



Portland Elks

The 188 News

November 2025

Dear Members and Officers,

Fall is now upon us, kids are back in school and football is back on TV. I have to say this is my favorite time of the year.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Grand Exalted Ruler's visit to Portland Lodge 188. We are pleased to host Bryan Klatt and his wife Susan who will be at our lodge on Wednesday, November 12. Kim McDonough will be serving her amazing Italian themed dinner with the menu. See invite on page 13 for more details. .



In addition, the annual Hoop Shoot contest will once again be held this year at the Stevens Square Community Center gym on November 9. This event is open to all kids between the ages of 8-13 and the event will begin at 11:00 a.m. Participants will be competing for the chance to advance to the district hoop shoot event and hopefully advance to the State, regional and finally National Hoop Shoot contest. If you have any children or grandchildren interested in this event, please have them contact me at 207.232.0133.

Also, we will be hosting our Veterans Thanksgiving lunch at our Lodge on November 8. Please sign up for this if you are a veteran at our lodge for what is to be a fantastic meal.

Finally, I have nominated Andy Leary as the Elk of the Month for November. Thank you Andy for all you do to make our lodge a better place for all to enjoy.

Fraternally yours

Joe Winschel
Exalter 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 Dougherty
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.

Our sincere thanks to all those who have placed an order.

LODGE 188 MONTHLY MEETINGS

House Committee: November 3, 5:30 pm

Trustee Committee: November 10, 4:30 pm

General Meeting: November 10, 6 pm

Veteran Committee: November 24, 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.



HOW TO DOCUMENT CHARITABLE REPORTING

Charity is the first and greatest virtue of the Order of Elks, and we prove that every day through service to our communities. From youth programs and veteran outreach to helping our seniors, donations and volunteer hours by our members make a significant impact in our community. But if it's not reported, It's as if it never happened/

That's where charitable reporting comes in. Each Lodge is responsible for documenting its charitable activity through the Grand Lodge Charitable Records System. These reports support our nonprofit status, inform national leadership, and help tell the story of the Elks across the country. Here's a quick guide to what goes into the report:

PEOPLE ASSISTED: This is the number of recipients helped by the charitable activity—meaning only the community members served.

MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS INVOLVED: We count the number of Elk Members and non-Members who actively participated. A strong Lodge shows strong Member participation!!!!

HOURS WORKED: Report all volunteer time spent on charitable activities—planning, working, setting up, transporting, or cleaning up. Count Members and Non-Members. Remember to count travel and prep time.

MILES DRIVEN: Track mileage for charitable purposes when Members use personal vehicles. Use actual miles or a reliable estimate—every mile adds up!

CONTRIBUTIONS (CASH AND NON-CASH): Non-cash includes anything of value your Lodge donates or facilitates. Use fair market value for donated goods. Cash contributions are funds donated to charitable organizations or individuals/

FINAL TIP—report monthly—don't wait until the end of the year, while it's fresh in your mind! Accurate and timely reporting helps protect our tax-exempt status, strengthens our reputation and recognition, and reflects the true value of what Elks do every day.

At Lodge 188, there is a VOLUNTEER BOOK, located just inside the kitchen door, to log volunteer hours. Our volunteers do make every effort to log hours, but we can do better.

GOING FORWARD—there will be a clip board on the Bar each Wednesday and Friday evening, as well as for each committee meeting, for volunteers to sign to make it easier for everyone. Volunteers include anyone who is selling 50/50 tickets, Queen of Heart tickets, calling 3 Card Challenge, shuffling cards, serving the buffet line, cashiering for dinner, working Bingo, etc. Hours and mileage should be logged at all General Meetings, Veteran Meetings, Trustee Meetings, Activity Meetings, Audit Meetings. Any time Members are volunteering in the kitchen, organizing storage, helping to set tables, etc etc.

Let's make sure every act of Elkdom is counted, recorded, and recognized. After all, our work speaks for itself—but only if we report it. ***Be the Difference!***

MANAGER'S MESSAGE from Kim McDonough



The kitchen hood project is complete!! It has been a long-time coming, and I am truly grateful to the Trustees and Board for approving this much needed renovation. The hood system in the kitchen dated back to 1969, so you can only imagine what a difference this new system will make in our kitchen. In addition to the new hood system, the sprinkler system and the fire alarm system were also updated to comply with City of Portland guidelines.

The project was completed on time and the kitchen was able to re-open on schedule.

My sincere thanks to Steve Corey and Joe Fagone who were on hand every day overseeing the numerous contractors involved in the project.



HOUSE COMMITTEE NEWS, Joan Harmon, Chair



NEWSLETTER TO GO DIGITAL

Beginning January 1, 2026, this monthly newsletter will be DIGITAL ONLY.



If you are currently receiving the newsletter IN THE MAIL, you need to contact the Lodge and provide your email address.

If you are currently receiving the newsletter IN THE MAIL AND receive it VIA EMAIL, there is no need to contact the Lodge, as we already have your email address. Just know that you will no longer receive a printed copy via US Mail beginning in January.

If you don't have an email, please contact the Lodge, and we will make sure you receive a paper copy.

Contact: Kim Toppi at 207.329.0845, or send your email to ktoppi@maine.rr.com
Vickey Doughty at 207.773.6939, ext 3, or send email to elks188@maine.rr.com

A limited number of printed copies will be in the Lounge each month for anyone to pickup.



Portland Elks Lodge 188
1945 Congress Street, Portland

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

Doors Open 8 am

Paper Sales 8:30 am

Kitchen Open 8:30 am—1:30pm

Games start at 12 noon



**SUPER Bingo with
larger payouts**

**\$40 New Year's
Package**

**More than \$5,000 in
Prizes....what a way to
start the New Year**

**Pull Tabs for Sale
50/50 Raffle**

**Kitchen opens at 8:30 am with
breakfast options; lunch menu
10-1:30 pm....all homemade items**


**Happy
New
Year!**



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 House Committee 5:30 pm	4 Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 N	5 3 Cards 530 pm	6	7 3 Cards 6 pm DJ Queen	8 Veterans Thanksgiving Lunch; 12N
9 Hoop Shoot 10 am	10 Trustees 4:30 pm Gen Mtg 6 pm	11 Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 N	12 3 Cards 530 pm Grand Exalted Ruler Visit	13	14 3 Cards 6 pm DJ Queen	15
16	17	18 Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 N	19 3 Cards 530 pm	20	21 3 Cards 6 pm DJ Queen	22
23	24 Veteran Committee 5 pm	25 Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 N	26 Happy Thanksgiving LODGE CLOSED		27	28 3 Cards 6 pm DJ Queen
30						

ACTIVITY COMMITTEE NEWS, Kim Toppi, Chair

Well we did it! Another successful Craft Fair & Bake Sale at Lodge 188. Without this great group of volunteers, I could have not done this. It was a long week of baking culminating in a fantastic day for our vendors, our shoppers, and our members. Very proud to be a part of Lodge 188.

My sincere thank you to everyone involved.....Bob Lax , Karen Emerson, Gary Littlefield, Vickey Doughty, Chris Grassi, Lori Grassi, Peggy Ledoux, Cathy DeLuca, Gloria Lax, Susan Smythe, Brenda Farris, Judy Coon, John Dascanio, Pamela Dill, Lisa Dolan, Joan Harmon, Michele Bukovevkas, Coco Hilton, Elaine Smith, Sandy Smith., Julie Morin, Colleen Hilton. A few folks missing from the photos: our dishwasher, Margaret Poulin, our bartender, Monica DiSanto, our newest teen volunteer Brynn, and our general manager Kim McDonough.



COMFORT CASES FOR ADOPTIVE & FOSTER FAMILIES OF MAINE



On any given day, there are more than 368,000 children in foster care in the United States. Most of them are removed from their homes with little more than the clothes on their backs. If they do have any personal belongings, they are given a trash bag in which to carry them. Comfort Cases believes that every child deserves to feel a sense of dignity. Every child deserves to pack their belongings in a special bag that they can call their very own. Every child deserves to have a cozy new pair of pajamas, a brand new warm blanket, and a new stuffed animal to hug during the traumatic transition into foster care.

HELP US FILL 100 BACKPACKS!

Below is a list of what items are needed.

PLEASE STAY WITHIN THE GUIDELINES, as the agency knows best what these young kids need as they transition into foster care.

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 14! Cash donations may be given to Kim Toppi or Karen Emerson and we will shop for you.

Donate a Bag to a Child 3 to 10 years old

- Pajamas, 3T to 8/10 (no nightgowns or spaghetti straps)
- Bombas Socks
- Blanket no larger than 30"x40"
- Toothbrush (1 – 3 pack)
- Toothpaste (travel size)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)
- Lotion (travel size)
- Soap or Body Wash (travel size)
- Stuffed Animal (12" or smaller)
- Coloring Book & Crayons (8-36 pack)
- Book

Donate a Bag to a Teen 11+ years old

- Pajamas, Child Size 10 to Adult 3XL
- Bombas Socks
- Blanket no larger than 30"x40"
- Adult Toothbrush (1 – 3 pack)
- Toothpaste (travel size)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)
- Lotion (travel size)
- Soap or Body Wash (travel size)
- Deodorant
- Feminine Pads for girls (no tampons)
- Stuffed Animal (12" or smaller)
- Journal
- Pens & Pencils
- Book



Portland Elks Lodge 188
1945 Congress Street
Portland
(across from Portland Jetport)

The Elks Veterans Committee invites you and a guest to our annual
Veterans Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Saturday, November 8, 2025

12:00 noon – 1:30 pm

Portland Elks Lodge 188

1945 Congress Street, Portland

Meal: Good ole fashion Thanksgiving Dinner

Please call (207) 712-9062 to reserve a spot today.

Deadline is November 1.

We ask for a call so that we prepare appropriately.

Thank you for your service.

We look forward to serving you!

Lodge Veteran
members may
sign up at the
Lodge.



MEET OUR VOLUNTEER.....GARY LITTLEFIELD

After visiting the Lodge on a number of occasions , I joined the Elks in June of 2023. I find the Lodge to be very volunteer orientated and supportive of numerous civic charities, and encourages its members to get involved, and I must mention that I have met many wonderful people since I joined.

I currently don't belong on any Committees but do volunteer to support these committees when I can. I have volunteered for the Christmas Fair, The Summit Project, helping out around the Club , and assist in the sale of the 50/50 tickets every Wednesday evening.

I am widowed after almost 54 years of marriage and have two children. My son David and daughter Amy. Each provided me with a great grandchild, one girl from my son, and a son from my daughter.

I was born and raised in South Portland where I lived until 1999 as a result of a career change and upon my full retirement in 2015 moved to my current residence in Scarborough. I attended the South Portland School system and graduated in the Class of 1967. After High School I served in the United States Marine Corp Reserves from 1967 until 1973.

I joined the South Portland Fire Department in 1970 and progressed through the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, and Deputy Chief. Serving just shy of 30 years, I retired from the South Portland Fire Department in 1999 to serve in the position of Fire Chief for the City of Westbrook, retiring ten years later in 2009. Throughout my career I always enjoyed helping others. I find membership in the Lodge is helping me to continue to fill this need.



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 to date:

January: Greg Ives

February: Paul Poore, Joann Sparks, Martha Binette

March: Gary Rairdon, Karen Emerson

April: Greg Ives

May: Barbara Pileggi

June: Gary Rairdon, Barbara Pileggi, Ioan Harmon

July: Gale Murphy, Vickey Doughty, Joseph Scala

August: Roger Jones, Vickey Doughty

September: Barbara Pileggi, Tim Smith, Michael Binette





REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

It coincides with holidays in several countries, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which also occur on the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.



Symbol of remembrance for veterans

The poppy flower is a symbol of remembrance for veterans, particularly on Veterans Day. It represents the sacrifices made by soldiers and is distributed by organizations like the American Legion to raise funds for disabled and hospitalized veterans. The tradition of wearing poppies originated from the poem "In Flanders Fields," which highlights the poppy's association with war memorials. In the U.S., red poppies are given out on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, serving as a reminder of the sacrifice of military personnel.

On this Veterans Day, we at Portland Elks Lodge 188, honor and remember all those who served or are serving in the armed forces. Thank you for your service!



FREEDOM GRANT PRESENTED TO VAST

On October 15, members of Lodge 188 Veterans Committee presented Kristina Sabasteanski from VAST a check of \$1,000.

VAST (Veterans Adaptive Sports & Training), located at Pineland Farms, goal is to promote lifelong health and well-being of veterans with disabilities through regular participation in a VAST array of physical activities and sports. Any and all veterans are encouraged to volunteer and enjoy some outdoor activities and a sense of camaraderie with fellow veterans.

Current sports include: Target Archery, Pellet Rifle Shooting, Laser Rifle Shooting, Cycling (Mountain, Hand, & Recumbent), Fly and Spin Cast Fishing, Fly Tying, Disc Golf, Boccia Ball, WC Basketball, Floor Hockey, & Tennis, Snow Shoeing, Nordic Pole Walking, Cross Country Skiing, Trail Walking.

Lodge 188 is proud to support the VAST program in our community.



AND WE HAVE A WINNER.....\$46,919

Kim Baker is our newest Queen of Hearts winner. She was the lucky name drawn on September 26. She was presented her check by ER Joe Winschel, and is pictured here with her fiancé, Bruce Reddington Congratulations, Kim!



FRIDAY NIGHT LODGE FUN





Grand Exalted Ruler to Visit Lodge 188

You are cordially invited to a banquet
Honoring Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan Klatt

Wednesday, November 12

Social: 6 pm; Buffet dinner: 7 pm

\$25 per person



RSVP by November 6

Contact: Martha Binette, 207.671.3133

Joe Winschel, 207.232.0133



STEP UP TO THE LINE

Take a shot at putting your name in
the Naismith Memorial Basketball
Hall of Fame through the Elks Hoop
Shoot free throw contest.

Kids ages 8-13 are eligible to compete. Find the
nearest contest at elks.org/HoopShoot.

Portland Elks Lodge 188 Hoop Shoot Contest

Sunday, November 9, 10:30 am Registration; Event begins 11 am

Stevens Square Community Center, 631 Stevens Avenue, Portland
(former Catherine McAuley High School gym)

Open to all students in Cumberland County, 8-13 years old

ELK OF THE MONTH...OCTOBER



Congratulations, Steve Corey, for being selected as Elk of the Month for October. 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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS AT LODGE 188



Initiated at the October 13 General Meeting by ER Joe Winschel (l-r): Candace Froehlich, Kim Adams, Robin Rutherford, Melissa Minkler, Wayne Curry, Sue Beckwith, Bonnie Barton. Welcome!!



Lifetime Boosters

In Honor/Memory Of

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

Elk "Booster"

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) _____



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

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 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