

August 2026



Message from ER

Dear Members and Officers,

Summer is now in full swing as well as summer outings with friends and family. Hope that you have all had a chance to enjoy the summer before it is gone. And by the way, Go Red Sox!

As many of you may know, we closed the lodge the first week of July. During this period of time, we had a collapsed pipe repaired in the kitchen. A huge thank you goes to Steve Corey for his time and leadership needed to get this project done on time.

We will be having our State President in Portland for a visit on September 18-19. Kimberly McDonough will be announcing the agenda for the weekend. It would be great to see as many Elk members as possible attend the events that weekend. And our president would certainly take the time to meet each and every one of you.

Also, you may notice that we have replaced the chairs in the bingo hall. This is a huge improvement for the bingo hall and the Elks. We were able to donate the old chairs to Paul Poore's parish where they have found a wonderful new home.

Volunteers Honored

On July 19, the Lodge honored the many volunteers who dedicate their time and their talent to helping make Lodge 188 a success.

See photos on page 10-11.

State President Visit

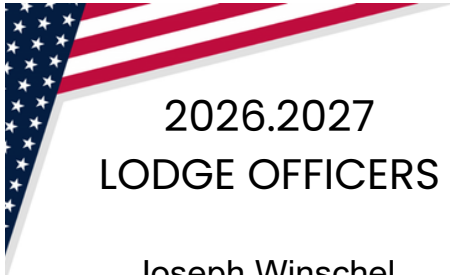
On September 18 and 19, our new State President and First Lady will visit Portland Lodge 188.

Full details on page 5.

250th USA Quilts Donated

The Maine Elks Association Veterans Committee donated 250th USA quilts, along with a \$1,000 donation to veterans homes across the state.

Full details on page 3.



2026.2027
LODGE OFFICERS

Joseph Winschel
Exalted Ruler

Joan Howard
Esteemed Leading Knight
Paul Poore

Esteemed Loyal Knight
Martha Binette
Esteemed Lecturing Knight

Victoria Doughty
Secretary

Charleen Durgin
Treasurer

Lorraine Taylor
Chaplain

Stephanie Ingraham
Esquire

Gary Littlefield
Tiler

Robert Pomerleau
Soloist

Kimberly Toppi
Trustee (1 year)

Gary Rairdon
Trustee (2 years)

Joan Harmon
Trustee (3 years)

Barbara Hebert
Trustee (4 years)

Timothy Smith
Trustee (5 years)



Lodge 188 Monthly Meetings

House Committee	August 3	5:30pm
Trustee Committee	August 10	4:30 pm
General Meeting	August 10	6:00 pm
Activity Committee	August 19	2:00 pm
Veteran Committee	August 24	5:00 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.



Lodge of Sorrow

KRISTY DURGIN

Lodge 188 Hours
Monday Closed
Tuesday Bingo ONLY
Wednesday 3pm—9 pm
Thursday Closed
Friday 3pm—11pm
Saturday Closed
Sunday Closed
Lodge open for private events, when scheduled.

Lodge Main Number
207.773.7396

Lodge Fax
207.773.3582

Secretary
Vickey Doughty, 207.773.6939

General Manager
Kim McDonough, 207.838.4386

Meet Our Volunteers...Margaret Gronland



When I asked Margaret when she joined the Elks, her response was, "I came with the building." And she's been volunteering every Tuesday at Bingo for the past 15-20 years. She acknowledges that the Elks has changed a lot over her many years. She has fond memories of Leeanne Ladd's mom teaching her how to knit when she was a Bingo player back in the day, and of Nancy Berry who talked her into joining. She hasn't served on any committees as she doesn't have time. With babysitting her great grandchildren, working at Costco on the weekends, and playing Bingo at the American Legion in Old Orchard Beach and also in Biddeford, she keeps quite busy.

Margaret grew up on Oxford Street in Portland the oldest girl of her five siblings. As a young child with rheumatoid arthritis, she was homeschooled for several years.

Margaret was a CNA/NUA/PCT Secretary, working in Maine Medical Center's Special Care units from 1962 – 2023. Her years there were primarily in the SCU heart unit and SCU burn unit.

Margaret's husband passed away at the young age of 56, leaving her with three young children. Those children are now 58, 57 and 53, and she has two grandsons and one granddaughter who shares Margaret's middle name.

As Margaret said, "my life has always been in turmoil, but I just keep going."

QUILTS PRESENTED TO VETERANS HOMES

To commemorate the nation's 250th birthday, the Maine Elks Association has awarded veterans homes around the state with a beautiful, specially crafted 250th Patriotic Quilt and a \$1,000 donation.

Last month, Portland Lodge members presented a quilt along with a \$1,000 check designated to the homes Activity Department to help create memorable events for the residents.

Willie Goodman, ER Joe Winschel and April Libby visited the Scarborough Veterans' Home and made the presentation to Patricia Nutting, Veterans' Home Administrator, and Katie Berthiaume, Activity Coordinator.

ER Joe Winschel, Martha Binette, and Dennis Rickett visited the South Paris Veterans' Home and presented the quilt and \$1,000 check to Jade Daryl, Activity Coordinator.

Just another example of our Elk lodges around the state celebrating our veterans.



Message from ER continued.....

In addition, I want to remind everyone that the Elk furniture in the front lobby is for display only. There will not be any additional uses for this antique furniture. We have had some issues with individuals not respecting this furniture and we are trying to maintain it for years to come.

Finally, I have chosen Steve Corey for Elk of the Month. Steve has always been there when we need him. Thank you for your guidance and work this month assisting with the indoor plumbing project. We were able to get this done and have it ready for the opening of our lounge. Congratulations Steve!!

News from Lodge Secretary, Victoria Doughty



To the membership of Portland Elks Lodge #188:

We initiated two new members, Jane Johnson and Teresa Serappa in July. Congratulations and welcome. We welcomed three Elk members who transferred to Portland Lodge #188. Welcome to Cecilia Gentile, Thomas Gentile, and Michael Dery.

We have 54 members who are delinquent in paying their dues. My office will be sending out notices in the next two weeks. If you have any questions regarding your dues, you can reach me at 207-773-7396 or stop in the office on a Wednesday or Friday night!

Remember, if you as a member, are bringing in a guest, you as the member are responsible for signing your guest in, not your guest. And, your guest must leave for the evening, when you leave.

Thank you!

Have safe and happy August.

HOURS, DOLLARS, TIME ADD UP QUICKLY



The Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee involves more than monitoring and lobbying legislation in our states and districts. Do you know tracking and reporting all of the hours and money donated to our charitable programs has many benefits to our organization and is an integral part of this committee?

Sustaining our vital programs is not optional. By retaining our current tax status we are able to operate at a much better rate. A much higher percentage of every dollar ends up going to our charity programs rather than taxes. Yes, it does take some time to fill out the Charity Reporting form, but not submitting these reports can result in service and funding cuts, and make our programs more difficult to sustain.

Sadly, estimates indicate only about half of the work being performed by our Members actually get reported. Charitable reporting includes volunteer hours and travel as well as monetary donations. Hours add up quickly no matter how many Members and Guests help at an event.

At our Portland Lodge, there is a VOLUNTEER HOURS book located on the counter right as you enter the kitchen. What, who, when should hours be recorded?

Every time a member or a non-Elk member volunteers at the Lodge, for an event, attends a meeting, helps out with a charity project, the hours volunteering, the mileage to and from, and any monetary donation should be recorded in this book.

If any questions, please speak with Vickey Doughty or Norma Meehan and they will happily show you where the book is and how to log hours. This information is vital to our Lodge's charity status. We appreciate all that our volunteers do at our Lodge. So, let's record those hours!!!



Message from General Manager, Kim McDonough

During the July summer break, the kitchen and lounge were literally torn up! We had to replace the original sewerage waste lines which were installed in 1969, being cast iron they were starting to literally crumble and fail. We replaced these all with PVC. The floor was ripped up and retiled; it was quite the undertaking! There are a few more old cast iron pipes that eventually will need replacing in the future, but this large project is done. Thanks to Steve Corey for overseeing the project. Our next project is the walk-in cooler in the kitchen. We will be replacing all the walls and ceiling with insulation and new walls and epoxying the cooler floor. This will be another much-needed building improvement.



Bingo has all new chairs. About a year ago we purchased 200 new chairs which turned out to be of very low quality. The company issued a full refund, and we then repurchased mity lite brand chairs. This is a huge improvement and much more comfortable for the Bingo players. Thanks for everyone's patience in the Bingo Hall as we resolved the chair fiasco!

We are starting up our busy seasons! Fall and Winter are always jammed with conferences and events. Isabella Smith has agreed to keep our portlandelks188.org website fresh and exciting as webmaster, and to handle the event side of our social media. She does a great job and contributes fresh ideas. We have been updating the site, to give more information and pictures for existing and potential clients and members.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

WELCOME STATE PRESIDENT KIP & FIRST LADY

DONNA CLARK

LOUNGE 188

PLAID DADS BAND, 7:30-10PM



**WEAR YOUR PLAID FOR
SPECIAL PRIZES!**

**ENJOY A FALL
FAVORITES DINNER
MENU.**

Saturday, September 19
Country Maine Cocktail Party
to welcome State President Kip & Donna Clark
Alden Ballroom
5:30 to 7 pm

\$25.00 per person for members and guests
Bountiful Land + Sea Buffet
Charcuterie display, shrimp cocktail shooters, crab
Rangoon dip, assorted sliders, and desserts.
Country Roads Band, 7-10 pm

If you opt out of the cocktail buffet, doors open at 7 pm for members and guests who wish to attend the dance only.....and cash bar. 50/50 and door prizes on both evenings. Please join us for this fun country night!

PORTLAND ELKS LODGE 188
ACTIVITY COMMITTEE

SAVOR OUR SIGNATURE CHICKEN POT PIE!



ORDER DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 11

Chicken Pot Pie Sale

Our signature Chicken Pot Pie is made with a flaky buttery crust, roasted chicken breast meat, potatoes, carrots, peas and a savory chicken gravy. Pies are unbaked and frozen.....instructions included on how to bake right from your freezer.

\$16 7" FROZEN PIE

\$22 9" FROZEN PIE

NAME _____ PHONE _____
CC# _____ EXP DATE _____ CVV _____
ZIP CODE FOR CC _____

_____ 7" PIE @ \$16

_____ 9" PIE @ \$22

TOTAL \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

TOTAL DUE\$ _____

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID TO KIM TOPPI. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PORTLAND ELKS LODGE 188,
OR PAY BY CREDIT CARD, CASH, OR VENMO @KIM-TOPPI. MAIL TO: PORTLAND ELKS 188,
ATTN: K TOPPI, 1945B CONGRESS ST, PORTLAND, ME 04102 OR CALL 207.329.0845.

ACTIVITY NEWS

Kim Toppi, Committee Chair



August is back to school shopping month for families as well as teachers in our community schools.

Each year, teachers across Maine spend their own dollars to stock their classrooms with basic school supplies. Here's how you can help.

From August 12 - September 4, you can drop off school supplies to the Lounge.....pencils, crayons, tape, glue, notebooks, scissors, markers, etc, etc. The Activity Committee will be delivering supplies to three schools the week of September 8.

If you'd rather we shop for you, cash donations may be given to Kim Toppi.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Upcoming Events

August 14

Sports Trivia Night

August 15

Serving meals at Deering Oaks

September 11

Chicken Pot Pies Due

September 19

Country Roads Cocktail Party +
Dance

Contact Info



207.329.0845



ktoppi@maine.rr.com if you have a story for the newsletter or if you are not receiving news from the Lodge.

Our annual Chicken Pot Pie Sale fundraiser is underway. These freshly made pot pies are done by volunteers at the Lodge, and frozen, ready for you to take home and bake. Place your order NO LATER than September 11, and we'll let you know when it's time to pick them up (most likely September 25). Proceeds from the sale support the Lodge. *Thank you for your continued support of the Activity Committee's projects.*



Welcome New Members

Welcome to our newest members initiated on
July 14: Teresa Serappa and Jane Johnson



MAINE ELKS ASSOCIATION CALENDAR WINNERS JUNE 2026

Beverly Edwards \$25

Tressa Brown - \$25



BINGO

Every Tuesday, doors open 8
am, ticket sales 10 am,
games 12 noon.



Dinner

Dinner available every Wednesday
and Friday evenings beginning at
4:30 pm. Watch for the weekly blast.



3 Card Challenge

Every Wednesday games at 5:30 pm
Every Friday games start at 6 pm



Music

DJ Bobby Queen plays music
every Friday immediately
following card games!



Queen of Hearts

Drawing every Friday immediately
following card games, approximately
7:30 pm. Purchase tickets
Wednesday or Friday night.

Weekly Happenings



Elks Activity Committee **School**

Supply Drive



COLLECTION TIME
12 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER

LYSETH SCHOOL, PORTLAND
AMANDA ROWE SCHOOL, PORTAND
JAMES RUSSELL SCHOOL, GRAY

Lets fill the School Bus in the Lodge.....pencils, pens, glue sticks, sticky note pads, crayons, markers, composition books, scissors, construction paper, snacks, etc etc

Don't want to shop? Cash donations may be given to Kim Toppi, or send through Venmo to Kim-Toppi.

Celebrating Our Lodge Volunteers



"There is no greater reward than working from your heart and making a difference in the world."

— Carlos Santana





"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH."

HELEN KELLER





ELK OF THE MONTH STEVE COREY



Congratulations, for being selected as Elk of the Month for August.

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



Lifetime Boosters

In Honor/Memory Of

Ronald W. Allen
Lester Armstrong
Jim Augur
Don Bodin, Jr.
Ken Carle
William Cornish
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
Dana Staples
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) _____