



Portland Elks

The 188 News

January 2025

Dear Members and Officers,

I want to wish each and every member of our Lodge a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with peace and happiness. This is the time of the year when we will be together with our families and loved ones giving thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us. This is also the time of year in which we give to others who may be struggling and are in need of basic necessities. The Elks were built on the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. Please consider giving this holiday season with either your love and support to a fellow citizen or a contribution to your favorite charity.



The Portland Elks had their annual inspection performed this past November 30 at our Lodge by Sandy Anderson, past state president, and her entourage. This inspection covers our building safety throughout the entire lodge which includes compliance with food storage, protocol and procedures and city codes. They also review the Lodge's financial operations and adherence to Grand Statues. A big thank you to all who assisted with the inspection leading up to their visit. We passed with flying colors and have made minor improvements with their suggestions.

Also on December 1, we held our mandatory Elks Memorial Service for all of our deceased members this past year. The families of our deceased members attended the ceremony which was followed by a luncheon. This ceremony holds a tender significance with all Elks in that Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken.

Lastly, please consider joining us at our lodge on New Year's Eve for either the Super Bingo which will start at 11:30 am, or for the Vegas New Year's celebration starring the Jim Ciampi band.

Hoping to see you at the Lodge in 2025!

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

OOPS—sincere apologies to Jerry DiMillo for typing his name wrong in the December newsletter.

News from Lodge Secretary

Victoria Doughty



On Sunday, December 9, 2024, Elks Lodge #188 held a memorial memory of our departed members:

RICHARD CONNOLLY, JOHN MEEHAN, JOSEPH FAGONE, ROBERT BERRY, WILLIAM GREENLAW, ANITA GEARY, WILFRED GIROUX, DOROTHY DUFFY, PATRICIA ANNE ROBERTS, DOMINIC DISTASIO, JAMES MALIA AND JAMES CAMPBELL.

The service was attended by 28 family members and Lodge #188 officers. Light refreshments followed the ceremony. Thank you to Kim McDonough, lodge manager, for preparing a delicious buffet.

Our next general lodge meeting will be held on January 13, 2025, at that meeting we will be initiating five new candidates into Portland Lodge #188. Their orientation will take place at 5:00 pm and the general meeting will start at 6:00 pm. All members are welcome to attend lodge meetings.

Some statistics you might like to know:

- ♦ We have 41 delinquent members. A list will be posted on the bulletin board and if you are aware of any of those listed, would you please let me know. Thank you, i appreciate your help.
- ♦ The average age of members now is 69.75 years.
- ♦ We have initiated 31 into membership and we have reinstated four members this year
- ♦ We have dropped 12 members.
- ♦ Lodge #188 has a total of 490 members.

The new fiscal year 4/1/2025 to 3/31/2026 is fast approaching. Stay tuned for 2025-2026 new dues information.

Wishing you and yours joy, peace, and happiness in the coming year!



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



The Veteran's Committee had a busy December. JoAnn Sparks managed to get an entire apartment of furniture donated to a veteran who had just moved into an empty apartment.

We shopped, wrapped, and delivered gifts to our adopted veteran family, making this a special Christmas for them all.

A special thank you to the Veteran Committee members for making all of this happen.



Queen of Hearts

Queen of Hearts is a game of chance at Lodge 188. Raffle tickets are for sale every Wednesday and Friday evening in the lounge. Weekly drawing takes place Friday evenings at the conclusion of the 3-Card Challenge.

Game is for Lodge 188 MEMBERS ONLY. You do not have to be present to win.

Raffle tickets are \$5 for 5 tickets. Pot grows each week until the Queen of Hearts is revealed.

Pot as of December 18 stood at \$5,377.



Trustee Committee

Gary Rairdon, Chairperson

I hope that everyone had an amazing holiday season. Happy New Year to all!! I can't believe that we are headed into 2025. Looking back I feel we had an amazing year and with all the wonderful things that this lodge has done, I'm excited to continue the momentum of having Lodge 188 Portland, Maine, a destination for all.



In our trustee meeting in December, we had Steve Corey give us a 30,000 foot view of "The State of the Club" as it relates to capital improvement projects. As you may know, Steve has a wealth of knowledge of this club, building, and needs of our facility. The board of directors has a clear vision of what is needed financially to support projects moving forward. We are mindful and strategically evaluating the needs of our lodge for the upcoming year. This planning will be beneficial to the success of our lodge, members and various organizations that schedule functions here.

If you have any questions or concerns as we head into the new year please see one of our trustees or attend one of the trustee meetings held at 4:30 pm on the second Monday of the month.

Thank you, Gary

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER COOKS

Each Tuesday at Lodge 188, we host Bingo to the general public. In addition to folks playing Bingo, the kitchen is open for food sales from 9 am—1:30 pm.

If you would be interested in helping out in the kitchen every Tuesday, twice a month, or even once a month, we could use your help!

Duties would include anything from prepping food, doing dishes, cooking burgers and fries, or helping to clean up at the end of the day.

Volunteering in the Bingo kitchen is a great way to get involved in the Lodge, meet new friends, and contribute in a significant way.

Call Kim Toppi at 207.329.0845 for more information and how you can be of help.





Fun New Year's Resolutions

1. Make vanilla pudding. Put in mayo jar. Eat in public.
2. Hire two private investigators. Get them to follow each other.
3. Wear shirt that says "Life." Hand out lemons on street corner.
4. Get into a crowded elevator and say "I bet you're all wondering why I gathered you here today."
5. Major in philosophy. Ask people WHY they would like fries with that.
6. Run into a store, ask what year it is. When someone answers, yell "It worked!" and run out cheering.
7. Become a doctor. Change last name to Acula.
8. Change name to Simon. Speak in third person.
9. Buy a parrot. Teach the parrot to say "Help! I've been turned into a parrot."
10. Follow joggers around in your car blasting "Eye of the Tiger" for encouragement.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEER.....GARY RAIRDON

I joined the Elks in 2021. My wife, Laurie, had been a member and I would Accompany here on a few Friday nights. I quickly saw how engaged she was with the organization and wanted to contribute myself.

I am always looking for ways to help volunteer or assist fellow members. Most recently, I volunteered a few weekends cleaning up the Alden family resting spot at Evergreen Cemetery on Stevens Avenue. This has been a yearly project for a few of our members. After hearing about it, and seeing it on Memorial Day weekend, I quickly realized the potential of this overgrown section and wanted to take on this project to thank the Alden family for this precious gift.

This past spring, I was elected as a member of the board of trustees. During the first meeting, I was elected to chair this committee of five members. I am honored to work with these individuals and committee members to oversee and adhere to the responsibilities set forth by the bylaws of the fraternal order.

Over the last several years my family and I have been a direct recipient of volunteers and community outreach to help with a nonprofit organization that was established in honor of our son Matthew Rairdon, who's life was tragically taken from us in 2013. "WESTBROOK STRONG " from this I, we, want to finds ways to give back and to help make a difference.

I grew up in Westbrook, I have been married to my wife Laurie for 38 years. We have raised seven children, and have two beautiful grandchildren.



The Activity presented \$2,000 checks to Cultivating Community and McAuley Residence on December 13. The donation was a result of the Basket Raffle Extravaganza. And, the Warming Tree winter clothing drive brought in 529 pieces—coats, hats, mittens, boots, socks, blankets, gift cards, all for Maine Needs.

(l-r): Margaret Poulin, chair Basket Raffle, Silvan Shawe of Cultivating Community, Melissa Skahan of McAuley Residence, Angela Stone of Maine Needs, and Kim Toppi, Activity Chair.

These two events were truly an example of our Elks members CARING for their COMMUNITY! Thank you to everyone who contributed.



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4  National Spaghetti Day
	6 House Comm 5 pm	7 Bingo Open 9am Games 12 noon	8 3 Card Games 530 pm	9	10 3 Card Games 6 pm DJ	11
12	13 Trustees 430 pm Gen Mtg 6 pm	14 Bingo Open 9am Games 12 noon	15 3 Card Games 530 pm	16	17 3 Card Games 6 pm DJ	18 
19	20 	21 Bingo Open 9am Games 12 noon	22 3 Card Games 530 pm	23	24 3 Card Games 6 pm DJ	25
26	27 Veteran Comm 5 pm	28 Bingo Open 9am Games 12 noon	29 3 Card Games 530 pm	30  National Croissant Day	31 3 Card Games 6 pm DJ	

Activity Committee

Kim Toppi, Chair



December was a busy month at the Lodge, and our members were most definitely into the season of giving. We started collecting for the Warming Tree winter clothing drive in the middle of November and by the deadline of December 6, members had donated 529 items of winter clothing for Maine Needs. Donations ranged from new boots and coats to hats, mittens, thermal pants, to blankets, socks and Dunkin gift cards. WOW!! A presentation was made on December 13 to Angela Stone, executive director and founder of Maine Needs.

Our Basket Raffle Extravaganza, held December 7-8, was truly extravagant! Members, friends and local businesses donated 72 fabulous gift baskets for the raffle, along with a Yeti Cooler donated by Anthony Toppi. The two day event raised \$7,465 and after expenses, the Activity Committee was able to present \$2,000 checks to Cultivating Community and McAuley Residence. And, new dinner plates were ordered for the banquet side of the lounge with proceeds.

Without you, the members, donating the baskets, and coming out and buying raffle tickets, the event would not be possible.

The month continued with a Christmas celebration on December 13, complete with a variety of door prizes, a complimentary dessert buffet, and Debbie Bassett was in the house entertaining the crowd.

At the time of this article, New Year's Day Bingo had not been held, nor was the Vegas New Year's Party with the Jim Ciampi Band.....but both events are likely to be another success to finish out 2024.

Our heartfelt thank you to ALL our members and volunteers for your continued support of our Lodge throughout the year.



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Archie L'Heureux
Catherine McDonough
John Milton
Will Mulkern
Don
Seymour Nathanson
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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

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 Kim Toppi. 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

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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