

October 2026



Message from ER Joe Winschel

To our Board and Members:

The days are getting shorter as we enter the fall equinox. This is my favorite time of the year when all the tourists leave, and the price of lobsters fall.

The Portland Elks lodge greeted the President and First Lady on their visit to our lodge on September 18. The Plaid Dad's band played into the night, which was enjoyed very much by those in attendance. On Saturday, we toured the Victoria Mansion, which is one of the few remaining brownstone mansions in the country. This was followed by a firetruck tour of the city highlighting all the architectural and historic sites of Portland. Then on Saturday, we were entertained by the Country Road band to top off the weekend. They were quite impressed by the hospitality and interaction with our members of the lodge.

The walk-in cooler in the kitchen was originally installed back when the lodge first opened back in the early 70's. We desperately needed to update the inside walls and insulation which has taken place. This was a much-needed repair which will keep this cooler running efficiently for the next generation of elks. Many thanks again to Steve Corey who managed the completion of this project from beginning to end.

Also, we currently have a member of our lodge who has volunteered her time to repair some of our antique Elk's furniture located in our lodge. This furniture is an important keepsake of our past and history which needs to be maintained and preserved. Please refrain from sitting or using any piece of this furniture so that it may remain within our lodge for many years to come.

Finally, I have nominated Dennis Ricket for the Elk of the Month. You may have seen Dennis selling tickets at our Tuesday Bingo games. He is also an active member of our Veteran Committee where he is always volunteering to assist the veterans of our community. Thank you and congratulations to Dennis.

State President Visit

On September 18 and 19, our new State President and First Lady visited Portland Lodge 188.

Photos on Page 5

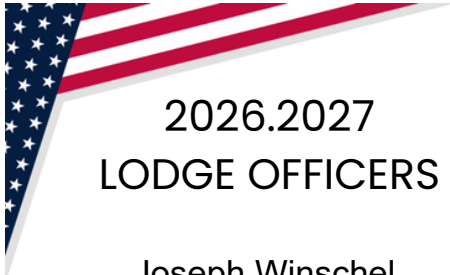
Harvest Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, October 17, the Lodge will be filled with 40 crates, the Lobby will be filled with homemade candies, cookies and baked goods, the Lounge will be serving lunch! Bring your neighbors and friends to celebrate the season.

Welcome Home Kits

Learn about the Veteran Welcome Home Kit Project and how Lodge 188 is helping veterans in our community.

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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	October 5	5:30 pm
Trustee Committee	October 12	4:30 pm
General Meeting	October 12	6:00 pm
Activity Committee	October 7	2:00 pm
Veteran Committee	October 26	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...Joan Howard



I am starting my 15th year as an Elk, joining the Auburn Elks #2118 in Massachusetts which is where my Dad was a Life member and served on their Board of Trustees for many years and one of my older sisters was the first female ER at that same lodge- I was familiar with the many good works the Elks provided but lived in Maine and not close enough to do any volunteer work, until my sister told me I could transfer and I did in 2017.

That is when I became deeply involved in volunteering, first Chairing the Hoop Shoot Committee, then Being installed as a Loyal Knight, and then 2 years as leading Knight and with the Passing of the lodges long time secretary I took over that job and held it for the next 3 years. I also spearheaded the newsletter and scheduled Orientation meeting with new memberships.

I transferred to Portland #188 for the 2025-26 year and took a breather to get to know the operations and have met so many wonderful members. I slowly started volunteering behind the scenes helping with card shuffling at end of the night and then was asked to join the accounting and Auditing committee - took a few rides with other members to "capture" Rocky the traveling Elk from Rockland and then again from Sanford. I also volunteered with the Hoop Shoot this past year.

As the new Elk year started in April, I was installed as the Leading Knight and hope to continue my role as an officer in future years.

I volunteer because it is so great to see the smiles on Young contestants faces in Hoop shoot contests, as well as the gratification you get when you know the Grant money your lodge is able to procure goes to so many children, veterans, schools and families that really need a little help in today's world. Seeing so many volunteers to make all this happen is so wonderful to see and be a part of.

I am one of 8 children in my family grew up in Worcester Ma and made my way to Maine in 2000. I have always been involved in athletics and I believe that is where my love of working with a team for a common goal was instilled in me and the reason I feel so comfortable as a volunteer At the Elks.

I hold a Masters degree of Education from Springfield College in Athletic Administration. I retired from The University of New England in 2017 as the Associate Athletics Director of Budget and Compliance. Starting there as a Softball coach and then Field Hockey coach before entering the Administration side.

I am married to Lauren Lennerton, (you have definitely seen her running around collecting money for the 3 card challenge recently) and we will be celebrating 10 yrs in October. We live in Biddeford with our 2 Maine Coons Barney and Bindi.

I am an avid golfer and enjoy bowling in the winter months.



News from Lodge Secretary, Victoria Doughty

At the September 14 General Meeting, we welcomed Jason Manley, Sherry Clark, Lisa Anne Mahan, and Matthew Ferrante as new members. Please welcome them.

Lodge General Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month except February, March and April (those are 2nd and 4th Monday). Lodge meetings start promptly at 6 pm and all members are welcome, and encouraged to attend. Doors are locked at 6 pm, so get there a little early. This is an opportunity to learn what is happening at the lodge, what the financial state of the lodge is, and ask questions.

We currently have 40 delinquent members who have not paid 2026 dues. If unsure, please see me at the Lodge on a Wednesday or Friday night. I can also take payment by credit card over the phone. I will be sending out another notice to delinquent members. If you have any questions regarding your dues, please call me at 207.773.7396 or email elks188@maine.rr.com Please respond to the Secretary's Office as to whether you will be renewing for Fiscal Year April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027. It is greatly appreciated,



hello
FALL



Welcome New Members to Lodge 188

Jason Manley, Sherry Clark, Lisa Mahan, Matthew Ferrante were initiated at the September General Meeting.

Welcome them to our Lodge the next time you see one of them.



State President Visits Lodge 188

The weekend of September 18/19, State President Kip Clark and First Lady Donna Clark spent the weekend visiting our Lodge and touring Portland with ER Joe Winschel and his wife, MaryBeth Winschel. Friday night dinner at the Lodge, Saturday morning breakfast at Becky's Diner followed by tour of the Victoria Mansion, Portland Fire Truck Tour, and then back to the Lodge Saturday night for dance with Country Roads band. A good time was had by all!





PORTLAND ELKS #188

HARVEST CRAFT + BAKE SALE

A CELEBRATION OF AUTUMN SEASON

40 VENDORS.....JEWELRY, PAINTED GLASSWARE, HOLIDAY DECORATIONS, SIGNS, PHOTOGRAPHY, PAINTINGS, SEAGLASS, QUILTS, COZY'S, HANDKNITS, DECOPAUGE, AND SO MUCH MORE.
NEW: TUPPERWARE, SCENTSY, PAMPERED CHEF, RED ASPEN

**LUNCH - CRAFTS - BAKE SALE - CANDY SALE - 50/50
HOME MADE CHICKEN POT PIES**

**17 OCT
2026
9 AM - 3 PM**

**1945 CONGRESS ST
PORTLAND**

WWW.PORTLANDELKS188.ORG



Message from General Manager, Kim McDonough

October is a busy month, and we're gearing up for a very busy holiday season!

The Member's Lounge will be closed Friday, October 30 due to a large private event. We will skip the Queen of Hearts drawing on October 30, and draw again on Friday, November 6, as usual.

This past month, we completely gutted and re-did our walk-in cooler. We found that the structure was compromised due to age and had to be fixed. It would not have endured a heavy snow load this coming winter. It is now super insulated, new metal walls, completely rewired and super bright LED lighting. This project was intense, as we completed it under pressure with a small window to coordinate the refrigeration, construction, renting coolers, and not closing or losing any business. Thanks to the committees who approved all our needs and Steve Corey for being the diligent project manager.

Tickets for New Years Eve will be going on sale at the end of the month. We are super excited to be bringing back a great band, Northern Groove, with a fun theme and a great price.....stay tuned!

Pop Tops Turn into Cash for Ronald McDonald



I want to thank all the members and friends who bring in their can pop tops to the Lodge. Over the past few months, I've made many trips to the Ronald McDonald House in Portland to donate them. Some members have asked me what do they do with them, well yesterday I asked, just so I had the right answer. The small aluminum tabs from beverage cans, are collected because they are compact, clean, and made of high-quality aluminum, making them easy to store and recycle. The Ronald McDonald House receives money which is used for housing, meals, utilities, and other essentials to help the families who stay at the house while their family members are at the hospital.

So, keep them coming!!

Martha Binette
MCCP Chair



YOU'RE INVITED TO PORTLAND
ELKS LODGE 188



KID'S



HALLOWEEN



party
SUNDAY

OCTOBER 25

12 NOON - 2 PM

1945 CONGRESS ST, PORTLAND

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, FRIENDS,
NEIGHBORS, GRAND KIDS





Veterans Committee Update



One of the core commitments of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is of unwavering support for those who have served our country: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission carries that promise forward by providing meaningful support to veterans and military members, particularly those who are facing hardship or transitioning through difficult circumstances.

Here at Portland Lodge #188, our Veterans Committee works year-round to uphold that commitment. Some of our ongoing efforts include taking veterans from a local residential facility to a Sea Dogs baseball game, adopting veteran families in need during the Christmas season, hosting a community Thanksgiving dinner, and supporting veterans through the Welcome Home Kit Project.

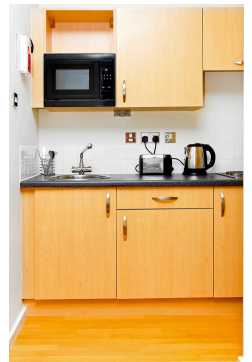
What is the Welcome Home Kit Project?

The Welcome Home Kit Project helps veterans transition from homelessness into permanent, stable housing by providing essential household items needed to make a new place feel like home.

Over the past year and a half, Portland Lodge #188 has helped more than 20 veterans move into safe and stable homes. Each veteran has a different story and different needs, but the goal is always the same: to give them a strong and dignified start as they begin this next chapter of their lives.

We want to share what it truly takes to help just one veteran begin again.

It starts with a personal phone call. We talk with the veteran, learn about their needs, hear a little about their service and determine what items will help them feel comfortable and settled in their new home. Then the real work begins. Our volunteers shop for essential household items, coordinate donations, and reach out to members and at times the community for items not covered through the Elks National Foundation. Those needs can include microwaves, televisions, dressers, fans and other household necessities. Many veterans also need beds, which means our volunteers don't just deliver them we assemble them ourselves. Finally, we load everything up and make the delivery. We help bring the items into the home, set things up, and make sure the veteran has what they need to get started.



It may sound like a collection of household items, but it is so much more than that. It is about walking through the door of an empty apartment and seeing it become a home. It is about knowing that someone who has served our country is no longer facing that transition alone. And it is about the incredible feeling our volunteers share when we leave knowing that, together, we made a difference.

So, the next time you hear someone mention a Welcome Home Kit, know that behind those words are phone calls, shopping trips, donations, emails, loading and unloading, furniture assembly, countless volunteer hours, and, most importantly, a veteran who now has a place to call home. We are proud to serve those who served.





Calling All Golfers

Do you golf? Would you be interested in playing in a tournament to benefit Lodge 188?

The Activity Committee is considering holding a tournament in 2027 at a local course. We need to know how many teams we could field? Team members do not have to be members of our Lodge. If you or someone you know, would be interested, please let Kim Toppi know.

FRIDAY NIGHT FUN!!!



ACTIVITY NEWS

Kim Toppi, Committee Chair



School Supply Drive....Elks Supporting Our Community

In mid-September, members of the Activity Committee delivered car loads of school supplies to Lyseth School and Amanda Rowe School in Portland, and James Russell School in Gray.

Our Lodge members and Bingo players donated more than \$1,000 worth of school supplies, and with the \$4,000 Beacon Grant we received, the schools were over the moon with all of the donations. One school secretary was in tears as she just was overwhelmed with what we brought to her school.

*THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
MADE THIS HAPPEN!!!!*

See page 14 for photos.

Upcoming Events

October in the Lounge

October 2: DJ Stacie
October 9: DJ Stacie
October 16: DJ Steve Clancy
October 23: DJ Stacie
Music + Karaoke

October 2

Chicken Pot Pies pickup!!

October 10

Serving lunch at Deering Oaks

October 17

Harvest Craft & Bake Sale

October 25

Kid's Halloween Party

October 30

Lounge CLOSED for private event

Who likes to decorate? We're looking for folks to help decorate the Lounge for our annual Kid's Halloween Party. Let's make this a fun event for all the ghosts and goblins. Call or text Kim, 207.329.0845 if you are able to help.

The party will take place Sunday, October 25 at 12 noon.

October Observances

October	Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October	Black History Month
October 5	World Teacher's Day
October 12	Indigenous People's Day
October 16	National Boss's Day
October 31	Halloween



MAINE ELKS ASSOCIATION CALENDAR WINNERS

AUGUST 2026

Melissa Weymouth - \$50

Margaret Gronlund - \$25



BINGO

Every Tuesday, doors open 8 am, ticket sales 10 am, games 12 noon.



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.

Weekly Happenings



Wreaths to Adorn Togus National Cemetery

Each year the Maine Elks Association, along with Lodges throughout the State, provide holiday wreaths for veterans buried at Togus National Cemetery.

If you would like to purchase a wreath to be placed at the Cemetery, the cost is \$17.

A check, made payable to Maine Elks Association-Veteran Project, with WREATH in the Memo field, may be given to Lodge Secretary, Vickey Doughty, or mailed to her attention: Portland Elks Lodge 188, attn: Vickey Doughty, 1945B Congress Street, Portland, ME 04102. Payment will need to be received NO LATER THAN November 25, so that wreaths can be ordered in time for the December placement.

Thank you, in advance, for remembering veterans in our State.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH.....Apple Crisp

4 cups your favorite apples, peeled and sliced

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup oatmeal

$\frac{3}{4}$ T cinnamon and nutmeg

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup melted butter



Toss apples with cinnamon and nutmeg, place in greased 8 x 8 baking dish. Combine all other ingredients and spread over apples. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes, covered. Best served warm with vanilla ice cream!

if you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share, submit to ktoppi@maine.rr.com

ELKS IN OUR COMMUNITY



Amanda Rowe School: Haley Williams (1st grade), Becky Norling (3rd grade), Tonya Bufano (3rd grade), Michelle Chambers (1st grade), Renee Orcutt (3rd grade), Joe Winschel, Principal Joe Trivisonno, and Kim Toppi



James Russell Elementary: Abby Beaumont (social,worker), Meghan Monaghan (Learning Resource Teacher), Liz Gill (Librarian), Principal Danny Blake, Katie Lucia (2nd grade), Pamela Dill, Susan Smythe, Jaime Omiecinski (1st grade), and Lori Grassi.



**5th graders at Lyseth: Rowan, Lorenzo, Ebenezer, Wilson and Nico
(printed with parental permission)**



**Lyseth School:
Margaret Poulin,
Principal Laurie
Cloutier, Ed Tech
Deanne Ives, Joe
Winschel**



Sorting school supplies with the next generation of volunteers.....Joey and Rowan!!



ELK OF THE MONTH DENNIS RICKETT



Congratulations, 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 Elkdome in their actions.

Charity Friendship Community



The Portland #188 Drug Awareness Program is in full swing! This past

week, our Activity Committee assembled over 200 resource bags, which were delivered directly to local schools. We also kicked off the school year by hosting an informational table at the King Middle School Open House, where we had a great time connecting with students and families. Looking ahead to October, we are excited to participate in the Lodge's annual Kid's Halloween Party and visit local schools to launch our annual poster competition. This year's theme for the poster, essay, and video contest is "A Healthy Me Is Drug Free." Want to learn more or get involved with our Lodge's program? Contact Rori Dargie at rori.crossman@gmail.com.

**Rori Dargie
Drug Awareness Program Chair**



UNISEX COTTON TEE;
SIZES SMALL - 4X
COLOR: HEATHER
INDIGO OR SAGE
\$13



UNISEX GARMET DYED
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT
SIZES: SMALL-4X
COLOR: ISLAND
GREEN
\$25



MICROPIQUE SPORT
-WICK® POLO
SIZES: S-6XL
COLOR: TRUE RED
\$30



UNISEX HEAVY BLEND
SWEATSHIRT
SIZES: SMALL-3X
COLOR: HEATHER
DARK GREEN OR
MAROON
\$28

ELKS LODGE 188 SHIRT SALE

PRE-PAY FOR ORDER, CLOTHING DELIVERED TO LODGE.
SUBMIT PAYMENT, CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO PORTLAND ELKS LODGE
188, AND FORM TO KIM TOPPI BY OCTOBER 1.

***ALL SHIRTS IMPRINTED WITH PORTLAND ELKS LODGE 188 LOGO: ALL
WHITE ON DARK COLORS, NAVY BLUE ON LIGHT COLORS***

NAME _____ PHONE _____

CC# _____ EXP DATE _____ CVV _____

ZIP CODE FOR CC _____

___ UNISEX COTTON TEE @ \$13	SIZE: ___	COLOR: _____	\$ _____
___ LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT @ \$25	SIZE: ___	COLOR: _____	\$ _____
___ UNISEX SWEATSHIRT @ \$28	SIZE: ___	COLOR: _____	\$ _____
___ MEN'S POLO @ \$30	SIZE: _____		\$ _____

TOTAL DUE\$ _____

Lifetime Boosters

In Honor/Memory Of

Ronald W. Allen
Lester Armstrong
Jim Augur
Don Bodin, Jr.
Ken Carle
William Cornish
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
Dana Staples
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) _____