



PORTSMOUTH ELKS No. 97

500 Jones Ave, Portsmouth NH 03801

NEWSLETTER MAY 2026



MAY UPDATE FROM THE EXALTED RULER

Our first month together has been a busy and energizing one. In April, we proudly supported the Friends in Action fundraising gala, welcomed Lodges from across the state as we hosted the District Deputy Clinic, and we're now in the home stretch of the Function Room deck rebuild — an important investment in safety and in keeping our Lodge strong and sustainable for many years to come.

As we look ahead, I want to shine a light on our New Hampshire State Project, **Copper Cannon Camp**. This tuition-free summer camp gives underserved New Hampshire children a chance to explore, grow, and experience a week in the White Mountains they'll never forget. If you know a family who could benefit from this opportunity, please reach out to any of our Lodge officers so we can help connect them. We'll also be holding a **50/50 raffle benefiting Copper Cannon** during our Officer-led Kentucky Derby Party on **Saturday, May 2** — another great way for members to support this cause and help send local kids to camp.

To all the wonderful moms in our Lodge family and community, **Happy Mother's Day**. We appreciate you, we celebrate you, and we're grateful for everything you do.

Here's to a bright May and an exciting summer ahead as we continue building momentum together.

Fraternally,

Mariela C

Mariela Cherry
Exalted Ruler
ExaltedRuler@Elks97.com

PS: If you can subscribe to Netflix, you can join the **Elks Fidelity Club**. Same clicks, way better plot twist: your monthly gift helps veterans, kids, and our community all year long.

And here's the wild part—if all **1,846** of our members enrolled at just **\$5 a month**, Portsmouth Lodge #97 would be contributing **over \$110,000 every year** to the Elks National Foundation. That's the kind of season finale ENF dreams about.

Set it, forget it, and make a real difference. No passwords. No auto-play. Just impact. Visit enf.elks.org/recurring to enroll today!

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The next Initiation will be Tuesday, May 12th, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

The next Investigation / Orientation will be Wednesday, May 20th, 2026, at 6:00PM. (This group will be Initiated on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026) This will be the only Initiation until September 2026.

Please remember that By-Laws and House rules are posted in the Grill Room and can be found using your Elks.org account online. Pool rules and Dock rules are also posted in the Grill Room.

Thank you,
Suzanne Dumont
Lodge Secretary
secretary@elks97.com

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

Theresa Boisvert

GRANTS COMMITTEE

2027 Elks National Foundation Grant Nominees

The new ENF Grant Year opened April 1st. The Lodge **Grants Committee** met on Thursday March 26th to consider applicants and heard some worthy proposals for the 2026-27 Elks National Foundation Grants: \$1000 *Freedom Grant*, \$4000 *Gratitude Grant*, \$2500 *Spotlight Grant* and \$4000 *Beacon Grant*. Thank you to the **Grants Committee** for coming out, deliberating on all the details and voting on the projects that will move forward in the application process.

The very competitive *Freedom Grant* application went out on April 1st for nominee ***Rotors to Reels***, a Seacoast area nonprofit that offers deep sea fishing and ocean-based experiences to groups of disabled and able-bodied Veterans. Their founder, Board and staff are ALL Veterans.

Before noon the same day we received word from the *Elks National Veterans Service Commission* that the *Grant was approved!* Congratulations to the Lodge and ***Rotors to Reels***. We look forward to sponsoring this memorable fishing experience for six to eight Veterans this summer, helping them connect with one another. These trips help provide the camaraderie and community that are antidotes to the isolation that can put our Veterans at risk for outcomes that should never be the reality of any of our military heroes.

The following nominees will be our applicants for the other three Grants this year:

- The Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders' (**SABR**) initiative **Pedal-It-Forward**

For providing fair and equitable access to bicycles for necessary transportation. Grant money will be used to refurbish donated used bicycles with parts, lights and reflectors in order to recycle them back into the community complete with rider safety gear, locks & helmets.

- The **City of Portsmouth Recreation Center** to help offset the Red Cross certification and training costs for teens entering the city's train-to-hire lifeguard program.

Reach out if you want more information or want to get involved in any of these Grant projects: elysegallo@comcast.net

Impact Grant News

On the first Thursday of every month, *Pet Partners* Ray, Katie and Joanne bring their four-legged friends to the submariner barracks at the Portsmouth Navy base for our active-duty sailors. These three committed volunteers have been with our program for four years in a row! Their certified and insured pet therapy has been a mainstay of the Impact Grant *LINK* program, and costs zero dollars, yet is an invaluable service to these young U.S. Navy men and women. When the single sailors stream into the barracks from their work duties, their faces light up when they see the dogs. Many stop and talk about how much they miss their own pets and families while caressing our furry, tail-wagging friends. Please join us in thanking these dedicated ELKS partners for their generous gifts of time and loyalty.

For more information or to get involved, email: elkslink@comcast.net Our next meeting will be on **Thursday May 7 at 5:30** in the Grill Room: join us!

Elyse Gallo

Grants Coordinator

Joanne and 8 yr old black English lab, Mesa
with Chief Seth Hockaday (SSN 773)



Katie with 6 yr old Ogden



Ray with 5 yr old Golden Retriever, Tucker



GOOD OF THE ORDER

On March 29th, our 2026-2027 officers were installed! Please join us in wishing them well for the year ahead!!



Friends in Action News and Clothing Drive

A sincere thank you from Heidi Chase, Executive Director of Friends in Action, for the Portsmouth Lodge of Elks continued support of the organization. Our support shows the Elks commitment to creating community for the developmentally disabled who live in the Seacoast area.

Our lodge was a Silver Sponsor at the Gala, their major fund raiser of the year. Pictured at the Gala, standing from left to right, are Heidi Chase, Sue Talhouk, PER and Exalted Ruler Mariella Cherry. Some of the participants enjoying the fun filled evening are seating. The event featured a silent auction, dinner, a performance by Friends in Action participants, a live auction and dancing.

Finally, a **Clothing Drive** to support Friends in Action is being held during the month of May. You can leave your gently used clothing, shoes and accessories at the lodge, to the left as you enter the grill room. These items will be sorted and displayed by participants at the Echo Thrift Store located in Durham NH.

Elks Care, Elks Share.



Seacoast Quilts of Valor Seeking Veteran Nominations

Following the Flag Day Ritual on Sunday, June 14, Seacoast Quilts of Valor is honored to be presenting quilts created by many local loving hands, to deserving Veterans, who have been nominated, and accepted the nomination to receive a Quilt of Valor.

Seacoast Quilts of Valor, as part of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, exists to acknowledge our deep appreciation for the service, and sacrifices made by our Veterans. We are reaching out to ask if you know of a Veteran, or if you are a Veteran who would like to be nominated for this award. The Veteran does not have to be a member of the Elks to be nominated.

If you know of a Veteran who would like to be nominated, please contact members Sue Talhouk at sue.talhouk@gmail.com or Colleen Martin at colleen.satchels@gmail.com

Folks interested in Seacoast Quilts of Valor are welcome to attend SQOV Sew Days which are the last Wednesday of each month 9:00-3:00 at the Portsmouth Senior Activity Center.

BOOK CLUB

Join us at The Elks Book Club for a welcoming and enjoyable gathering of book lovers, friends, and curious minds! Whether you've finished the book, just started it, or haven't had a chance to read it at all, you are warmly invited to come and be part of the conversation. Our club is open to everyone, and we love hearing different perspectives, sharing ideas, and enjoying great company in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Come connect with others, discover new books, and enjoy an engaging discussion with fellow readers and community members. We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6pm. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Books:

Monday, May 11th - The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien - Hosted by Tracy

Monday, June 8th - Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid - Hosted by Vicki

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

GAME NIGHT

Join us Monday, May 4th and May 18th at 7 pm for Game Night. Cards go on sale at 6:45 pm. One card \$10, two for \$15 and three for \$20. Come on down and enjoy a couple rounds of Vingo. All proceeds go out to you, our members, as cash prize winnings. Prizes and number of rounds determined by number of participants and cards sold on the day of the event!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Deck Opening Party – Sunday, June 7th from Noon – 5:00 pm



Deck Opening Party

Sunday June 7th from Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Featuring Live Band - Island Mike & Friends starting at 1:00 p.m.
Burgers & Hot Dogs to be provided (while supplies last)
Please bring a side dish or appetizer to share!

Calling All Pastry Chefs!!!
Bring your best dessert recipe and enter our contest.
Prize and bragging rights for 1st place.

50/50 Raffle - Supporting Our Veterans!!!

The poster features a central sunburst background with several red and blue stars. At the bottom corners, there are circular logos for the 250th anniversary of the United States of America (1776-2026).

LODGE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

MEAT & LOBSTER RAFFLE TO BENEFIT I GOT BRIDGED

Sunday, **May 17th 2–4 PM**

I Got Bridged is a local organization dedicated to helping those in need right here on the Seacoast. I Got Bridged works to “bridge the gap” for individuals and families struggling without the resources to lead healthier, happier lives. Your participation directly supports this mission – and you might just head home with some delicious prizes! Join us for a fun afternoon and a great cause!

OTHER EVENTS

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY MAY 2nd 2 PM

Join us in the grill room for a day of fun! Along with the **horse race**, there will be a **best hat/best dressed contest** and a **50/50 raffle** to benefit Copper Cannon! Feel free to bring a dish to share for the **potluck**.

This event is always a great time!

LODGE MERCHANDISE FOR SALE IN THE RAY MULLALY GRILL ROOM

Embroidered T-Shirts Men Sizing L, XL, 2XL \$20 each

Winter Hats \$20 each

Baseball Hats \$20 each

Koozies \$3 each

Stemless Wine Glasses & 16oz Beer Glasses are also available for purchase.

Represent your Lodge 😊

Join the Fidelity Club to support ENF via monthly donation from your credit card or bank account! So easy and convenient!

JOIN THE CLUB

Scan the QR code to join the Fidelity Club with a monthly donation to the Elks National Foundation through your credit card or bank account. It is an easy and secure way to support your Foundation!

Learn more at enf.elks.org/FC



Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities.

HOOFBEATS

Did You Know...?

...We now have Lodge #97 Challenge Coins! You can purchase yours for \$20 from the bartender on duty.



A **challenge coin** is a small, custom-made medallion or token bearing an organization's insignia, used to prove membership, boost morale, and honor service. Originating in the military, they are now common in law enforcement and civilian groups to foster camaraderie. The tradition involves a "coin check" where failing to produce the coin results in buying drinks.

Key Aspects of Challenge Coins

The Challenge Rules: A challenge is initiated by placing a coin on a table (or slamming it) and shouting "coin check". If a member cannot produce their coin, they must buy a round of drinks for the challenger and everyone else with a coin. If everyone produces their coin, the challenger buys the round.

Purpose: These coins represent unit identity, honor special achievements, and commemorate events or missions.

Military/Law Enforcement Usage: In the military, they are often awarded by high-ranking officials to service members for superior performance. They are also used to memorialize units and strengthen unit loyalty. Similarly, law enforcement and fire departments use them to recognize courage and build camaraderie.

Types of Coins: Challenge coins vary in design, often created with hard or soft enamel, in 2D or 3D styles. They can be customized with emblems, slogans, or specialized shapes.

Origins: While often cited as starting in WWI, some traditions date them to the Roman Empire, where soldiers received extra coins to honor achievements.

Other Rules and Etiquette

Responsibility: You are responsible for having your coin at all times.

"No Borrowing": No one can borrow a coin to answer a challenge.

Penalties: Failing to buy a round after failing a check is considered a major breach of trust. Department of Public Safety – Syracuse University

Many organizations now use these as tokens of appreciation, and they are not restricted to military personnel.

Learn more https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Challenge_coin

FOOD AVAILABILITY IN THE RAY MULLALY GRILL ROOM*

Steamed Hot Dogs \$2 – Daily

*Subject to change with no notice

SAVE THE DATE!

Book Club: June 8th – Malibu Rising by Taylor Reid

Belmont Stakes Party – June 6th

Deck Opening Party – June 7th

Flag Day Ceremony – June 14th

Please note there will be no shuffleboard while the Dart League teams are playing. See calendar for dates.

<p><u>OFFICERS</u></p> <p>Exalted Ruler – Mariela Cherry Leading Knight – Tom Beaudoin Loyal Knight – Lenny Fasano Lecturing Knight – Kristen Aronson Esquire – Laura Todaro Chaplain – Kathy Townsend Inner Guard – Paul Bayley Tiler – Eric Hannaford Secretary – Suzanne Dumont Treasurer – Susan Bowen 1st Yr Trustee – James Dumont 2nd Yr Trustee – Dawn Croteau 3rd Yr Trustee – Lonnie Cherry 4th Yr Trustee – Amanda Beaudoin 5th Yr Trustee – Katie Cantwell</p>	<p><u>LODGE INFORMATION</u></p> <p>Front Manager – Shannon Collman Back Manager – Michael Hunter</p> <p>Ray Mullaly Grill Room hours: Sat - Thur 12:00-10:00 Fri 12:00-12:00</p> <p>Ray Mullaly Grill Room Ph: 603-436-9606 Function Room Phone: 603-431-2510</p> <p><u>LODGE MEETINGS</u></p> <p>Regular Meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesday 6:30 Board of Directors 2nd Tuesday 5:30 Governing Body 4th Tuesday 5:30</p>	<p><u>ONLINE</u></p> <p>www.elks.org -Click Lodge Locator & search lodge number 97 Function Room: www.waterfrontattheelks.com FaceBook Public Page: Portsmouth Elks Lodge #97 FaceBook Lodge #97 Members Group: FB Portsmouth NH #97 Members</p> <p><u>EMAIL</u></p> <p>Membership/Applicants: membership@elks97.com Lodge Secretary: secretary@elks97.com Function Hall: functionhall@elks97.com Newsletter: newsletter@elks97.com General Info: general@elks97.com Exalted Ruler: ExaltedRuler@elks97.com</p>
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COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

<p>Auditing & Accounting – Susan Bowen Elks Memorial Day – Vacant Accident Prevention – Tom Beaudoin Ritualistic – Dawn Croteau Community Project & Activities – Tracy Delaney Grants – Elyse Gallo Scholarship – Colin McGee Flag Day – Charles Tarbell Parliamentarian – Ray Mullaly Investigation & Lapsation – Suzanne Dumont</p>	<p>Soccer Shoot – Andy Croteau Hoop Shoot – Scott Pafford Activities (Fundraising) – Steve Linehan Entertainment – Lourdes Riva Kids Christmas Party– Tracy Delaney Turkey Raffle – Kathy Townsend Xmas Basket Delivery – Kathy Townsend Pool – Jim Dumont Government Relations – Ray Mullaly Mediator Membership – Suzanne Dumont</p>	<p>ENF - Suzanne Dumont Membership - Suzanne Dumont Public Relations – Tracy Delaney Lucky 7's - Tracy Delaney By-Laws – Suzanne Dumont Veterans – Jim Lee Drug Awareness – Amanda Beaudoin PER Association – Karen Hunter Orientation – Suzanne Dumont Relief Committee - Chair Officers End 68 Hours of Hunger – Barbara Grazier barbgrazier@gmail.com</p>
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SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS - MAY 2026 CALENDAR - SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO SHUFFLEBOARD DURING DART LEAGUE NIGHTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
APR 26	27	28	29	30	1	2
				QOH 7PM	Clothing Drive Begins	Kentucky Derby Party 2PM Grill Rm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	BOD Mtg 5:30 GAME NIGHT 7 PM			LINK Comm. Mtg 5:30 QOH 7PM TRIVIA 7PM	End 68 Hours of Hunger Deliveries	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	BOOK CLUB 6 PM	Meeting Night & Initiation 6PM		QOH 7PM	NHSEA Convention Gorham NH	NHSEA Convention Gorham NH
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
MEAT & LOBSTER RAFFLE 2-4	GAME NIGHT 7 PM		Investigation /Orientation 6 PM	QOH 7PM TRIVIA 7PM		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Meeting Night GB 5:30 Regular 6:30		QOH 7PM		
31	JUN 1	2	3	4	5	6
Clothing Drive Ends						Belmont Stakes Party

PORTSMOUTH LODGE OF ELKS #97 DOCK RULES

USE OF DOCK RESTRICTED TO ELKS MEMBERS ONLY

USE OF DOCK PERMITTED AT YOUR OWN RISK

NO ALCOHOL, SMOKING OR COOKING ON THE DOCK

ALL STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED – THE ELKS ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR FINES OR PENALTIES – THESE ARE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE VIOLATOR

NO ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED A NUISANCE, HAZARDOUS, OR ILLEGAL SHALL BE PERMITTED
ABSOLUTELY NO SWIMMING OFF THE DOCK

NO PETS ALLOWED ON PREMISES

SHOES ARE REQUIRED

CHILDREN 18 YEARS AND YOUNGER SHALL WEAR COAST GUARD APPROVED FLOTATION DEVICES AND SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES

MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER TO LOAD OR UNLOAD PASSENGERS

VESSELS MUST BE SAFELY SECURED TO THE DOCK BY THE OPERATOR

ALL VESSELS REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE PROPER AUTHORITIES

PROOF OF INSURANCE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL REGISTERED VESSELS

NO DISCHARGE OF WASTE, OIL OR FUEL IS PERMITTED

NO FUELING IS PERMITTED AT THE DOCK

NO SOLICITATION, NO UNAUTHORIZED PARKING IS ALLOWED

YOU MUST LEAVE THE DOCK IN THE CONDITION THAT IT WAS FOUND

YOU MUST NOTIFY THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE #97 (436-9606) IF YOUR BOAT IS ON THE DOCK (OR SEE BARTENDER)

THE DOCK IS NOT FOR PERMANENT OR EXTENDED USE; IT IS FOR THE USE OF MEMBERS AND THEIR BONAFIDE GUESTS WHO WISH TO MAKE USE OF THE GRILL ROOM AND/OR THE FACILITIES. THEREFORE, **NO VESSEL SHALL TIE UP FOR A PERIOD EXCEEDING 23 HOURS**

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF ANY FUNCTION TAKING PLACE; OTHERWISE, YOU MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THE SIZE OF OUR DOCK – OTHER MEMBERS MAY WANT TO UTILIZE IT AS WELL AS YOURSELF

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS #97