



Portland Elks

The 188 News

September 2025

Dear Members and Officers,

Hoping that you all had a great summer. I am personally looking forward to some cooler weather and fall activities.

In last month's article, I indicated that the trustees have approved going forward with obtaining a quote for the installation of a kitchen hood. During our last membership meeting, the quote was approved by a majority of the members present. We are now in the process of preparing our application which will need to go to the Grand Lodge for final approval. The current kitchen hood was installed in our lodge sometime around 1969. Our event center generates most of the income that our lodge needs to remain open and pay the operating bills. This replacement will ensure that we can continue to function as both a lodge and event center.

The Elks National Foundation was established back in 1928 by then president John Malley. To date, it has awarded over 500 million in grants to local lodges supporting charitable projects which benefit the community we live in. In our current fiscal year, our lodge has received the Spotlight grant for \$2,000 to support comfort cases for children entering foster care. And the Beacon grant was approved for \$4,000 to support the school supply drive. We are also eligible for the Gratitude grant of \$3,000 by meeting the Grand Lodge per capita giving per member last year. Please consider a donation to the Elks National Foundation by logging into the Elks.org website. Every dollar we donate comes back to us through these grants.

Lastly, I have ordered a sign to be installed in our parking lot. This will be reserved for one individual member who exemplifies the Elk's guiding principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity or contributes positively towards serving the people in our community by demonstrating how Elks Care Elks Share.

Hoping to see you soon at the lodge.

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: September 8, 3 pm

Activity Committee: September 3, 2 pm

Trustee Committee: September 8, 4:30 pm

General Meeting: September 8, 6 pm

Veteran Committee: September 29, 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



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the new Elks Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan R. Klatt. Bryan was initiated into DeKalb, Illinois Lodge No. 765 in 1985, he served on numerous committees, before becoming Exalted Ruler in 1989 and Lodge Secretary from 1998 to 2009. He has served in many roles in his lodge and the State of Illinois. He was the Grand Secretary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks from July 2008 through July 2025. You can find a picture of Bryan and his entire biography on the wall as you come into the door of the Lodge near where the Elk and Flags are located. Please take a minute to familiarize yourself with Bryan's history with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

On August 11, 2025, we initiated six new candidates. Please welcome Rachel Burke, Cheryl Hall, Philip Jimino, Joseph Libby, Dennis Maxfield, and Philip McGouldrick to Portland Elks Lodge #188

We currently have 489 members. We still have 42 delinquent members. Currently, we have three members in the hands of the investigation committee.

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



L-R: Cheryl Hall, Phil Jimino, Rachel Burke, Phil McGouldrick, Dennis Maxfield, Joe Libby

Portland Sea Dogs Game



The Portland Elks Lodge 188 wishes to extend their sincere appreciation to the Brownfield Recreation Department, parents and kids attending the Portland Sea Dogs game on July 31.

The Portland Elks, and Elks throughout the entire country, strongly support our veterans who have fought to defend our country. Many are in need of assistance in finding a place to call home or are in need of essential items for their new apartment. Or just a friendly face to spend a few moments with them at a veteran's home.

We were at the Sea Dogs game with a group of veterans from the Scarborough Veterans Home and other veterans to enjoy a game along with food at the pavilion. During the game, a parent of one of the children received a baseball from one of the baseball players. Instead of giving this to her child, she had the baseball signed by many of the children from the recreation league and handed it to a Vietnam veteran. We were all so touched by the patriotism and respect given to our veterans by both the parents and children of the Brownfield Recreation Department.

And as the veterans were leaving the ballpark, some of the kids were shaking the hands of our veterans. Thanking them for their service to our country. It warms my heart to know how much these kids respect both our elders and veterans. Please extend our thanks to the rec league.

Sincerely,
Joe Winschel, Exalted Ruler
Portland Elks Lodge 188

BINGO NEWS, Paul Poore, Chair



As we head into the fall/winter season, our Bingo Volunteer team dwindles as we have some snowbirds that head south for warmer weather.

However, our every Tuesday Bingo goes on!!

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our Team. While Bingo is held every Tuesday at Lodge 188, our volunteers don't necessarily work every Tuesday. We have a rotating schedule to help meet everyone's need.

If you are interested in becoming a Bingo Team volunteer, whether it's working the Hall during the games or helping out in the Kitchen serving lunch, 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**.

You're guaranteed to have fun!!!!



MANAGER'S MESSAGE from Kim McDonough

Where has the summer gone? With the Queen of Hearts game exploding over the past few months and the Lounge busier than it's ever been, the summer has just flown by. Our event center has been rocking all summer, as well. And, as we head into fall/holiday season, it will be even busier. For that I am grateful, and excited for what's to come.

I am excited to share that I have hired a part-time cook to join our team. Please welcome Joe Fagone! Joe comes to us with year's of experience in the culinary field, as well as in the catering business. He most recently was at Maria's Restaurant, and I am excited to have him here at the Elks with us.

With Joe on board, I will be able to focus more attention to our Event Center, which brings in the bulk of revenue for our lodge. Joe and I are working on developing a Catering Menu that will enhance our event center. There is also a need in our community for catering business and I am confident we will come up with a menu that is reasonable, offering a wide variety of choices, and we will deliver delicious food to customers. Watch for details in the months ahead.

In the meantime, I hope you will continue to support the Lodge by visiting the Lounge on Wednesday or Friday night, playing Bingo on Tuesday, or recommending our Event Center for private parties, fundraisers, post funeral receptions, school banquets or holiday parties. We are here to meet your needs.



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SCHOOL SUPPLY ITEMS DUE BY 9/5	1	2  Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 N	3  Act Comm 2 pm Card Games 530 pm	4	5  Card Games 6pm COUNTRY NIGHT MUSIC	6
7 NFL KICK OFF POT LUCK 12 N-5Pm 	8 House Co 3pm Trustees 430 pm Gen Mtg 6 pm	9  Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 N	10  Card Games 530 pm	11	12  Card Games 6pm DJ Queen	13
14	15	16  Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 N	17  Card Games 530 pm	18	19  Card Games 6pm DJ Queen POT PIES DUE	20
21	22	23  Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 N	24 Card Games 530 pm	25	26  Card Games 6pm DJ Queen	27
28	29	30  Bingo Opens 9 am Games 12 N				

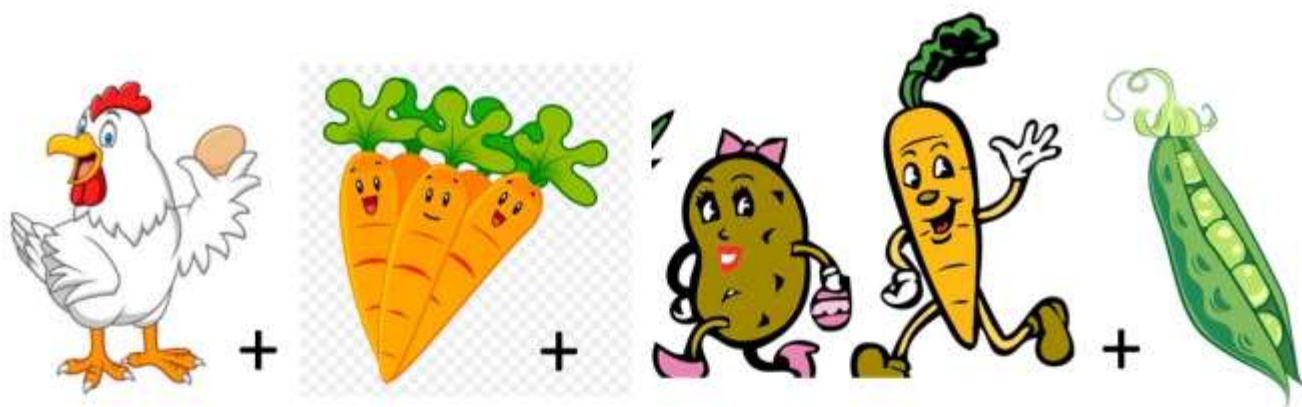
ACTIVITY COMMITTEE NEWS, Kim Toppi, Chair



Hard to believe it's September already. The Activity Committee has lots of fun things planned for the upcoming few months. Here's what's on tap:

- Our School Supply Drive is winding down. Please consider a donation to help out the teachers at Presumpscot School in Portland, Village Elementary in Gorham, and Windham Elementary. We are accepting donations until September 5 and will be delivering to the schools after that. In addition to school supplies, we will also be delivering drug awareness materials to schools.
- Sunday, September 7, we kick-off the Football Season with the New England Patriots v Las Vegas Raiders. This is a POT LUCK lunch, so please bring a dish to share.
- Friday, September 19, is the last day to pre-order your Chicken Pot Pies. The pies are chock-o-block full of goodness, and a fundraiser for the Lodge. If you are interested in volunteering to help make the pies, please contact Kim Toppi at 207.329.0845.
- Saturday, October 18, is our annual Harvest Craft & Bake Sale. If you are interested in volunteering to help bake cakes, cookies, candy, or work the day of the event, please contact Kim Toppi at 207.329.0845.
- 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. More to come in October.
- Sunday, October 26, Kid's Halloween Party.





It's time for the Portland Elks 188 Annual Chicken Pot Pie Sale!

Pies are packed full of chicken, gravy, potato, carrot and peas with a flaky homemade crust. Yum!!!

Options are: 7" pie (\$15) or 9" pie (\$20)

All pies are UNBAKED and FROZEN

Order NO LATER THAN September 19, and PICKUP

Friday, October 3, 2pm—5 pm at the Lodge.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID to Kim Toppi. Make checks payable to Portland Elks Lodge 188, or pay by credit card, cash, or Venmo @Kim-Toppi. Mail to: Portland Elks 188, attn: K Toppi, 1945B Congress St, Portland, ME 04102 or call 207.329.0845.

XX

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

CC# _____ Exp _____ CVC _____ Zip _____

____ # 7" PIES @ \$15 EACH TOTAL: \$ _____

____ # 9" PIES @ \$20 EACH TOTAL: \$ _____

Date Paid _____ TOTAL: \$ _____



It's FOOTBALL SEASON!!!

Come on down to Lodge 188 on Sunday, September 7,
and kick-off the season.

It's a POT LUCK lunch—so please bring a dish to share
with your fellow football fans. Sign up at the lounge as
to what you'd like to share.

Lounge opens at 12:00 pm, and will close one hour after the game is over.

It's Country Night at the lodge

Friday, September 5



DJ Bobby Queen will be playing
all of your favorite COUNTRY
.....**Blake Shelton, George Strait,**
Carrie Underwood, Keith Urban,
Dolly Parton and more!
Requests taken, but tonight, no
karaoke.

Get your boots ready!!

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE NEWS, Gary Rairdon, Chair



Greetings,

I hope everyone had a fantastic summer. Our Club was busting at the seams each Wednesday and Friday this past summer. It was so nice seeing old friends and new friends enjoying our club.

I'm looking forward to the fall to be just as busy.

As you know, we have been working on many preventative maintenance initiatives as relates to our building itself. All of these decisions have been carefully reviewed by our committees and brought to the trustees for approval. I would like to thank each and every member of these committees and the membership for trusting us with these tasks at hand.

I would encourage all members to attend some of these committee meetings to stay well informed of what we are doing here at Portland Elks 188.

I am excited and proud for the coming fall season to be able to provide our members and organizations a destination place to celebrate.

I hope everyone has an amazing fall and looking forward to seeing everyone.

NOTIFICATION OF VOTE TO TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 8

The Trustees of the Lodge 188 have approved \$70,929 (\$81,568 with contingency) to purchase and install a new hood system in the kitchen by Bourgoins & Sons. This expense will be voted on at the General Meeting scheduled for September 8, 6 pm.

Any member, in good standing, is welcome to attend and vote on this lodge improvement. You must bring your membership card with you to enter the Lodge during a General Meeting.

The expense will be presented to the Grand Lodge for final approval as is required for any expense exceeding \$25,000.

VETERAN COMMITTEE NEWS, Willie Goodman, Chair

Our committee members coordinated and attended a Portland Sea Dogs baseball game on July 31 with 30 residents and staff from the Scarborough Veteran's Home. The event was recognized and appreciated by many at the ball game for what our Elks Lodge does for veterans in our community. Those in attendance were also treated to lunch. My thanks to Joe Winschel for his attendance and interaction with the veterans.



This past month two of our committee members and I delivered a bed with bedding and other items to set up a new apartment for a homeless veteran in Scarborough. He was the second veteran that we have been able to do this for this past month, bringing the total so far this year, that we have helped in getting off the streets and out of the woods, to 10 homeless veterans.

The committee will be seeking the Freedom Grant from the Elks National Foundation to assist us with our annual Thanksgiving dinner for veterans in our community. Date to be announced.

Our next committee meeting will be on Monday, August 25 at 5 pm, followed by Monday, September 29. Our meetings are open to any member interested in learning more about what we do and how we do it.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEER.....TIM SMITH

I have been a member for 21 years. I joined when all the cooking was done by members and I enjoyed cooking. I have served on many committees over the years, five times as exalted ruler, and currently a trustee.

The Hoop Shoot is my personal favorite. I am widowed with two daughters and two grandsons.

I grew up on Munjoy Hill attending Shaler, Emerson, Jack Junior High – none of which exist today. Then went on to Portland High and SMVTI (now SMCC). I served 28 years in the military - Navy, Navy Reserve and Army National Guard. I did two tours in Iraq, traveled to Guatemala for humanitarian assistance and California for border security.

I worked 38 years as a pipe fitter for Bath Iron Works.







LOBSTER LOVER'S DINNER, AUGUST 2



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.



IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME

As drivers prepare for the return to school, it's crucial to be aware of the increased traffic and safety concerns in school zones. Here are some key messages for drivers to keep in mind:

Reduce Speed: Obey posted speed limits and be prepared to slow down during pick-up and drop-off times.

Watch for School Zone Signs: Be attentive to signs indicating the beginning and end of the school zone.

Know School Hours: Understand the school's start and end times, and plan routes to avoid heavy traffic.

Stop for School Buses: Always stop for school buses when they are picking up or dropping off children.

Follow Crossing Guards: Pay attention to crossing guards and follow their signals to ensure the safety of children crossing the street. These messages are essential for ensuring the safety of students and reducing the risk of accidents in school zones during the back-to-school season.



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