

June 2026



## Message from ER

Dear Members and Officers,

June has finally arrived and with it the promise of a warm summer. I am truly looking forward to days at the beach and time spent with family and friends.

The Maine State Convention convened the weekend of May 1-3 at the Bangor Elks lodge. At this convention they installed the officers of the Maine Elks Association and held an emotional memorial service in memory of those Elks who had passed away in the past year. It is truly a wonderful ceremony to remember our fellow elk members. In addition, the Maine Elks Association presented awards to lodges throughout the state for outstanding service and commitment to the motto of the Elks order. We were presented with several awards which I will display in our lodge for members to see. Willie Goodman was awarded the Veteran Volunteer of the year award for his outstanding service to our veterans. Congratulations Willie!

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## June 6

Northern Groove Summer Dance Party, June 6. See flyer on Page 3 for details.

Let's fill the room! This is the perfect event to bring your friends to and show them all that we have to offer at our Lodge, and possibly sign up new members.

## Spotlight Grant Awarded

The Activity Committee has been awarded the ENF Spotlight Grant and will be working with the Friends of Deering Oaks to provide meals to our unhoused community throughout the summer. See Kim Toppi if interested in helping out.

## Flag Day Ceremony/Breakfast

The Officers of Lodge 188 will perform the annual Flag Day rituals on Sunday, June 14 beginning at 9 am.

Following the ceremony, the Veterans Committee invites all veterans to the Lodge for a complimentary breakfast.



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	June 1	5:30pm
Trustee Committee	June 8	4:30 pm
General Meeting	June 8	6:00 pm
Activity Committee	June 10	2:00 pm
Veteran Committee	June 22	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**

**JOFF KLIMKO**  
 1979 - 2026

**RENATE WILLINGHAM MASSE**  
 1960 - 2026

**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



PORTLAND ELKS LODGE 188  
1945 CONGRESS STREET  
(ACROSS FROM PORTLAND JETPORT)

# LET'S KICK OFF SUMMER PARTY

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

FREE TO ALL ELK MEMBERS  
+ THEIR GUESTS

CALL 207.329.0845 TO RESERVE  
TABLE OF EIGHT

NORTHERN  
GROOVE BAND  
7-10:30 PM  
*PORTLAND'S PREMIERE  
PARTY BAND*

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MEMBERS: PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE LOUNGE. OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE THIS AN ENJOYABLE EVENING FOR OUR MEMBERS AND YOUR GUESTS. TO LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE IF YOU ARE ATTENDING, WILL BE VERY HELPFUL. THIS IS A PERFECT TIME TO BRING FRIENDS AND SHOW THEM ALL THAT WE HAVE TO OFFER!

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DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM | KITCHEN OPEN  
5:30-7:30 PM | FREE PARKING

## Message from ER continued.....

The Portland Elks also holds an annual Memorial Day service to honor our departed veterans at the Evergreen cemetery. The Elk statue located within the cemetery was purchased by the Alden family and they had set aside funds to be used to bury indigent members who cannot afford a burial. This is also a wonderful ceremony to honor our past members of the Elks.

Finally, I have chosen Patty Amico for Elk of the Month. Patty has devoted many hours this past month in setting up, coordinating and assisting with the Basket Extravaganza raffle at the Portland Elks. This was once again a very successful fundraising effort for three local charities. In addition, Patty can be found every Tuesday volunteering in the Bingo office, and she works closely with Kim McDonough scheduling staff for the Lodge's private events. Thank you and congratulations to Patty for all that you do for our lodge!!

Fraternally yours,

Joe Winschel  
Exalter Ruler



### Message from General Manager, Kim McDonough

I am randomly sitting in a restaurant waiting for takeout. Thinking I need to write my column for this month's newsletter. There is a lot I could write about, actually. I love observing people, I read menus, watch what people consume; general observational stuff. Its relaxing and entertaining, sometimes educational. Then, it happens. "Hi" "Hello". The typical stranger conversation. I answer the questions, smile politely, and realize something.

When asked about my job managing the B.P.O.E Elks 188, a lightbulb came on. This random person asked what the letters meant, and I answered benevolent protective order of the Elks. Then, I started to think about benevolence. The oaths, the rituals, all of it.

The member who just fixes stuff. The member who donates anonymously when asked when a person is in need. The weekly raffles which benefit ENF and MCCP. The volunteers who give their time. The bingo regulars, the card shufflers and callers and collectors. The members who are not in a position to give time, instead donate so generously. The member who brings a bucket truck to fix the flagpole. The member who helps us polish our floors. The member who scrambles eggs at 6:00a.m. The members who support our veterans. The member who finds bargains and donates them. The canned goods and school supplies members bring when we have causes for those in need. The space we give to blood drives for Red Cross and quarterly 100 Women Who Care, who donate thousands to the community and local charities. There is no act of compassion that is measurable, it all matters. We are truly the definition of benevolence, and I am proud and grateful to each and every one of you who make this lodge good and kind and great. Thank you for being you.



## To the membership of Portland Elks Lodge #188

The current membership statistics of Lodge 188:

**Our total membership at this time is 486**

**Our average age is 69.47**

**We have a lapsation rate of 15.88%**

**We have 66 life members**

We have four candidates in the hands of the investigating committee and awaiting confirmation. They have been accepted for initiation into Portland Elks Lodge #188.

- ★ Desirae Lyle proposed by Walter Bukoveckas
- ★ Emily Hilton proposed by Colleen Hilton
- ★ Wendal Johnson proposed by Donna Cox
- ★ Debra Beaulieu proposed by Jean Cote

For those of you who have not yet paid your dues, remember when you send in your payment, please attach 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!

Enjoy your summer!

**Welcome  
TO**

## Julie Morin



You may have seen Julie helping out at the Lodge during the Craft Fair, making chicken pot pies, or working in the Bingo Kitchen on Tuesdays. And now that she's officially retired from her job of 42 years at Mercy Hospital, she has agreed to take on the responsibility of grant coordinator for our Lodge.

Julie will be responsible for helping the various committees who have been approved by the House Committee to apply for one of the four Elks National Foundation grants that our Lodge is eligible for, submit an application. Thank you Julie for serving in this capacity!



**PORTLAND ELKS LODGE #188**

**INVITES**

*All Veterans*

**TO THE ANNUAL FLAG CEREMO**

**NY & BREAKFAST**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026**

**9:00 AM FLAG DAY CEREMONY**

**9:30-11 AM COMPLIMENTARY BUFFET BREAKFAST**

**1945 CONGRESS STREET, PORTLAND**

**RSVP: 207.245.8661, OR SIGN UP IN  
THE LOUNGE NO LATER THAN JUNE 6.**



# ACTIVITY NEWS

Kim Toppi, Committee Chair



## Basket Raffle Extravaganza...Another Success Story

Our heartfelt thanks to all of our Lodge 188 members who donated a gift basket, purchased raffle tickets, volunteered in the kitchen, sold tickets day of the event, and helped announce the winners. Without all of you, this event would not be possible. At the end of the day, we raised a significant amount of money that was donated to our three charities: Milestone Recovery, St Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen and the Intercultural Community Center.

A shout out and thank you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance UKE Band who, year after year, volunteers to entertain the crowd.

## Upcoming Events

**June 6**

Northern Groove Band

**June 14**

Elk Flag Day Ceremony

**June 14**

Veteran's Breakfast

**June 19**

Father's Day Celebration;

Country Roads Band

## 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.

## Volunteers Needed

The Activity Committee will be setting up in Deering Oaks ONE Saturday a month, 11 am - 1 pm. We will be providing meals to unhoused members of our community. If you would like to be part of this team, contact Kim Toppi (207.329.0845). This is one example of what the Elks does for those less fortunate in our community, and you can be a part of this wonderful project, representing Lodge 188.

YOU ARE THE  
**best**



At the Maine State Elks Association convention, held in Bangor, our own Willie Goodman was presented with the 2025-2026 Veteran Volunteer Award. The award was presented to Willie by State President Corey DeWitt and State Elk Veteran Committee Chair Michael Michaud. Only two of these awards were presented to Elk members throughout the state. Congratulations Willie, we are proud of you, and all that you do for veterans in our community!



**MAINE ELKS ASSOCIATION CALENDAR WINNER FOR APRIL**

*Cathy DeLuca - \$25*



Weekly Happenings



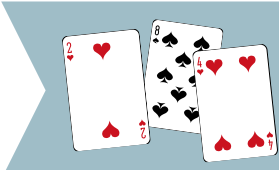
**BINGO**

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.

**Portland Elks Lodge 188**

**1945 Congress Street, Portland  
(across from entrance to jetport)**

**3rd *of* July**  
**Super Bingo**

**\$50 All Day Package**

*(additional papers available for purchase)*

**\$5,000 prize money**

**Doors Open at 8 am**

**Paper Sales 8:30 am**

**Games 12 noon**

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**GAMES | FOOD | PULL TABS**

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Kitchen Open 8:00 am - 1:30 pm with  
breakfast and lunch options

Open to the Public

Plenty of FREE parking

Handicap Accessible

[www.portlandelks188.org](http://www.portlandelks188.org)



**THE SUMMIT PROJECT**  
MAINE HEROES ARE NOT FORGOTTEN™  
MHNPF™

## *Honoring Fallen Heroes of Maine*

The Summit Project is a Living Memorial supported by an ever growing family of thousands of dedicated and patriotic individuals who all have personally invested in the mission. It is a nationally recognized, Maine based, 501(c)3 service organization that has a very special way of paying tribute to the fallen service members from Maine who have died in the line of duty since September 11, 2001. The Project ensures that Maine Heroes are NOT Forgotten by carrying their memorial stones on tribute hikes and carrying their stories for a lifetime.

On May 23, the riders who deliver the stones to Mt. Kathadin gathered at the Portland Elks for breakfast and received the stones they were to transport. The Maine State Troopers escorted the bikers. The South Portland and Portland Fire Department ladder trucks raised the American flag on the start line; and Lodge members lined the driveway as the bikers proceeded to Congress Street.

I would like to thank all our Lodge members who were on hand to help me for making this a memorable send-off for the riders. And a heartfelt thank you to the Scarborough Hannaford (Dan Hebert) and Westbrook Hannaford (Gary Rairdon) for their generosity with gift cards so that I was able to purchase product to feed the riders. And finally, to Tony's Donuts for their generous donation. A day to remember!!

**Martha Binette**

*Summit Project Chair*





Derby Fun



## Meet Our Volunteers...Liz Fisher



Liz Fisher joined the Elks a year ago because she wanted to volunteer! And she jumped right into it - working on Tuesdays in the Bingo kitchen, helping with the chicken pot pot fundraiser, and most recently helping with the Basket Raffle. Liz is cousin's with Barb Hebert, a member and trustee of the Lodge, and had attended Friday nights with them, and decided it was a place she wanted to be.

Liz was born and raised in Portland, graduating from Portland High School in 1978, but currently lives in South Carolina 6 months of the year, and has a goal to return to Maine full-time. Liz's two brothers and one sister all live in New England and she looks forward to being near them. Liz has two daughters and one granddaughter that she adores.

When asked what Liz likes most about the Elks, she says "I love to meet new people and form new friendships, and that's what I've done here."

Liz's other inspiration to join and volunteers was to be with her close friend of 35 years, Doreen Maxfield, also a member and volunteer.



## Raising Funds for ENF

The PER group of our Lodge, (Past Exalted Rulers), are raising funds for the Elks National Foundation. Check out the Elk tags hanging in the Lodge, and see Martha Binette if you'd like to participate. The Elk tags are by donation, so whatever you choose to donate, goes directly to ENF and gets credited to you, as well as our Lodge.

The Elks National Foundation is where each lodge is eligible to apply for grants to do good work in their communities. So your gift, no matter how small or how large, eventually comes back to our lodge in the way of community grants.



# ELK OF THE MONTH

## PATTY AMICO



**Congratulations, for being selected as Elk of the Month for June.**

**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) \_\_\_\_\_