



Portland Elks

The 188 News

March 2026

Dear Members and Officers,

This being the last newsletter of the current Elk year, I wanted to reflect back on what our lodge has accomplished this past year. And this would not have been possible without the support and volunteer work that our members have given to the lodge.

We will end our fiscal year with a surplus that has exceeded our budget goals. This was a result of being both fiscally responsible and having a great year with functions and events held at our lodge. Our membership base has increased over the previous year which is due to our long term members and recruitment of new members. The Veteran Committee was very active in supporting veterans in their transition to housing or to just invite them to our lodge for a breakfast or Thanksgiving dinner. Our Veteran chair was also selected from the State to be one of the State representatives to the veteran homes. The Activity Committee has planned many events in our lodge, held fundraisers and used ENF funds to support our community and citizens. Bingo has been very successful this year and brought back the Super Bingo which was a huge success. Our lodge has installed a new kitchen hood, purchased a commercial dishwasher, replaced the member lounge chairs, painted the member lounge along with many smaller projects. We hired a new cook to assist Kim with functions and member dinners.



March will be a busy month as we finalize our budget planning for the next fiscal year and transition the new officers and trustees. We will also be holding two meetings this month on the 2nd and 4th Monday. All members are welcome to attend.

Finally, I have nominated Norma Meehan as the Elk of the Month for March. Norma has been volunteering in the Elks Lodge secretary office for the past six months. She has been a tremendous help to our lodge secretary helping with logging volunteer hours, assembling orientation packets, developing a new filing system and will be working on a manual for the secretary office. Norma can also be seen selling 50/50 tickets on Wednesday nights. Congratulations Norma!

Fraternally yours,

Joseph Winschel

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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 eac 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: March 2, 5:30 pm

Trustee Committee: March 9, 4:30 pm
March 23, 4:30 pm

General Meeting: March 9, 6 pm
March 23, 6 pm

Veteran Committee: March 30, 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



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR Fiscal year April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027

April 1, 2026 starts the beginning of Portland Elks Lodge 188's fiscal year. Before that date you will be receiving a notice from the Elks Grand Lodge reminding you about your dues for the new year. The letter breaks down what your dues covers and allows you to donate to ENF, MCCP, and Elks scholarship funds. Please **DO NOT TEAR OFF** the bottom of the form when you are submitting your dues payment.

If you want your 2026-2027 membership card mailed to you, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, and when cards are ready, yours will be mailed to you.

If you are dropping off payment at Lodge 188, and I am not in the office, there is a beige metal mailbox outside of the Secretary's Office, and you can put your payment in it. Please remember to include the remittance form and put payment in an envelope, if possible, before dropping them in the mailbox.

One more request, when you fill out the payment form, **PLEASE** update any information that may have changed such as address, telephone number, email address, etc. There may be times when the Secretary's Office may need to contact someone on your behalf, so please add their names, address, phone number and relationship on a separate sheet (this request is not on the form the Grand Lodge sends). Thank you!



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.



MANAGER'S MESSAGE from Kim McDonough



Spring Ahead March 8!!

February was another amazing month. Several conferences, events, the lounge and Bingo have been busy. A big thank you to Charlene Durgin, Leanne Ladd, Andy Leary, and Bobby Queen for going above and beyond to make our Super Bowl party special. We had a great time.

Friday, March 6, 2026 we have the Andi Fawcett Duo playing after the 3-Card challenge and the QOH drawing. Invite some friends, we will have dinner and drink specials that evening as well. The band is excellent!

Friday, March 13, we will be serving our traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner which will include carrots, potatoes and house made Irish soda bread. There is a signup sheet at the bar, please let us know you are attending! We will also have alternate entrees for those who prefer something other than corned beef, and of course homemade dessert options, including Guinness Cake. Bobby O'Queen will be playing Irish music during cocktail and dinner hour, followed by karaoke.

It has been a fantastic year. The building is busy, and enjoys heavy usage. A special thanks to Steve Corey who fixed the dishwasher, the stove pilot light, the hot water heater, the HDMI cord in the lounge, the back door and bolted the new Queen of Hearts machine down in the few days he was back from Florida attending the Electrical Code Conference. ...thanks again we really are grateful.

I have requested suggestions and feedback from our members, and I have received great ideas and thoughtful observations. I appreciate all the help, business referrals and recommendations. Here's to Spring!!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Friday, March 13

4:30—6 pm

Traditional St Patrick's Dinner: corned beef, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, housemade Irish soda bread

\$15 per person

*Please sign up at the Bar if would like dinner to help with meal planning. **Music and karaoke with Bobby O'Queen!!***



QUEEN OF HEARTS MACHINE HAS ARRIVED!



There is a written guide to using our new Queen of Hearts machine right near it. But here are the basics:

- ◆ The machine does not give change.
- ◆ It accepts \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 dollar bills.
- ◆ To use, press the touch screen above the bill acceptor, the three blinking lights will turn from red to green.
- ◆ Insert your money, the touch screen will show amount inserted, then press the round led blue button.
- ◆ Tickets are dispensed. Fill the tickets out, and insert them into the slot on the tumbler located next to the machine.
- ◆ Any questions, please ask Kim McDonough.



Take Your Siblings to Work Day!



Look who all worked the same day at one of our Lodge's functions:

Brother and sister Joe and Deanne Fagone

Sisters Patty Amico, Colleen Hilton, Margaret Poulin, Barbara Sawyer

Lodge 188 is lucky to have such a great group of employees!!



Andi Fawcett Duo

Live at the Lodge

Friday, March 6

7:30—10:30 pm

Stay and enjoy music from this dynamic duo!

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 House Com 5:30 pm	3  BINGO Opens 9 am Games 12 N	4  Card Games 5:30 pm	5	6  Card Games 6 pm Andi Fawcett Duo 7:30 p m	7 Hoop Shoot Breakfast 7 am
8 	9 Trustees 4:30 pm Gen Mtg 6 pm	10  BINGO Opens 9 am Games 12 N	11  Card Games 5:30 pm	12	13  Card Games 6 pm DJ Queen & Karaoke Irish Dinner	14
15	16	17  BINGO Opens 9 am Games 12 N 	18  Card Games 5:30 pm	19	20 Card Games DJ Queen 	21
22 Elk Scholars Visit 10 am	23 Trustees 4:30 pm Gen Mtg 6 pm Vet Comm 5 pm	24  BINGO Opens 9 am Games 12 N	25  Card Games 5:30 pm	26	27  Card Games 6 pm DJ Queen	28

Portland Elks Activity & Veteran Committees

FOOD DRIVE

**DROP OFF MARCH
1-18**



With funds from the ENF Gratitude Grant we are hoping to **stuff 300 grocery bags** with non-perishable items to help feed those facing food insecurity in our community. We are accepting donations of **NON-PERISHABLE, NON-EXPIRED** food items from **March 1 - March 18** at the Lodge. **Please NO GLASS!!**

The bags have been purchased with ENF funds, now we just need to stuff them!

300 OF EACH NEEDED

- ▶ Rice, Beans
- ▶ Canned Veggie, Meats
- ▶ Pasta, Tomato Sauce
- ▶ Soup, Peanut Butter
- ▶ Dry Cereals, Juice
- ▶ Crackers, Cake Mix

For Additional Information or to make a cash donation, see Margaret Poulin at the Lodge, or VENMO to Kim-Toppi. A member of the Committee will shop for you.

Join the Elks Make a Difference!

Do you want to be part of a historic and noble organization that serves the community and the nation? Do you want to enjoy the friendship, fun, and support of fellow Elks who share your values and passions? Do you want to make a positive impact on the lives of others, especially children in need?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you are ready to join the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks!

The Elks have been around for over 150 years, and they have always been committed to helping their fellow citizens. In Maine, we have over 11,000 Elk members in 20 Lodges across the state, from York to Presque Isle. We are more than just a social club, we are a family of caring and generous people who work together for the common good.

Our motto is Elks Care—Elks Share, and we live up to it every day.

April is the beginning of our new fiscal year, and what better time to bring a friend, co-worker, sibling to Lodge 188 and see what we are all about. Our membership is just over 500! Let's set a goal of signing up 50 new members in 2026/2027. Applications are located in the Lounge or you can see our Lodge Secretary, Vickey Doughty, for an application.



Have you been thinking on how you can get involved and volunteer at our Lodge?

We are in need of volunteers for BINGO!! Two options:

- 1) work the Bingo Hall—sell bingo sheets, 50/50/ pull-tabs call the games
- 2) work in the Kitchen—prepare, cook, and sell food to patrons

Bingo is every Tuesday at Lodge 188, and you can volunteer every Tuesday, twice a month, or just one Tuesday each month. Schedules are very flexible and we make everyone's preference work.

Contact Kim Toppi (kitchen), 207.329.0845, or Paul Poore (hall), 603.312.3691. We'd love to hear from you!!

VETERAN COMMITTEE NEWS, Willie Goodman, Chair



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!!

MEET OUR VOLUNTEER.....BARBARA NOYES-SAWYER



Barbara Sawyer joined the Elks in 2020 mainly because her sisters were joining and she was looking for ways to gather with others during covid. She loves the social aspects of the club activities and meeting new people. Barbara appreciates the many opportunities to volunteer for charitable causes. She can be found setting up for craft fairs, basket raffles and school kits when they stuff the backpacks for local schools. She will often be seen decorating for special event night in the lounge and when it was happening, selling Queen of Hearts tickets to the members.

Barbara has been employed at UNUM since 1983 – soon to celebrate her 42 year. She has had various roles at UNUM and most recently works for national accounts. Barb has two adult children Stephen and Lauren and two daughter-in-laws, Lauren and Concetta. She loves to go on “ride abouts” with her four sisters and see where the road takes them. She recruited two of her very best friends, Helen and Josephine to also become members.

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 January:

Ed Libby—\$25
Donald Malanson—\$25

Elaine Harper—\$25
Tressa Brown—\$50



ELK OF THE MONTH...MARCH



Congratulations, Norma Meehan 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

Elk "Booster"

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

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) _____