

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS ISSUE OF OUR 188 NEWS. LOTS HAPPENING AT LODGE 188.



Portland Elks The 188 News

December 2025

Dear Members and Officers,

This is my favorite time of the year. When we all get together with our family members and friends to enjoy time together during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let's be ever thankful for what we have and are able to share with others. Remember, Elks Care Elks Share.

Bryan Klatt and First Lady Susan enjoyed their time here in Portland on November 11 and 12. They were welcomed with a reception in our lounge on November 12th and enjoyed a fabulous meal prepared by Kim McDonough and her kitchen crew. Bryan's speech centered around his theme for 2026 "Be the Difference". Whereas, he elaborated on increasing the membership in your lodges, supporting the ENF and taking advantage of all the grant opportunities available to local lodges. Those who were in attendance were able to have their membership cards signed by the GER at the end of the reception.



Our members helped prepare for the District Deputies visit to our lodge on November 23 for an inspection of our operations and financial health. This is the chance for us to show how well we manage not only the operation of our lodge but also compliance with statutes of the order and the growth of our lodge in order to continue serving our community and citizens.

Lastly, I worked with the State of Maine Gaming Commission for them to hold an Educational Town Hall meeting at our lodge on Monday, November 24. They began with a short presentation and a question and answer period followed for those in attendance. This was a chance to ask questions in regards to how we should be playing the games of chance and to also listen to what others are concerned about. We will continue to update our rules governing the playing of our games of chance and will tighten up our procedures in order to remain compliant with State rules and regulations.

Finally, I have nominated Susan Smythe as the Elk of the Month for December. Thank you Susan for your hard work this past month at the Craft Fair and for serving on the Audit and Accounting committee.

Fraternally yours,

Joseph M. Winchell



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