodge members donated food items, as well as cash donations, and grant money was used to purchase food and recyclable grocery bags, totaling close to \$4,000.



Maine has the highest food insecurity in New England, and this effort was just one small way our Lodge was able to help 200 members of our community.

Once again our Lodge 188 members came through, and this was a most successful community project.

The students were treated to a buffet breakfast prepared by our lodge volunteers and then they were put to work stuffing bags, and transporting them into members cars.

100 bags were delivered to Northern Light Mercy Hospital, 75 bags to the Portland Veteran Center, and 25 bags to Apple Tree Senior Living facility With the purpose of helping members in our community facing food insecurity.

Thank you to a great team of volunteers who made this all happen: Margaret Poulin, Kim Toppi, Julie Morin, Mary Toppi, Roger Jones, Dennis Maxfield, Gary Littlefield, Sue Briggs, Pam Charles, Denise Davis, Helen LaCount, Willie Goodman, Dennis Rickett, Woody Woodbury, Stephanie Ingraham, and Joe Winschel. We rocked it!



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  3 Card Games 5:30 pm	2	3  3 Card Games 6 pm DJ Queen Karaoke	4
5 	6 House Comm 5:30 pm	7  Bingo Open 9 am Games 12 noon	8  3 Card Games 5:30 pm	9	10  3 Card Games 6 pm DJ Queen Karaoke	11
12 Officer Installation 1 pm	13 Trustees 4:30 pm Gen Mtg 6 pm	14  Bingo Open 9 am Games 12 noon	15  3 Card Games 5:30 pm	16	17  3 Card Games 6 pm DJ Queen Karaoke	18
19	20	21  Bingo Open 9 am Games 12 noon	22  3 Card Games 5:30 pm	23	24  3 Card Games 6 pm DJ Queen Karaoke	25
26	27 Trustees 4:30 pm Gen Mtg 6 pm Vet Com 5 pm	28  Bingo Open 9 am Games 12 noon	29  3 Card Games 5:30 pm	30		

PORTLAND ELKS LODGE 188

BASKET RAFFLE



THE ACTIVITY COMMITTEE IS HOLDING ITS ANNUAL BASKET RAFFLE EXTRAVAGANZA MAY 8TH AND 9TH, JUST IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY SHOPPING.

WHAT YOU CAN DONATE

- GIFT BASKET VALUED AT \$75+; WORK TOGETHER AS A GROUP
- CASH DONATIONS ACCEPTED

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT

- INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY CTR
- ST VINCENT COFFEE CLOSET
- MILESTONE RECOVERY

DROP OFF
INFORMATION

BASKETS DUE MAY 1

SEE MARGARET POULIN, PATTY AMICO OR KIM TOPPI FOR MORE INFO AND HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR'S FUNDRAISER FOR THE LODGE.



YETI COOLER filled with SPIRITS RAFFLE

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20

See any member of the Veteran's Committee for tickets.

Winning ticket will be drawn on April 3.

All proceeds will benefit the Veterans Committee and support events in 2026. Thank you for your continued support!!



I want to thank everyone who bought the Valentine hearts for the Maine Children's Cancer Program. We raised \$305 !!! I so appreciate all the help, I want to thank Charlene Durgin and Leanne Ladd for making them hearts for our MCCP Committee.

Martha Binette, Chair
MCCP Committee

SAVE THE DATE: BASKET RAFFLE EXTRAVAGANZA

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 3PM—8 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 9 AM -2 PM



75+ baskets to take chances on, special YETI cooler raffle, Candy/Bake Sale; Vendors: Tupperware, Colleen Yee Jewelry, Simply Tasteful, and Pampered Chef; Kitchen open for Lunch; Ukelele Band, Saturday 11-1:30 pm

MAINE ELKS ASSOCIATION RAFFLE WINNERS.....

Each year, every Lodge in the State, sells Maine Elks Association calendars as a fundraiser. Participants are eligible to win a monetary prize for 365 days—and may win multiple times throughout the year. Cost is \$20. If interested, see any Lodge officer before they are sold out.

Our Lodge's winners in February

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Anne Boussgan—\$25 | Sheila Graffam—\$25 | Janet Palmer—\$25 |
| Donald Malanson—\$25 | Don Patchell—\$25 | |



ELK OF THE MONTH...APRIL



Congratulations, Gary Littlefield, for being selected as Elk of the Month for March. The award, selected by the Exalted Ruler, is given to a member of our lodge who either goes above and beyond in their duty to our lodge or exemplifies Elkdom in their actions.

Charity Friendship Community

Newsletter submission: if you have info to share or if you attend a Member Event and take photos that could be included in an upcoming newsletter, please email to Kim Toppi, Newsletter Editor, ktoppi@maine.rr.com for consideration. Thank you!

Lodge/Lounge Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Bingo ONLY
Wednesday	3pm—9 pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	3pm—11pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

Lodge Phone

207.773.7396

Lodge Fax

207.773.3582

Secretary

Vickey Doughty, 207.773.6939

General Manager

Kim McDonough, 207.838.4386



Lifetime Boosters

In Honor/Memory Of

Ronald W. Allen
Lester Armstrong
Jim Augur
Don Bodin, Jr.
Ken Carle
Dominic Distasio
Henry "Skip" Doughty
John Paul Dumas
Percy Farr
Arlene Fenderson
Archie L'Heureux
Catherine McDonough
John Milton
Will Mulkern
Don
Seymour Nathanson
Sterling Parker
Kathryn Paquette
Elizabeth Smith
William Smith
Allen "Bud" St. Pierre
Bob Stokinger
Harold Tucker
Harry Winger

Elk "Booster"

Natalie Armstrong
Mary Augur
George Anderson
Pauline Murphy
Mary Distasio
Doughty Family
Victoria and Skip Doughty
Carlene Farr
Linda Lincoln
L'Heureux Family
Millie McDonough
Beth Milton
Irene Mulkern
Pauline Murphy
Elliott Nathanson
Janice Parker
Carl Paquette
The Smith Family
Timothy Smith
Tim & Liz Smith
Gladys Stokinger
Carole Gillespie

Becoming a Booster is a way to recognize family members and friends that are important to you. The cost is \$10 for one year, or become a Lifetime Booster for \$100. If you would like to become a Booster, fill out form below and return with check to: Portland Elks Lodge, 1945B Congress Street, Portland, ME 04102, attn: Lodge Secretary.

NAME _____ In Honor/Memory of: _____

Booster type: Yearly (\$10) _____ Lifetime (\$100) _____