



# Portland Elks

## The 188 News

May 2025

.Dear Members and Officers,

Hope that everyone was able to enjoy some time with family and friends during the Easter holiday. Looking forward once again to the return of warm weather and outdoor activities.

It was so nice to see so many new members initiated into our lodge this past month. Without the addition of new members we would not be able continue to carry on the benevolent and charitable work of our lodge. Some of our members have even indicated an interest in assisting with our many activities carried on through our committees.



In addition, we also held our installation of the new officers for the upcoming year. Congratulations to all who were installed and accepted the positions to which they were nominated for. I also want to give a huge shout out to both Kim Toppi, Officer of the Year, and Willie Goodman, Elk of the Year, for their outstanding service and contributions.

The Maine State Convention and business meeting will be held this coming May 2 through May 4 at the Waterville Elks lodge. I will be attending as your representative and exalted ruler for this event. They will be announcing the winners of all lodge and state awards for the past year which includes MCCP, Veteran, Drug Awareness, lodge activities, etc. Our own lodge will be recognized for the most valuable student award given to Caroline Benson from Scarborough High School. She will be recognized, along with her family, as one of the top 500 nationally to be given this award. Congratulations to Caroline.

Hoping to see you this month at the lodge.

Fraternally yours,

Joe Winschel  
Exalted Ruler

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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 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 Joe Winschel. Bricks will only be ordered when there are at least 5 new bricks to be engraved.**

## News from Lodge Secretary

*Victoria Doughty*



I want to thank all the membership who have paid their dues for the new Fiscal Year 4/1/2025 – 3/31/2026. You have all started off strong and the Secretary's office has been quite busy. If you have not received your cards yet and you did not request they be mailed, you can find them at the bar or you can see me in the Secretary's Office.

Currently, we have 117 members who are still delinquent. If you want to make an appointment to come into the Secretary's Office, there are times I am here on other days besides Wednesday and Friday. Please call me at 207-773-7396, extension 103, to set up a time to come in and pay your dues.

We initiated ten new candidates on April 14, 2025. Please welcome Patrice O'Brion, Michael Bailey, Nicola Cox, William Hilton, Shawn Leary, Susan Willey, Mary Winschel, Deborah Noble, Christopher Cote, and Joshua Flanagan to Portland Elks Lodge #188

A reminder, if you are not receiving your newsletter or the weekly blast that is sent out, please let me know. Also, don't forget to call or stop into the office if you have any changes that have to be made regarding your membership information (Name, Address, Phone #, Email Address, Etc.)



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Front row (l-r): Shawn Leary, Christopher Cote, Josh Flanagan, Debbie Noble, Nicola Cox

Back row (l-r): William Hilton, Mike Bailey, Susan Willey, Patrice O'Brion, Marybeth Winschel



## Veteran's Committee

*Willie Goodman, Chairperson*



During the previous three months, our team has worked with case workers from the HUD-VAS office, which is a program of the VA. One of the missions of this program is to obtain housing for homeless veterans, once this is done, the case worker will contact me with the information to contact the veteran. We will then reach out to the veteran to compile a list of what they need. Our team members will then purchase and deliver everything to the location of the apartment. We can do this by using the lodge's Welcome Home Kits Program. Our team pays for what's needed and submit the receipts to the Elks National Foundation and they will reimburse us, during the past three months, we have placed five individual veterans in apartments at a cost of \$1360 and donations of various items from our lodge members, and we thank them.

Our committee has also made arrangements to take 25 to 30 residents from the Scarborough Veterans Home to a Sea Dogs ball game and lunch in July.

Our next committee meeting will be on June 23rd at 5pm, if anyone is interested in joining our committee, contact me at 207-228-4329.



**Memorial Day** (originally known as **Decoration Day**) is one of the federal holidays in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States.

It is a day for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers will place American flags on the graves of those military personnel in national cemeteries. Others such as family and friends will also come to lay flowers and grieve on the graves of those who died in the US military.

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as *Decoration Day* and observed on May 30, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the American Civil War. This national observance followed many local observances which were inaugurated between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it. However, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers—Union and Confederate" with flowers.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The world wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1971, Congress standardized the holiday as "Memorial Day" and changed its observance to the last Monday in May.

## 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 April 22 is more than \$13,700!!!



## Trustee Message

*Gary Rairdon, Trustee Chair*

It looks like Spring is upon us, and I hope everyone is able to get out and enjoy some of the spring weather that Maine has to offer.

Well as stated in last month's newsletter, the trustees have been busy crafting a balanced budget from the proposed budgets from all of our chairs and committees members. This budget will be proposed and voted on at our April 28 general meeting. I am pleased to recognize that each committee has committed to fundraising efforts to help offset their funds needed to add to the lodges bottom line while supporting many wonderful events and organizations throughout the year.

I hope to see a large presence at the General Meeting, April 28, 6 pm, to support this year's budget.





A huge thank you to our members who donated to our Easter Egg drive for Maine Children's Cancer Program. The project raised close to \$500. Our heartfelt thanks to Charleen Durgin and LeeAnne Ladd for making the paper eggs.

Martha Binette  
MCCP Chair

## SUMMIT PROJECT AT THE ELKS, MAY 24



**THE SUMMIT PROJECT**  
MAINE HEROES ARE NOT FORGOTTEN  
MHAHF

Portland Lodge 188 will be hosting the "Summit Project" kick-off again, this year. The Summit Project is a nonprofit organization that honors all fallen heroes from Maine from the last three wars. The riders start their day at our lodge at 7:00 am. We welcome the Gold Star families, and along with members of the organization, Boy and Girl Scouts, and Elks members. There is a ceremony, continental breakfast and the "honor stones" are past off to bikers as they start their ride to Millinocket at 9:00 am. The stones are handed off to hikers who do the trek up Mt. Katahdin. Please join us for this fantastic celebration.

I am looking for volunteers to work on Saturday, May 24, to help with setup, serving breakfast, and clean up, as well as donations to help with this event.

Martha Binette  
Summit Project Chair



## PORTLAND ELKS LODGE #188

### 2025 – 2026 DUES STATEMENT

Each year a portion of the dues is sent to the Grand Lodge to assist with operating costs, production of the Elks magazine, and insurance. For 2025, this portion of your dues has increased by \$3.00

Below is the dues renewal form **that must be filled out in full** and returned with your payment. If you would like your 2025 card mailed to you, **YOU MUST** enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If the Lodge mails it to you without the provided envelope, the cost will be an additional \$5.00. Otherwise, your card will be at the Lodge Bar for pickup.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

DaytimePhone \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues enclosed: \$97 regular member \_\_\_\_\_ \$59.50 life member \_\_\_\_\_**

Check applicable Charitable Contributions and/or Fees listed below:

Elks National Foundation \_\_\_\_\_ \$10

State Initiative (MCCP) \_\_\_\_\_ \$10

Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_ \$10

Mail Membership Card \_\_\_\_\_ \$5

\_\_\_\_\_ Please mail my card \_\_\_\_\_ I will pick it up at Elks Lodge

Charge Credit Card: # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Mail Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**TO PAY DUES ONLINE: <https://Search.revopay.com/elkslodge>**

How do you want to receive Lodge news? Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide an Emergency Contact name, address, phone number, and relationship:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Elk Member \_\_\_\_\_



# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 	3
4	5 House Comm. 5pm	6  Bingo Open 9AM Game 12N	7  Card Games 5:30 pm	8 Sip & Shop 3-7 pm 	9  Card Games 6 pm DJ Queen	10
11 	12 Trustees 4:30pm General Meeting 6 pm	13  Bingo Open 9AM Game 12N	14  Card Games 5:30 pm	15	16  Card Games 6 pm DJ Queen	17
18	19	20  Bingo Open 9AM Game 12N	21  Card Games 5:30 pm	22	23  Card Games 6 pm DJ Queen	24
25	26 	27  Bingo Open 9AM Game 12N	28  Card Games 5:30 pm	29	30  Card Games 6 pm DJ Queen	31



## Activity Committee

*Kim Toppi, Chair*



### May Day Basket Drive

Help us fill our baskets! The Activity Committee will be delivering May Day Baskets to residents in local nursing homes May 1.

You can help make the day a happy one for those living in a nursing home, whether there short term or long term.

#### *Suggested items:*

Gripper Slippers, any size, any color  
Puzzles, Deck of Cards  
Hand Wipes, Hand Cream  
Body Wash, Shampoo  
Back Scratcher  
Baby Dolls  
Stationery, Note Cards  
Individual Candy Bars—NO NUTS  
Coloring Books, Colored Pencils

Combs, Hair Brushes  
Puzzle Books, Word Searches  
Magnifying Glass  
Adult Bib  
Small Plastic Flower Arrangement  
Sports team merchandise  
Window Decorations  
Small Bags Chips



Your donation is truly appreciated and will be well received by residents. If you would prefer to make a cash donation and have us do the shopping for you, please see Margaret Poulin, Patty Amico or Kim Toppi.

**Please drop off to the Elks Lounge NO LATER THAN April 25.**

## MEET OUR VOLUNTEER.....JULIANA MORIN

Julie joined the Elks a year ago, "although it seems longer than that," says Morin. She decided to join as her best friends are members (Kim Toppi, Susan Smythe, Karen Emerson), and has other friends who are members. Julie has attended and volunteered at many of the lodge events of the years and realized that the Lodge is a fun place to be and people are all very nice. "And the drinks are good, too!"

Julie has assisted with serving dinners on Wednesday/Friday nights, worked in the kitchen during the Basket Raffle, helped make Chicken Pot Pies and candy/cookies for the Craft Fair. She also serves on the Lodge Activity Committee. Her hope is to get more involved when she retires.



Julie is employed at Northern Light Health Mercy Hospital and her 42 years there has been in Human Resources, Finance and currently in Payroll. She is widowed with two grown sons; one married and another getting married this year. She is a proud Grandmother to one grandson. Julie and her late husband, Alan, brought up their boys in Standish and Julie moved to Gorham to downsize when they both graduated from college.

Julie serves on the board of her condo association and serves in the capacity of Treasurer. She loves to travel with her girlfriends, "the Birthday Club" and their travels have taken them to the Dominican, Cuba, Caribbean Islands, Alaska, Europe (river boat cruise), Paris, Florida, Aruba and jaunts around New England. She is looking forward to their next adventure, a cruise in 2026 of the Baltic countries.



Friday, May 30

Lodge 188 Lounge

Dinner: 5-6:30 pm

Chinese theme dinner menu in the Lounge!

## ELK MEMBERS RECOGNIZED



Exalted Ruler Joe Winschel recognized Kim Toppi, Officer of the Year, and Willie Goodman, Elk of the Year, at the April General Meeting, for their time, dedication, and commitment to the Elks.

*Congratulations Kim and Willie. Great job!!*

## 2025-2026 LODGE 188 OFFICERS



Front (l-r): Victoria Doughty, Charleen Durgin, Sandy Smith, Joan Harmon, Barbara Hebert, Stephanie Ingraham, Kim Toppi, Martha Binette

Back (l-r): Lorraine Taylor, Paul Poore, Joe Winschel, Brenda Farris, Gary Rairdon

Missing: Tim Smith



# BINGO

*Paul Poore, Chair*

Tuesday, April 15, was a special day for our Bingo players. Our Bingo volunteers Jean Cote and Barbara Spiller very generously donated Easter bunnies, pillows and gnomes that were raffled off throughout the day. Jean and Barbara have been doing these wonderful raffles at various holidays throughout the year, and we are most grateful for their generosity. In addition to the items raffled, they presented each Bingo volunteer with a small gift celebrating Easter.



***Many thanks Jean and Barbara!***



SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 1

BANG, BANG, BINGO

Super Bingo: \$40 to play all day

Special BBQ menu, 50/50, Pull Tabs, Raffles





**Portland Elks Lodge 188**

**1945 Congress Street**

**Thursday, May 8, 3-7 pm**

*Open to the Public. No admission fee.*

*Samples Allagash Brewery, Cold River Vodka, and  
Wiggly Bridge Distillery*

*Shop for Tupperware, Pampered Chef, D & K Flavors of Maine, Lots  
O' Dots, L'Bre Pure N' Natural, and so many more. Chair massages  
offered by Beth Mitchell Massage.*





## Lifetime Boosters

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

Ronald W. Allen  
Lester Armstrong  
Jim Augur  
Don Bodin, Jr.  
Ken Carle  
Ralph Castelucci  
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  
Harry Winger

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

Natalie Armstrong  
Mary Augur  
George Anderson  
Pauline Murphy  
Sharon Castelucci  
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

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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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor/Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Booster type: Yearly (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_



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**