



Portland Elks

The 188 News

October 2025

Dear Members and Officers,

I am looking forward to the cool nights and brilliant fall colors. We surely have much to be thankful for here in Maine.

As many of you may know, we went through a thorough audit and inspection of our games of chance this past month. This was due to the outcome of the final drawing of the queen of hearts to one lucky member of our lodge. The State of Maine gaming commission concluded this inspection and found our procedures to be sound and were impressed with our record keeping. I want to thank all who worked with them to bring this matter to a close. We will be working on implementing new rules for our games of chance to ensure we are completely compliant going forward.

Also, beginning on October 3, the installation of the kitchen hood will begin in our kitchen. This will limit our ability to prepare meals for our members on Wednesday and Friday for that week. Please be patient with us as this project will benefit our lodge in so many ways.

And finally, many may have noticed that we now have a reserved space for the Elk of the Month. This space will be given to one member of our lodge who either goes above and beyond in their duty to our lodge or exemplifies elkdom in their actions. ***This month the award goes to Steve Corey. Congratulations Steve!***

Fraternally yours,

Joe Winschel
Exalted Ruler



What's Inside:

Page 4	Manager's Message
Page 5	Harvest Craft & Bake Sale
Page 6	Calendar of Events
Page 8	Comfort Cases
Page 9	Kid's Halloween Party
Page 10	Meet Our Volunteer
Page 11	Veteran Committee News
Page 12	Most Valuable Student Scholarship



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: October 6, 5:30 pm

Activity Committee: October 8, 2 pm

Trustee Committee: October 13, 4:30 pm

General Meeting: October 13, 6 pm

Veteran Committee: October 27, 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



This is a perfect time of the year, the leaves are turning red, orange, and gold, apples are crisp and shiny, Country Fairs are starting up.

I love the Fall Season!

Portland Elks Lodge #188 is growing; we will be initiating seven new members on October 13. We have 35 members who are delinquent, so if you just forgot to send in your dues or have decided not to renew your membership, please contact the Secretary's office 207.773.7356 ext. 103 to update your membership information.



Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the families and friends of the following members who have recently passed: Sharon Castelucci, John Chandler, and Francis Butler.



HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATES, Joan Harmon, Chair



- A special meeting was held on September 11 to discuss recent changes at our Lodge regarding Games of Chance. The House Committee is currently in the process of updating rules for how we conduct Queen of Hearts, 3 Card Challenge, 50/50, Bingo, and Pot of Gold. Once everything has been updated, we will share with our members. In the meantime, all volunteers who are working on Wednesday or Friday nights on these games of chance, have been informed of changes needed.
- A reminder to all members, unless asked by the Bartender on duty, no member is allowed behind the bar during business hours.
- Members are most welcome to bring guests to the Lounge. As a reminder, the guest(s) must be signed in by you, and must leave when you leave. This is in our Lodge By-Laws and needs to be followed by all members.
- A reminder to members, parking behind the Lodge kitchen is meant for staff and/or volunteers working in the kitchen. These spaces are limited, so please don't park there unless you are working. The staff/volunteers who work and leave late at night, very much appreciate having those spaces available to them.

The House Committee meets the 1st Monday of every month at 5:30 pm and is open to any member in good standing. Any concern, suggestion, questions about the Lodge—please come to a meeting to share your comments/concerns. The House Committees main responsibility is to deal with the every day operation of the Lodge, and we are here to listen to you and seek answers to problems.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE from Kim McDonough

Hard to believe it's October already! This month we will be installing a new hood system in our kitchen, which is long overdue. Beginning October 3 we will have three different vendors working on the kitchen.....installing the new hood, updating the sprinkler system as well as the fire alarm system. The Lodge will remain open, however October 3, 8 and possibly October 10, our kitchen menu will be very limited. Keep an eye out for the weekly Blasts.

The kitchen staff and I have been busy working on a NEW catering menu! Our goal is to have a menu with delicious dishes for your holiday parties. More details coming as we fine tune the menu. Once ready, we will be actively advertising this new venture for Lodge 188.

Speaking of the holidays, dates are quickly filling up. When planning your family holiday gathering, or helping to coordinate a holiday party for your office, please keep the Portland Elks in mind. As you know we have a beautiful ballroom that can accommodate 300+ people, and our Lounge can hold an event for up to 130. Both rooms have recently been painted, new drapery in the ballroom, new dinnerware, and our staff is on hand to help whatever is needed to make your event exceptional for you and your guests.

A few photos from recent events:





.If you're thinking about what to do this winter, think about VOLUNTEERING for Bingo/

Our Bingo Hall and Bingo Kitchen teams are always welcoming new folks to the team.



Please contact myself to learn more about what our Hall volunteers do at **603.312.3691** or for the Kitchen Team contact Kim Toppi at **207.329.0845**.

Save the Date: our annual Halloween Costume Party will take place on Tuesday, October 28. All Bingo players are encouraged to come and enjoy the day in costume. Prizes awarded for top three fan favorites.

Save the Date: our 2nd Annual New Year's Super Bingo will be held Tuesday, December 30. The day is sure to be a sellout. Watch for details coming soon.

You're guaranteed to have fun at Lodge 188 when you volunteer or come to play!!!

Portland Elks Lodge 188
1945 Congress Street, Portland

Harvest Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, October 18, 9 am—3:00 pm

35 crafters from Maine

Homemade candies, cakes, breads,
chicken pot pies, and more!

Lunch 10:30—1:30 pm

Salads, Meatballs, Lobster Rolls,
Homemade Haddock Chowder & More

50/50 Raffle.....YETI Cooler Raffle

Free Admission. Plenty of Parking.



October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  3 Cards 5:30 pm	2	3  3 Cards 6pm DJ Queen	4
5	6 House Committee 5:30 pm	7  Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 n	8  Activity Com, 2 pm 3 Cards 5:30 pm	9	10  3 Cards 6pm DJ Queen 50s Night	11
12	13 Trustees 4:30 pm Gen Mtg 6 pm	14  Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 n	15  3 Cards 5:30 pm	16	17  3 Cards 6pm DJ Queen	18 Harvest Craft Fair/ Bake Sale 9-3 pm
19	20	21  Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 n	22  3 Cards 5:30 pm	23	24  3 Cards 6pm DJ Queen	25
26 Kid's Halloween Party 12 noon	27 Veteran Committee 5 pm	28  Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 n	29  3 Cards 5:30 pm	30	31  3 Cards 6pm DJ Queen 	

ACTIVITY COMMITTEE NEWS, Kim Toppi, Chair

The Activity Committee has lots of fun things planned for the upcoming few months. Here's what's on tap:

- Friday, October 10, 50s Night in the Lounge. Get out those saddle shoes!
- Saturday, October 18, is our annual Harvest Craft & Bake Sale. Volunteers have been busy making chicken pot pies, and will soon be making candies, cookies, and breads for sale.
- October/November we will be soliciting items for our Comfort Cases, a project we will be using the Spotlight Grant for. Comfort Cases are backpacks filled with specific items and given to children entering the foster care system.
- Sunday, October 26, Kid's Halloween Party, 12 noon. Trick o' Treat around the Lounge, pumpkin decorating, games, light lunch, and fun for all the ghosts and goblins! Bring your nieces, nephews, grandchildren and the neighborhood kids for a spooky good time!
- Friday, October 31, Costume Contest in the Lounge. Prizes for fan favorite costumes.



It's 50s Night at the lodge

Friday, October 10

DJ Bobby Queen will be playing all of your favorite 50s songs Elvis, Bill Haley & The Comets, The Platters, Little Richard, Patsy Cline, Billie Holiday, Connie Francis and more! Requests taken, but tonight, no karaoke.

Get your saddle shoes and poodle skirts ready!!

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 Kid's Halloween Party
Sunday, October 26, 12 noon—2 pm
1945 Congress Street, Portland
FREE.....Open to Elk members kids,
grandchildren, friends, general public

- Costumes Encouraged
- Trick o' Treating around the Lodge
- Pumpkin Decorating
- Games
- Light Lunch

Call 207.329.0845 and leave message with
number of kids attending.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEER.....Margaret Poulin

Margaret Poulin joined the Elks in 2020 during covid. She was looking for socialization opportunities and knew some of her sisters were members and were enjoying the good work being done for the local communities, so she joined up. She quickly volunteered in a number of capacities. She is a member of the Activity Committee and helps with banquet events. She also volunteers for the craft fair, the school supply drive, veteran events, and any and all fundraising efforts. Margaret and her sister Patty brought the Basket Raffle concept to the club since she was familiar with a similar fundraising effort in Massachusetts.



Margaret has been married to Marc Poulin for 40 years. After growing up in Westbrook and marrying, they moved to Gardiner, Massachusetts where they lived for 30 years. They moved back home to Westbrook in 2018 and were grateful to be near family once again. Margaret and Marc, who is also one of the chefs at the club, have two daughters, Cassandra and Colleen. They also have four beautiful granddaughters, Madeline, Matilda, Josephine and Rowan.

Margaret spent 25 years working at Gardiner High School where she was the Administrative Assistant to the Principal. Her organizational skills from that job have translated nicely into many of the volunteer roles she takes on at the club. Not one to sit idle, she also continues to work part time in various jobs since her true retirement. She worked at Springbrook Nursing Home in the dietary department and then recently took a job for CVS where she drives medications to nursing homes all over the state. It is not unusual for Margaret to travel to Jackman at least once a week. She loves driving and the opportunity to listen to audio books as she is an avid reader. Her family also likes to kid her about how many vacations she goes on as she loves to travel. When she isn't working or volunteering, you will likely find her on some adventure with her sisters!



Bags of individually wrapped candy is being accepted for our
Kid's Halloween Party.

Please drop off to the Lounge NO LATER than Wednesday, October 22. Your donation is kindly appreciated and will be put to good use.

VETERAN COMMITTEE NEWS, Willie Goodman, Chair

I am pleased to report that our Veteran Committee members recently delivered items to a previously homeless veteran that has moved into a new apartment. Items we were able to secure and deliver to him included a bed, new bedding, table, chairs, and kitchen and bathroom supplies. This is the 11th veteran we have been able to assist with moving into new apartments this year.

We would like to extend a thank you to Pam Payeur, Executive Director of the Wounded Heroes Program of Maine and her team for their donations which they delivered to Lodge 188 for these apartments.



We also extend our appreciation to many of our Lodge members for their generous donations and offers to help us accomplish our commitment to veterans in need of assistance.

On another note, I have been appointed by the Elks of Maine Association to be the Lodge's veteran representative for the Scarborough and South Paris Veteran's Homes. At some point, I will be talking to lodge members that are veterans who might have an interest in joining me as a deputy representative to assist me with these two homes.



BINGO LUNCH—KITCHEN CLOSED

Due to the construction and installation of the new hood system in the kitchen, there will be NO FOOD SERVICE on Tuesday, October 7. Bingo players are welcome to bring their own lunch and snacks. We will re-open for breakfast/lunch service on Tuesday, October 14.

Get Your Costume Ready!!

Vote for your favorite costume at the Lodge on Friday, October 31, in the Lounge. Prizes awarded to top three costumes. Come in and have a spook-tacular good time!





SCHOOL SUPPLIES DELIVERED

During the week of September 15, deliveries of schools supplies, after school games, clothing, snacks, and so much more were made to three schools in our community!

With funds from the ENF Beacon Grant and donations from our Lodge 188 members, each school received close to \$1,800 worth of supplies to help teachers in their classrooms.

THANK YOU to all our members who **helped make this year's community project**, another success for Lodge 188.

Pam Charles, Martha Binette, Mary Toppi and Kim Toppi delivered to Presumpscot School in Portland.



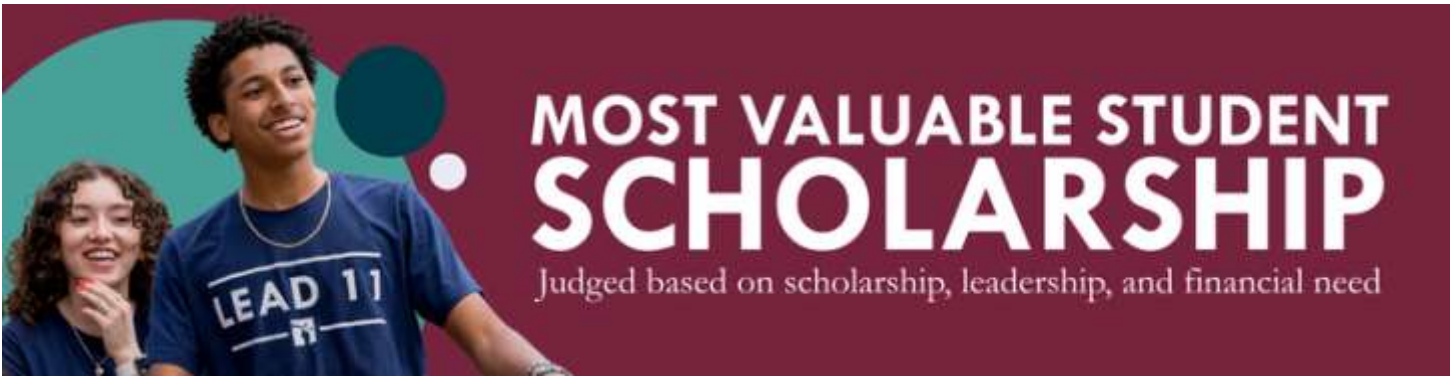
Martha Binette, Lori Grassi and Chris Grassi delivered to Village Elementary in Gorham.



Susan Smythe, Karen Emerson and Kim Toppi delivered to Windham Primary in Windham.



VOLUNTEERS HARD AT WORK AT
LODGE 188



The 2026 MVS application closes on November 12, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time.

Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership, and financial need.

Eligibility:

- Current high school seniors, or the equivalent, who are citizens of the United States are eligible to apply.
- Applicants **do not** need to be related to a member of the Elks.
- High school graduates are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be citizens of the United States on the date their applications are submitted; permanent legal resident status does not qualify.

Awards:

The Elks National Foundation will award 500 four-year scholarships to the highest-rated applicants in the 2026 competition.

- The Elks National Foundation will award 500 four-year scholarships to the highest-rated applicants in the 2026 competition.
- Male and female students compete separately.
- Ranging from \$1,000 per year to \$7,500 per year, Most Valuable Student scholarships are for students pursuing a four-year degree, on a full-time basis (minimum of 12 semester hours), in a U.S. college or university. All scholarships are in the form of certificates of award conditional upon the full-time enrollment of the winner in an accredited U.S. college or university.

Apply:

- <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/MVS.cfm>



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