



# Portland Elks

## The 188 News

December 2024

Dear Members and Officers,

The year is starting to wind down as we all prepare for our Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations with family and friends. But, the Elks Lodge will be busy this month with many activities and events to be held before the end of the year.

I was able to attend the Grand Exalted Ruler's visit to the Bangor Elks Lodge this past November 6. Our GER Doug Schiefer and his wife Julia were welcomed by most of our lodges in the State in which he delivered his speech outlining his vision and goals for 2025. It was an honor to be there to meet and greet our current GER for this upcoming year.



We also held our annual Hoop Shoot event this year at the Stevens Square Community gym on November 9. This was open to all school age children between the ages of 9-13 and we had 8 enthusiastic kids compete for the chance to advance to the District Hoop Shoot event this coming January 19 at the Bath Middle School. Congratulations to all of these competitors. Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted in this event.

The Veterans Committee was also very busy on the same day preparing and serving a noon time turkey dinner with all of the sides to approximately 100 veterans. This keeps growing every year and is so much appreciated by the veterans who attend. We at the Elks should be very proud of how we honor our vets each and every year with this luncheon. A huge thanks to Willy Goodman and his entire crew who pulled this one off in flying colors.

Please all consider taking a tag off of our Warming Tree this month located in the lounge. All of these gifts will be returned to Maine Needs in order to make this year's Christmas a little bit brighter for families and individuals in desperate need of clothing and household items.

Our member Christmas Celebration will be Friday, December 13, with entertainment. Hoping to see you then, or some other time this month at the lodge. And, if you're wondering what to do to celebrate the New Year, think about our Vegas New Year's Eve with Jim Ciampi.

Fraternally yours,

Joe Winschel  
Exalted Ruler

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## 2024—2025 LODGE OFFICERS

Joseph Winschel  
*Exalted Ruler*

Martha Binette  
*Esteemed Leading Knight*

Paul Poore  
*Esteemed Loyal Knight*

Barbara Pileggi  
*Esteemed Lecturing Knight*

Victoria Doughty  
*Secretary*

Charleen Durgin  
*Treasurer*

Barbara Spiller  
*Chaplain*

Stephanie Ingraham  
*Esquire*

Sandra Smith  
*Tiler*

Robert Pomerleau  
*Soloist*

Roger Jones  
*Trustee (1 year)*

Tim Smith  
*Trustee (2 years)*

Kimberly Toppi  
*Trustee (3 years)*

Gary Rairdon  
*Trustee (4 years)*

Joan Harmon  
*Trustee (5 years)*



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our newest members were initiated at the November 18, 2024 General Meeting. Please extend a welcome to them next time they are at the Lodge.

Seated (l-r): Mary Distasio, Jerry DiPhillipo, and Donna Church.

## News from Lodge Secretary

*Victoria Doughty*



Where does the time go. I can't believe that it is December already and we have just four months left in our current Fiscal Year.

Recently I made phone calls to 56 delinquent members, nine of whom stated they will not be renewing their membership and seven whose telephones have been disconnected, which leaves 40 for whom I am still waiting for a response from. Our hope is that you will continue with your membership and renew your dues.

As a reminder, when you are proposing someone for membership into Portland Elks Lodge #188, make sure that all questions are answered on the application. Also, on the back of the application, there are two more proposer references that need to be filled out **completely**. We have included an orange information form with each application. The form informs the candidate the process that will be followed from proposition up to and including initiation. It is important they read and keep this form and if they have any questions, I will be glad to meet with them.

On December 1, 2024, your Elks Lodge #188 will be celebrating Memorial Sunday. We will be honoring 12 of our members who have passed away this year. The Memorial Program will start at 10:00 am. If you are planning on attending, please let the Secretary's Office know as soon as possible.



**WISHING YOU AND YOURS A HAPPY AND  
HEALTHY CHRISTMAS!**



### NEW LODGE 188 PINS FOR SALE

Check out our updated Lodge 188 pin featuring Portland's Munjoy Hill Observatory. If you'd like a pin, see Vickey Doughty. Cost is \$3.



## Veteran's Committee

*Willie Goodman, Chairperson*



### Thanksgiving Salute to Our Vets

The Veterans Committee would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who generously contributed to the success of this year's Thanksgiving dinner. Not only were we able to provide a warm and delicious meal to our veterans, but we also distributed survival gift bags to each of them. These bags contained essential items such as a warm blanket, gloves, personal hygiene kit (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, deodorant soap, and shampoo), crackers, water, and Chapstick.

In addition to our Thanksgiving efforts, we are excited to share that we have adopted a small military family for Christmas. This family consists of a five-year-old boy and a newborn baby boy, and they have been facing financial struggles. Their only wish for Christmas was a meal, but we have decided to go above and beyond and make this a truly special holiday for the entire family.

We are also planning to take some of our veterans to a ballgame next summer. While the details are still being finalized, we are determined to provide our veterans with a fun and memorable experience.

***Happy holidays to all!***



**DECEMBER 31, 2024**

THE PORTLAND ELKS

1945 CONGRESS ST PORTLAND ME

CASH BAR & DRINK SPECIALS

PARTY FAVORS

COFFEE AND DESSERT BAR

CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT

*Upscale Dress Preferred*

\$80 PP | 21+

TICKETS AVAILABLE

ON EVENTBRITE

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW:



## COCKTAILS

6:30 | *The Rat Pack Lounge*

APPETIZERS & CHARCUTERIE DISPLAY

## DINNER

7:30 | *The Venetian Ballroom*

ELEGANT LAND & SEA BUFFET

FEATURING JIM CIAMPI & THE  
SEASIDE MARTINI CLUB COMBO

*Call 207.838.4386 to reserve  
tickets.*

## DANCING

8:30 - 12:30 | *The Copa*

FEATURING THE JIM CIAMPI BAND

FOR MORE INFO: 207.773.7396

## New Year's Eve Tickets NOW ON SALE

Tickets may be purchased at the Lounge Bar or on EventBrite. To avoid service fee, best to purchase at the Lodge. Event is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, so gather your friends and **spend New Year's Eve with us..... great food, fabulous band, and midnight champagne toast to ring in 2025!**

## House Committee

*Joan Harmon, Chair*



At the November House Committee meeting several items were discussed that we need to remind all of our members of: signing in guests and behavior in the lounge and use of profanity.

As a reminder, all guests must be signed in by a member with their member number. And when the member leaves the lodge for the evening, their guest must leave with them. In addition, once the guest has been signed in more than six times in the calendar year, they will be given a membership application and asked to join. These rules are stated in our by-laws. You might ask, who keeps track of how many times a guest is signed in? As chair of the House Committee, it is my responsibility to monitor the guest registry book regularly. Over the past 18 months, numerous guests have now become regular members. If you have any question in this regard, you are welcome to attend a House Committee meeting, or I am typically at the lodge every Friday night and happen to answer any questions.

Second, it has been brought to our attention about the use of profanity in the lodge, and not always in a quiet manner. We ask that folks please respect others and let's try and keep decorum in the lodge. It is stated in our by-laws that profanity is behavior unbecoming of an Elk and disciplinary action can be taken—something we do not want to ever have to do, so this is a just gentle reminder to tone it down.

### **MEET OUR VOLUNTEER.....PAMELA DILL**

Pamela joined the Elks for the social aspect of the club and has made lots of new friends and reconnected with old friends. She is a member of the Activity Committee, volunteers in the kitchen, serves dinners, helps with collecting and delivering supplies for any project the committee takes on. Pamela was the instructor at our Master Class Wreath Making this year, and she took on the project of repairing and repainting our Elk outside the lodge.



Pamela has two children, John and Cara, and two grandchildren, Emma and Bryce. When she lost her husband a few years ago, Pamela joined the Elks. "It gives me a sense of purpose, and I enjoy seeing the expressions on the faces of people we are able to help in the community."

Pamela grew up on Munjoy Hill, part of a large Italian family.



## Manager's Message

*Kim McDonough, General Manager*

As I think about the year gone by, I am reminded of what a wonderful Lodge we have, and am grateful to be part of this team. Over this past year, we've added new members to our banquet staff, our membership has increased, we've brought new vendors to the facility, made improvements to the Lodge, purchased new dinnerware, and we've stayed within our budget.

Sure, we've had a few bumps along the way, but with everyone working towards the same goals, we've moved forward.

As we all take time to celebrate the holidays with our family and friends, I want to take this opportunity to thank my staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. And, I am eternally grateful to a tremendous group of volunteers who, week in and week out, are there to help do whatever is needed to advance Lodge 188.

From my family to each of yours, I hope that your holidays are happy and filled with love and good cheer!



### Elks Memorial Service Sunday, December 1, 10 am

The Elk Memorial Service is held annually to pay respect to our lost brothers and sisters this past year. All members are invited to this year's service, along with family members of the departed.



**The Activity Committee would like to wish all of our members a very happy holiday season. Enjoy your time with family and friends!**

Kim Toppi, Chair  
Patty Amico  
Martha Binette  
Pamela Dill  
Vickey Doughty  
Karen Emerson  
Lori Grassi  
Kim McDonough

Julie Morin  
Barbara Pileggi  
Margaret Poulin



Voted the favorites at Tuesday Bingo were: Witch, Hocus Pocus, and Japanese lady.

Voted favorites at Members 50 theme: Hairdresser customer, Buffet Couple and June Cleaver.





## Activity Committee

*Kim Toppi, Chair*



The Lodge was filled with ghosts and goblins, lions and tigers, throughout October. Festivities included the Kid's Halloween Party, Members Halloween 50s theme night, and Bingo Halloween Celebration. Lots of great costumes and creativity!





**Portland Elks Lodge 188**  
**1945B Congress St, Portland**

## **Basket Extravaganza**

Saturday, December 7, 10-3 pm

Sunday, December 8, 9 am—12 noon

Featuring the 2nd Chance UKE Ensemble

- Take a chance on more than 75 spectacular gift baskets & Yeti Cooler filled with Spirits
- Lunch available 11 am –2 pm, Saturday
- Santa arrives on Saturday at Noon!
- Breakfast available 9 am—11 am Sunday
- Music by local school choirs



Proceeds to benefit Cultivating Community,  
McAuley Residence, and the Portland Elks.



**New Year's SUPER BINGO**

**Portland Elks Lodge 188**

**Tuesday, December 31**

**1945 Congress St**

**Doors Open at 9 am**

**Games Start at 11:30 am**

**Super Bingo**  
**with larger payouts!**

**TOTAL PRIZE**  
**MONEY:**  
**\$4,000+**



**\$40 Super**  
**Bingo Package**

**Pull tabs**  
**50/50 raffle**

**Kitchen open for lunch with special**  
**New Year's items.**



# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Elks Memorial Service</b> <b>10 am</b>	<b>2</b> <b>House Com</b> <b>5 PM</b>	<b>3</b>  Doors open 9 am; Games 12	<b>4</b>  <b>Activity Comm 2 pm</b> 3 Card Game 5:30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  3 Card Game 6 pm; DJ	<b>7</b> <b>Basket Raffle</b> <b>10-3 pm</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Basket Raffle</b> <b>9-12 noon</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Trustee Mtg</b> <b>4:30 PM</b>  <b>Gen Mtg</b> <b>6 PM</b>	<b>10</b>  Doors open 9 am; Games 12	<b>11</b>  3 Card Game 5:30 pm	<b>12</b> National Gingerbread House Day 	<b>13</b>  3 Card Game 6 pm; <b>Debbie Bassett 7-10</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> National Cupcake Day 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Doors open 9 am; Games 12 National Maple Syrup Day 	<b>18</b>  3 Card Game 5:30 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  3 Card Game 6 pm; DJ	<b>21</b> Winter Solstice 
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Veteran Co Mtg 5 PM</b>	<b>24</b> NO BINGO 	<b>25</b> <b>LODGE CLOSED</b> 	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>  3 Card Game 6 pm; DJ	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>New Year's Bingo 1130am</b> <b>Vegas New Year's Party 6:30 pm</b>				



Member Christmas Celebration

Friday, December 13

Complimentary Dessert Buffet following dinner

Music with Debbie Bassett following Card Games

## IT'S AN ELK "WARMING TREE" CHALLENGE

Here is a way you can help those in need during this holiday season. Check out our Elk Warming Tree in Lounge 188. Take a tag (s) off the tree, shop for what is on the tag, and return to the Lodge no later than December 6.

Items can be NEW or GENTLY USED.

Items donated DO NOT NEED TO BE WRAPPED! Just return the items and place them under the tree in the Lounge.

All articles collected will be donated to MAINE NEEDS...a community focused donation center based out of Portland, striving to help Mainers meet their basic material needs.

\*\*\*Our Lodge has challenged all of the Elk Lodges in the State to participate in a Warming Tree in their community. The Elk Lodge that collects the most items will receive a special plaque.

**Let's have Lodge 188 rise to the challenge and collect the most items!!**



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## Lifetime Boosters

### ***In Honor/Memory Of***

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

### ***Elk "Booster"***

Natalie Armstrong  
Mary Augur  
George Anderson  
Pauline Murphy  
Sharon Castelucci  
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  
The Smith Family  
Timothy Smith  
Tim & Liz Smith  
Gladys Stokinger

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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.

### **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 Barbara Pileggi. 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.***



Portland Elks Lodge 188  
1945 B Congress Street  
Portland, ME 04102

*In God We Trust*

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U S POSTAGE PAID  
PORTLAND,  
MAINE  
Permit No. 102

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](mailto: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**