Portland Elks
188 News

1945 B Congress Street, Portland, ME 04102
207.773.7396
www.portlandelks.org

November 2026



Message from ER Joe Winschel

To our Board and Members:

I have heard some members talking about packing up and leaving to the warmer climate for the winter months. Hard for me to believe that winter is knocking on our door.

I have to give a big shout out to the Activity Committee members who once again pulled off an amazing weekend. This required a lot of planning, organizing and set up in the banquet room for the annual Craft Fair. I noticed a lot of the vendors were repeat customers which is good for our next year's event. All of the cakes, deserts, and lunch menu was very impressive and delicious.

Also, we have installed video gaming machines in the member's lounge area. Come on in and give your luck a try on one of the five machines we have. We will continue to keep the pull tab machine in service for now. But the new video machine has the pull tabs available for use.

We have completed the renovation of the cooler in our kitchen. But, this came at an additional cost that was unexpected when the project got under way. We exceeded the maximum amount that we could spend before requesting approval from the Grand Lodge. Therefore, we will be voting on a proposal that was read on the floor at our last meeting during our upcoming general meeting on November 9.

Finally, I have nominated Pamela Dill as the Elk of the Month. Pamela is a member of our Activity Committee as well as a volunteer who is always available to assist with the Bingo lunches. She worked tirelessly to ensure the Craft Fair was ready and running when it was opened to the public. Congratulations Pamela on this award.

Lodge Installs New Electronic Pull Tab Machines

Recently installed, the new machines are in the Member's Lounge and have been busy.

See complete story on Page 7.

Christmas Wreaths for Vets

Wreaths are available for purchase to be placed at Togus National Cemetary.

See page 4.

$2,889 for MCCP

Read story on Page 5 and learn how our Lodge raises funds throughout the year for Maine Children's Cancer Program.

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	November 2	5:30 pm
Trustee Committee	November 9	4:30 pm
General Meeting	November 9	6:00 pm
Veteran Committee	November 23	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 188 Hours

Monday Closed
Tuesday Bingo ONLY
Wednesday 3pm—9 pm
Thursday Closed
Friday 3pm—10 pm
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

Meet Our Volunteers...Debbie Noble



I joined the Elks last year. I felt that the Elks do a lot of good projects for the communities around us. I am a member of the Activity Committee and volunteer on Tuesdays at Bingo.

I lived in Bridgton from 1959-2018 as I worked at Bridgton Hospital for 52 years. I started working in the kitchen doing dishes at the age of14 and back then I had to get a work permit to do this job. I eventually became an RN and retired in 2019 as a nurse supervisor.

In 2018 I moved to South Portland where I currently reside. When asked what my hobbies are, that was an easy one....I like knitting, making quilts and crafty things. I love knitting hats for the homeless people at Preble Street, and I make baby blankets for newborns at Mercy Hospital. It keeps my hands busy and my mind active!

I am the oldest of six children. My Mom was a bank supervisor at Norway Savings and my Dad worked at DiElectric, both located in Bridgton which is how I started working at Bridgton Hospital.

I like that the Elks supports so many different groups in our community which is one of the reasons I joined.



NOVEMBER 1, 2026 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS .... DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK ONE HOUR!



NOVEMBER 3, 2026 ELECTION DAY .... DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Christmas Wreaths for Veterans



Elks Lodges across the State will particiapte in providing Christmas wreaths for the tombstones at the Togus National Cemetary

$17 each

Please see Lodge Secretary Vickey Doughty

Wreaths will be placed on December 19 as part of Wreaths Across America

Raising Funds for MCCP....Thank You to our Members!

I want to thank all of our members and guests who participate in our efforts to raise money for the Maine Children's Cancer Program. Here's how you help:

- Purchased an Elroy that were displayed in the Lounge throughout September
- Took a chance on the Scratch Ticket/$50 Picture Frame raffle
- Take home CLYNK bags and, once filled, turn them in at a local Hannaford
- Buy 50/50 tickets on Wednesday or Friday nights; the second week of each month proceeds go to MCCP
- Deposit cans in the MCCP box during Tuesday Bingo

I will be bringing a check for $2,889 to the November Elk's State Meeting as a result of our efforts and this will go towards our state project that all lodges raise funds for.

Again, THANK YOU, ALL!!

Martha Binette
MCCP Chair





BINGO TUESDAYS

Our Portland Lodge hosts BINGO every Tuesday and it is open to all members, as well as the general public. The doors open at 9 am, paper sales begin at 10 am, and games begin at 12 noon and last until approximately 3 pm. Kitchen is open with great lunch options. Bring a friend and try it out, you'll have a fun afternoon and lots of chances to win!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH.....Banana Bread

3 or 4 ripe bananas
1 tsp baking soda
1 stick softened butter
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
2 cups flour
½ cup nuts, optional



Mix all ingredients together and put into greased loaf pan. Bake at Bake at 350 for one hour. Makes one loaf. Walnuts, optional!

If you have a receipe you'd like to share, email it to ktoppi@maine.rr.com

Basketball HOOP SHOOT



Open to all kids 8-13 years of age in Cumberland County. Take a shot at putting your name in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame through the Elks Hoop Shoot free throw contest.



Date
NOVEMBER 21

Registration
AT 9 AM

Location
AMANDA ROWE SCHOOL GYM
23 ORONO ROAD
PORTLAND

Event Time
10 AM

No cost. Open to all kids 8-13 years of age in Cumberland County.



JOIN THE FUN

Portland Elks Lodge #188
1945 Congress Street, Portland
207.773.7396
portlandelks188.org



Message from General Manager, Kim McDonough

The Portland Lodge now has electronic pull tab machines. The install was very smooth as our resident handy person had all the wires, new circuit and Cat 6 cables run (no ugly wires showing anywhere)! The installers said it was the smoothest project this year! We have five machines and each machine has two games. The highest payouts are $500 on the one- dollar bets, and $1,000 on the two-dollar bets. The machines have an attached POS (point of sale) machine which generates reports for all sales, payouts and the monthly gaming reports to the State of Maine. The State is heavily encouraging clubs to get on board with these new machines due to the accuracy of cash handling and reporting. This system should give us all peace of mind, and members and guests are loving them so far! Please check them out when you are at the lodge.

We will be closed on Wednesday, November 25, 2026 for the Thanksgiving holiday, and we will re-open Friday, November 27, 2026 opening at 3:00 pm.

Tickets for New Year's Eve will be going on sale November 4, 2026. We are going back in time for the Under the Sea Enchantment Dance. Wear your 80's if you wish. We have Northern Groove Band who are great, cash bar, appetizers, buffet, dessert and coffee bar, champagne toast, party favors, all for $60.00 per person complete. We want to have a fantastic evening with great food while keeping the price reasonable for our members and guests. Get your table together!







Members and Guests are invited to play the machines when the Member's Lounge is open Wednesdays and Fridays. Machines will not be operational when lounge is closed or at private events.

VETERAN COMMITTEE NEWS

Last month the committee explained Welcome Home Kits and the details that go into providing a Welcome Home kit. Over the past month, the Veterans Committee successfully provided four Welcome Home Kits to veterans transitioning into new homes. Thanks to the incredible backing of the ENF Veterans Program, there is no limit on the total number of kits we can provide. In fact, our program partner is now actively reaching out to us with more referrals after learning about the strength of our initiative. Our Lodge can fully expect to see this critical program grow in the coming months as we serve even more local heroes.

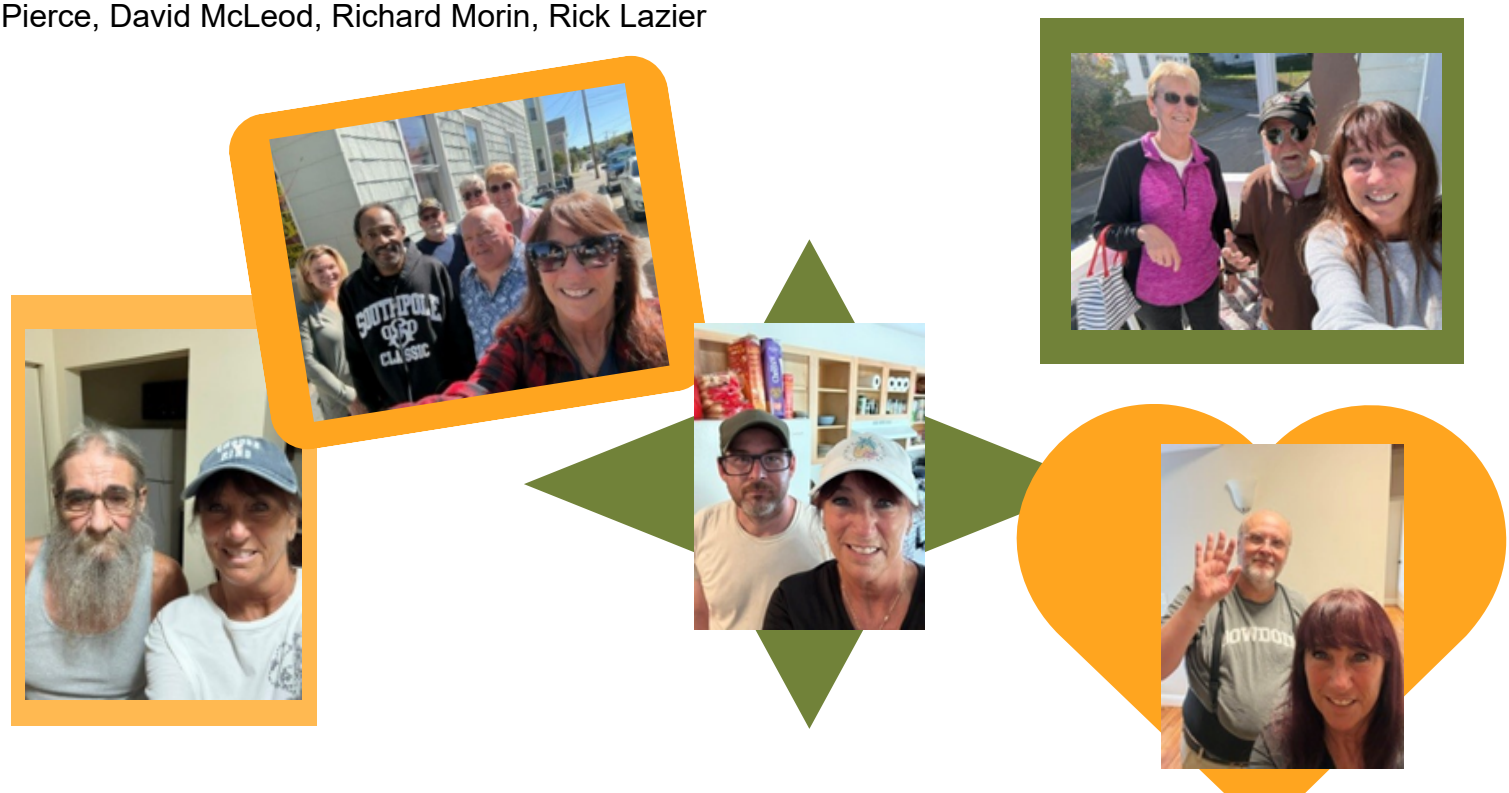
While our program is highly impactful, we operate under strict financial guidelines and explicit kit exclusions.Below outlines our spending caps and the essential household items that require direct support from our members, family and friends:

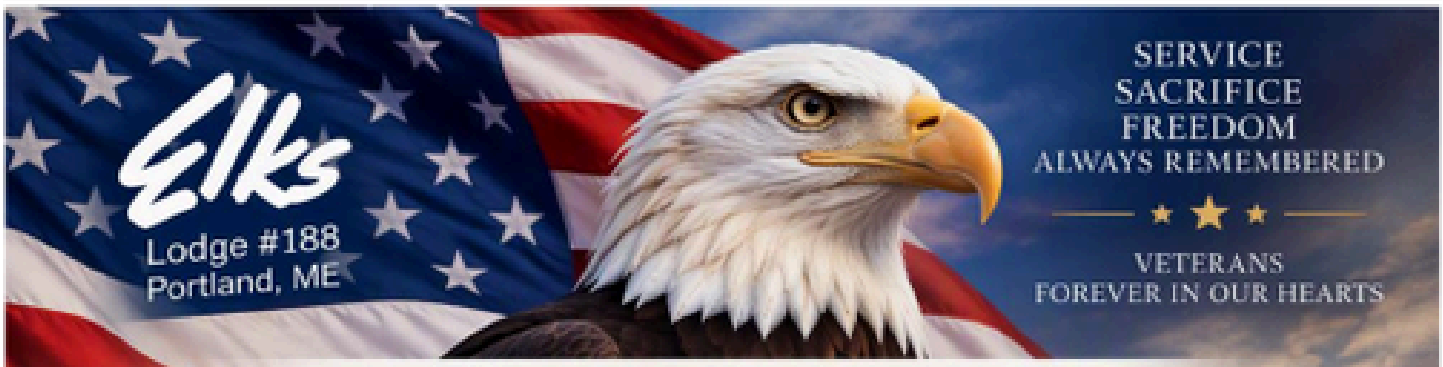
Category Funding allowed:

- Kits with bed Up to $600
- Kits without a bed Up to $400
- Excluded furniture: tables, chairs, bureaus, end tables etc.
- Excluded electronics: TV's, microwaves

Because critical items like tables, chairs, televisions, and microwaves cannot be purchased using standard kit funds, we rely completely on the generosity of our lodge members, family and friends. We ask you to look around for gently used items or even donate towards the purchase of an item. These extra items are not always needed, but when they are, that is when we need you. Delivery of these items is typically within a week.

Please meet the last five veterans we have helped transition into new housing: Richard Labbe, Adam Pierce, David McLeod, Richard Morin, Rick Lazier





★ ANNUAL VETERANS ★
THANKSGIVING DINNER

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

The Veterans Committee from Portland Elks Lodge 188 invites ***you and a guest*** to our Annual Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner.

DATE:
Saturday, November 14, 2026

TIME:
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

PLACE:
Portland Elks Lodge 188
1945 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04102

MEAL:
Good Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving Dinner

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please call

(207) 245-8661

to reserve your spot today.

We ask that you call so that we know how many meals to prepare for.

- ★ **Veterans are welcome to bring one guest.**
- ★ **Lodge Veteran members may also sign up at the Lodge.**
- ★ **Deadline for signing up is November 6, 2026.**

Thank You for Your Service!

★ ★ ★

We look forward to serving you!

FREEDOM
IS A THANKFUL NATION



★ ★ PORTLAND ELKS LODGE 188 | VETERANS COMMITTEE ★ ★

ACTIVITY NEWS

Kim Toppi, Committee Chair





Upcoming Events

November in the Lounge

November 6: Disco Music Videos
November 13: DJ Steve Clancy
November 20: DJ Bobby Queen
November 27: 80s Music Videos

November 14
Veteran Thanksgiving Dinner

November 14
Serving lunch at Deering Oaks

November 21
Hoop Shoot Contest

November 25
LODGE CLOSED

November 26
Happy Thanksgiving

If you are interested in helping to serve lunch on Saturday, December 19, at Deering Oaks, please contact Kim Toppi at 207.329.0845. This will be our last month serving lunch to our unhoused community.

If you have any gently used winter clothes, socks, boots that you are willing to donate, please bring to the Lodge on Friday, December 18, and they will be delivered to the Oaks.

November Observances

November 1	Daylight Savings Time ;;;; Fall Back
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 13	World Kindness Day
November 19	Great American Smokeout
November 26	Thanksgiving
November	National Alzheimer's Awareness Month



MAINE ELKS ASSOCIATION CALENDAR WINNERS



SEPTEMBER 2026

Paul Robinson - $25

Felicia Ham - $25

Roger Jones - $50

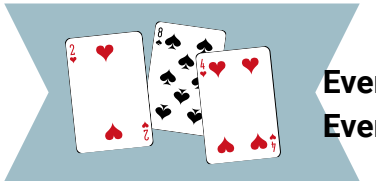
Weekly Happenings



BINGO
Every Tuesday, doors open 9 am, ticket sales 10 am, games 12 noon until 3 pm.



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's play 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.

Craft Fair 2026.....this amazing team worked diligently for days getting ready to make this year's event a success! Many thanks for all they did for Lodge 188.























ELK OF THE MONTH
PAMELA DILL



Congratulations, for being selected as Elk of the Month for November.

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	Elk "Booster"
Ronald W. Allen	
Lester Armstrong	Natalie Armstrong
Jim Augur	Mary Augur
Don Bodin, Jr.	George Anderson
Ken Carle	Pauline Murphy
William Cornish	Dana Staples
Dominic Distasio	Mary Distasio
Henry “Skip” Doughty	Doughty Family
John Paul Dumas	Victoria and Skip Doughty
Percy Farr	Carlene Farr
Arlene Fenderson	Linda Lincoln
Archie L’Heureux	L’Heureux Family
Catherine McDonough	Millie McDonough
John Milton	Beth Milton
Will Mulkern	Irene Mulkern
Don	Pauline Murphy
Seymour Nathanson	Elliott Nathanson
Sterling Parker	Janice Parker
Kathryn Paquette	Carl Paquette
Elizabeth Smith	The Smith Family
William Smith	Timothy Smith
Allen “Bud” St. Pierre	Tim & Liz Smith
Bob Stokinger	Gladys Stokinger
Harold Tucker	Carole Gillespie
Harry Winger	

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)_____