



Activity Committee—year in review

Special points of interest:

- Two ENF Grants were used to benefit local organizations
- Celebrated our 90+ Volunteers in June
- The Craft Fair and Basket Raffle add to the General Fund
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While the Elks Fiscal Year is April 1—March 31, this special report is a recap of all the activities, special events, and fundraisers that the Activity Committee conducted for our members throughout 2024.

Our hope is that you enjoyed some or all that we had to offer. And if **you don't regularly visit the Lodge, this special report may inspire you to join us in 2025.**

The Elks Activity Committee members:

Kim Toppi, Chair
 Patty Amico
 Martha Binette
 Pamela Dill
 Vickey Doughty
 Karen Emerson
 Lori Grassi

Julie Morin
 Barbara Pileggi
 Margaret Poulin
 Susan Smythe

Kim McDonough, general manager
 Joe Winschel, ER

FEBRUARY— Comedy Show

We kicked off 2024 with a Comedy Night, on a chilly February 10th. Two Boston-based comedians entertained the crowd.



MARCH-**St Patrick's** Celebration



Stealing Sunday entertained the crowd and Kim and her staff cooked up a delicious Irish dinner.



APRIL-MAY..... Day Baskets take shape

As a community outreach project, the Committee took on a May Day Basket Drive. Members were asked to donate basic supplies that local nursing homes would be able to share with their residents, and/or use with their member activities. Boy, did our members step up to the plate!! More than \$2,000 worth of products were donated.....shampoo, conditioner, Kleenex, puzzles, Word Searches, hairbrushes, combs, warm socks, blankets, small bags of candy, stuffed animals, pencils, and so much more. We collected so much that 5 area nursing homes each received 3 large laundry baskets full of supplies. Delivery took place on May 1, and the nursing homes were overwhelmed with the amount being donated.



Lodge Was Hopping in MAY

Our Cinco de Mayo theme dinner on May 3 kicked off the month with Annelise & Mike performing. Chris Skidgel was in the lounge on Friday, May 17. Our Mother's Day recognition for all Mom's was on May 10, and we held our 2nd Girls Night Out Shopping Spree on May 10—a fun vendor/craft fair for early Mother's Day Shopping,

In May, with money from our 3-Card Challenge Lounge Fund we were able to resurface the pool table, and purchase new cues and balls for members to enjoy.

In May, the Activity Committee had been awarded the Spotlight Grant from ENF in the amount of \$2,000. With these funds, the Committee shopped and assembled 100 Cleaning Kits and 50 Summer Kits for Maine Needs. Delivery of all the kits was held on May 29.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



100 Cleaning Kits and 50 Summer Kits for Maine Needs with ENF Spotlight Grant



JUNE—Master Class, Father's Day, Volunteer Recognition, Sound System



We introduced our first Master Class in June with a Wreath Making session, a much anticipated, and badly needed sound system was installed in the Lounge with funds from the 3-Card Lounge Designated Fund. Mike & Chris played in the Lounge on June 7, and we recognized all Father's on a Friday night with ice cream floats made table side. Our annual Volunteer Recognition Party took place on June 6, honoring the 94 volunteers who donate thousands of hours throughout the year to benefit our Lodge.



JULY—Gnocchi and Lobsters!

Our 2nd Master Class had Maria's Restaurant Chef and Owner, Anthony Napolitano, teaching a class of 30 how to make homemade gnocchi. After everyone made their gnocchi, participants cooked their delicious puffs and sat down to a hearty meal together.

In July we served 90 people lobsters, homemade chowder, dessert at the annual Lobster Bake.

And, the Elk on our front lawn was repaired and a long over due paint job was completed by member Pamela Dill.



AUGUST—\$4,000 Beacon GrantSchool Supply Drive Kicks Off

2024 was the third year the Activity Committee received the ENF Beacon Grant. Each year, three local elementary schools are selected to receive school supplies for the teachers and their classrooms. In addition to the items purchased with the grant, members generously donated more than \$1,200 worth of additional supplies. The supplies were delivered September 9-11 to Congin School in Westbrook, East End Community School in Portland, and Skillin School in South Portland. For the teachers, it's like Christmas came early!!



TOP: Congin School

RIGHT: East End Community School

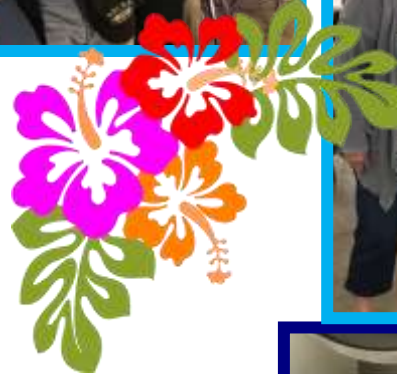
BOTTOM: Skillin School



SEPTEMBER—Chicken Pot Pies and Luau!

The 2nd Chicken Pot Pie Sale kicked off in September. During the month of September a team of 16 volunteers spent 5 days in the Lodge kitchen making 220 homemade chicken pot pies—a fundraiser for the lodge. It was a tremendous undertaking and accomplished in record time thanks to a great team!

We finished out the month with a Luau theme dinner night in the Lounge, as well as a luau party during Bingo—and members dressed for the occasion!



OCTOBER—Elktoberfest, Craft Fair, and lots of Halloween!

Our annual Harvest Craft & Bake Sale was another success, grossing \$9,476 and netting just over \$6,000 for the Lodge. In addition to the 34 craft tables, 37 volunteers baked cookies, made candies, served lunch, sold raffle tickets and helped clean up the lodge once the day was over. The craft fair is truly an example of Elks working together for the same cause.

An Oktoberfest dinner was served in our lounge, and the month ended with Halloween costumes at Bingo, in the lounge and with the kids! A fun time was had by all.





DECEMBER...a season of giving, friendship, and festivities

Whenever we ask our members to donate to a cause, they step up! This December not only did we have our annual Basket Raffle Extravaganza, but we held a Warming Tree Clothing Drive. The Basket Raffle, held December 7-8, was a huge success. Bringing in more than \$7,000, after expenses we presented \$2,000 checks to Cultivating Community and McAuley Residence, two non-profits in our community. A much needed item for the banquet side of the Lodge was new dinner dishes. We were able to purchase \$2,000 worth of dishes as well.

Members, friends, and local businesses donated 72 baskets for the event. A Yeti cooler was donated, a 50/50 raffle took place, and the kitchen was open for food sales. By the end of the day on Sunday, the volunteers were overjoyed with the outpouring of support.

In December, we also held a Warming Tree clothing drive for Maine Needs. An amazing 529 pieces were donated—everything from winter coats, boots, socks, mittens, Dunkin gift cards, to blankets, towels and sweats. Once again our members came through in a big way.





Photo (l-r): Margaret Poulin, chair Basket Raffle Extravaganza; Silvan Shawe, executive director Cultivating Community; Melissa Skahan, vp & director McAuley Residence; Angela Stone, executive director and founder, Maine Needs; and Kim Toppi, Activity Chair.

While you can't see all the bags and baskets of clothes in the background, after the presentation members jumped up to help load Angela's car with all of the clothes. Just another example of Elks caring!!

A LOOK AT THE YEAR AHEAD

April 25	Bingo Balls fundraiser for MCCP
May 1	May Day Basket Drive...Gorham House, Ledgewood Manor (Windham), So Portland Nursing Home, Brentwood Rehab (Yarmouth), Fallbrook Commons (Portland)
May 3	Kentucky Derby Party, Mike & Annelyse, 3-6 pm
May 8	Girl's Night Out Shopping Spree, 3-7 pm, Alden Ballroom
May 9	Mother's Day Recognition in Lounge
May 16	Chinese theme dinner night
May 24	Summit Project Send Off, 8 am
May 26	Memorial Day Service, Evergreen Cemetery, 10 am
May 31	Bean Supper
June	Community Charity Drive/ENF - Backpacks for Foster Kids
June 5	Volunteer Appreciation Cocktail Party
June 13	Father's Day Recognition in Lounge
June 20	Western/Cowboy theme dinner in Lounge
June	Flag Day Ceremony/Veterans Breakfast
July 9	Ice Cream Sundae fundraiser for MCCP
July 19	Lobster Bake
August 15	Ice Cream Sundae fundraiser for MCCP
August	School Supply Drive.... Presumpscot (Portland), Village Elementary (Gorham), Windham Primary (Windham); incorporate Drug Awareness Bags
August 23	Bingo Balls fundraiser for MCCP
September	Chicken Pot Pie Sale, orders due September 19
September 12	Tailgate dinner theme in Lounge
September 27	Pig Roast
October 4	Chicken Pot Pie Pick Up Day
October 13-17	Prepare for Craft/Bake Sale
October 18	Harvest Craft & Bake Sale, 9 am – 3 pm
October 26	Kids Halloween Party
November	Hoop Shoot
November	Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner
November 14	Turkey Shoot
November 28-29	Basket Raffle Extravaganza
December 7	Elks Memorial Service
December 16	Member Christmas Celebration
December 31	New Year's Eve Party
TUESDAY	Bingo is held EVERY TUESDAY at the Lodge. Doors open 9 am, games 12 noon.

The Calendar for 2025 incorporates all events, not just those sponsored by the Activity Committee.

DATES MAY CHANGE based on availability of Lodge.