

2025-2026 Lodge  
Officers

Exalted Ruler [Bill  
Desjardins PCT](#)

Esteemed Leading  
Knight

John Desjardins

Esteemed Loyal Knight

Michael Desjardins  
Esteemed Lecturing  
Knight:

[Randa Newsome](#)

Esquire: Vacant

Chaplain:

Marianne Cosgrove

Inner Guard:

Richard Gosselin  
Tiler

Vacant

Secretary [Cheri  
Swenson](#)

Treasurer

[Steve Dupuis](#)

TRUSTEES

1 Year

[Phil Bowden](#)

2 Year

[Bill Thompson](#)

3 Year

[Sean Molloy](#)

4 Year

Peter Lee

5 Year

Katelyn Smith

State Trustee

Floyd Howes, PER

# Biddeford –Saco Elks Lodge 1597

## The friendliest Lodge in Maine



May 2026



## Exalted Ruler's Message

Fellow  
Members,

Spring has officially arrived—the flowers are blooming, and it's time to put the shovels away and bring out the lawnmowers!

Our Lodge Officers have been installed for the 2026–2027 lodge year, and we are very thankful to our Past Exalted Rulers for performing the ceremony: Phil Guimond, David Perkins, Glenn McCallum, David Guay, Floyd Howes, Gail Howes, and Ward Grossman.

That same evening, I had the honor of presenting the Exalted Ruler's end-of-year awards. Congratulations to our recipients: Citizen of the Year, Terry Petit; Woman of Distinction, Dianne Niemczyk; Elk of the Year, Phil Guimond; Officer of the Year, Cheri Swenson; and PER of the Year, Michael Desjardins. Thank you all for everything you do for our lodge and community.

Join us for more fun in May! Cornhole Mondays, Bingo Tuesdays, Line Dancing Wednesdays, and Cornhole Fridays continue to bring new faces into our lodge. The first weekend in May is the Elks State Convention, and many of our members will be in attendance.

Our lodge thrives because of the dedication of our volunteer officers, and we are already planning for the 2027–2028 lodge year. If you're interested in taking on a leadership role or chairing a committee, I encourage you to reach out to me or any current officer. There may be an opportunity that aligns perfectly with your interests and passions while making a meaningful impact.

Elks National Foundation—have you made your ENF donation lately? This year, the Grand Lodge set a per-member goal of \$5.15, and our lodge exceeded that with an impressive \$15.87 per member. Even more remarkable, only 68 of our 429 members contributed. Imagine the impact if everyone participated! ENF donations support programs that strengthen our communities, including youth scholarships, veterans services, drug awareness initiatives, and local grants. I encourage you to consider joining the Fidelity Club through automatic monthly donations—no amount is too small. When we all contribute, the impact is significant.

There are many ways to get involved, and we rely on our volunteers to keep things running strong. We are currently in need of cooks for Friday Night Suppers and help with Tuesday Night Bingo, including callers, ticket sellers, and floor support. If you're unable to volunteer, simply coming out to support these events makes a difference.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook for weekly updates on lodge activities.

Elk of the Month—It's not often that a new member jumps in so quickly, but Bobby Graustein has done just that. He has brought great energy to the lodge and now runs cornhole leagues on both Monday and Friday evenings. His efforts have created a new source of income and brought new faces into our lodge. Congratulations, Bobby, and thank you!

Fraternally yours,  
Bill Desjardins  
Exalted Ruler



5/1/2026

Membership: 431

Lifetime: 127 (30%)

Candidates 9

Delinquents 85 (19.8%)

**2026/27 DUES**

Life Member \$49.25

Member \$89.25

[Online Payment](#)[Click to pay](#)[Elks Lodge Payment](#)**Updated Lodge Hours**

Sun Noon–8pm

Mon 5pm–Close

Tues Noon–9pm

Wed 3pm - 8pm

Thurs 3pm - 8pm

Friday Noon—Close

Sat Noon - 9pm

# Secretary's Page - Cheri Swenson

## Membership information

Thank you to the 346 members who have paid their 2026-2027 dues!

If you paid at the lodge, your card is available at the bar; otherwise, it has been mailed.

If you have not yet paid, please do so online, by mail, or at the lodge. The lodge pays dues to the Grand Lodge and Maine Elks Association on April 1st, so late payments place a strain on our budget. As of March 31, delinquent members' key cards have been deactivated, and you may not attend events or use the member lounge until dues are settled. On a brighter note, we initiated four new members on April 30th, elected two members to proceed to orientation, and have five new applications in process. Let's keep this momentum going!

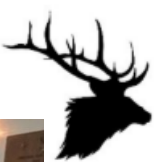
**Life Membership Information -**

Life membership is not automatic. You may submit a request to the Secretary once you have reached 30 years of membership (there is no longer an age requirement). Your request should detail your service and accomplishments. These requests will be voted on by secret ballot at a regular lodge meeting later this year; a two-thirds affirmative vote is required.

**Lodge Meeting : May 28th 7PM**



# Annual Installation of Officers



Officer of the Year, Cheri Swenson



Elk of the Year, Phil Guimond



PER of the Year, Michael Desjardins



Citizen of the Year, Terry Petit



Woman of Distinction, Dianne Niemczyk

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## 2026 Committee Members

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### Accident prevention

- Michael Desjardins
- Phil Bowden

### Adopt a Family

- Terry Petit

### Americanism

### Community Activities

### Craft Fair

- Vacant

### Drug Awareness

### ENF Scholarship

- Bill Desjardins
- Randa Newsome

### Friday Night Suppers

- Denise Rancourt
- Cheri Swenson
- Cindy Boulay

### Auditing

### PER Association

- Phil Guimond

### Bingo

### Board of Directors

- Bill Desjardins

### Building Maintenance

- Bill Thompson/Sean Molloy
- Michael Desjardins/ Phil Bowden

### MCCP

- Michael Desjardins

### Cribbage

### Gaming

- Stephen Dupuis

### ENF

- Randa Newsome

### Entertainment

- Sean & Kim Molloy

### Flag Day

### Veterans

### Youth Services

- Peter Lee

### Meat Raffle

- Cindy Boulay
- Terri Petit

### Memorial Service

- Marianne Cosgrove

### Visitation

- Floyd Howes
- Robert Vire

### Mothers Day Service

- Knights

### Newsletter

- Kim Molloy

### Hoop Shoot

- Scott Descoteaux

### Investigating

- John Desjardins

### Public Relations

- Katelyn Smith

### Ritual

- David Perkins

### Soccer Shoot

- Vacant

### Standing Relief

- ER, Knights, Secretary and Treasurer

### Thanksgiving Baskets

- Vassie Fowler

## May 2026

| Sun                         | Mon         | Tue      | Wed                  | Thu                  | Fri                | Sat                            |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
|                             |             |          |                      |                      | 1 Cornhole Suppah  | 2 Kentucky Derby 5:00 Pot Luck |
| 3                           | 4 Cornhole  | 5 Bingo  | 6 Red Cross          | 7 Paint and Sip 5:30 | 8 Cornhole Suppah  | 9                              |
| 10 Mother's Day Brunch 11am | 11 Cornhole | 12 Bingo | 13                   | 14                   | 15 Cornhole Suppah | 16                             |
| 17                          | 18 Cornhole | 19 Bingo | 20 Red Cross         | 21                   | 22 Cornhole Suppah | 23                             |
| 24                          | 25 Cornhole | 26 Bingo | 27 Line Dancing 5:30 | 28 Lodge Meeting     | 29 Cornhole Suppah | 30                             |
| 31                          |             |          |                      |                      |                    |                                |

**NOTE:** If you would like to become part of a committee, please contact any officer or the Chairperson of that committee.

Biddeford - Saco Elks Lodge 1597  
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# Announcements

*Join the fun!! Bring a Friend!*



**KENTUCKY DERBY**  
**AT THE ELKS!**

**Saturday, May 2nd ♦ 5:00 PM**

Get ready for the most exciting 2 minutes in sports!  
Join us at the Elks for a fun-filled Derby celebration!

*Wear your Fascinators  
& Derby Hats!!*

♦ Best Hat Wins a Prize! ♦  
♦ Pot luck - Bring a dish ♦

Grab your friends, dress to impress, and don't miss the fun!

Fun • 🎵 🎶 Racing Excitement

*See you at the Elks!*



**SIP & PAINT**  
**NIGHT!**

Come join us for a night of painting and fun!

📅 Thursday, May 7th  
🕒 5:30 PM  
**\$40** per project  
♥ A portion of proceeds will benefit M CCP!

**Biddeford Saco Elks**  
68 Ocean Park Rd, Saco, ME

*Space is Limited!*  
**Registration Required!**

Cash bar and light snacks



**BIDDEFORD-SACO**  
**Elks**  
*usa*  
**CORNHOLE**

**ELKS CORNHOLE!**  
Join us Mondays and Fridays!

- ✓ Online Registration: \$15
- ✓ Round Robin.

Reserve your spot today!

**Mondays begin April 13th!**



HELP US MAKE THE  
**MATCH**

Matching all gifts this month up to  
\$10,000

 **MARC GUP**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP



**Donate today and help the ARLGP make the match!**

Marc Gup Real Estate Group will match donations to the Animal  
Refuge League of Greater Portland up to \$10,000 all month long.

Use the QR code below or go to [arlgp.org/match](http://arlgp.org/match) to donate  
and support local pets.







# Save the Date!

BIDDEFORD SACO ELKS LODGE 1597



**MOTHER'S DAY  
BRUNCH**

Join us this Mother's Day for a special service at 11:00 AM,  
followed by a delicious brunch as we gather to celebrate  
and honor all the amazing moms.

**10 MAY | AT 11:00 AM**

Enjoy a delicious brunch featuring a variety of egg dishes, fresh fruit, and pastries, along with juice,  
coffee, and tea to start your day right. A cash bar will also be available.

**TICKETS**  
\$12 - Adults  
Free For Moms & Kids Under 5

*Celebration of Life*  
— for —  
**MIKE PENNA**



 **SUNDAY  
MAY 17TH** |  **11:00  
AM** |  **SUNSET  
GRILL**

Family and friends are welcome to come  
share stories, memories, and celebrate Mike's life together.

♥

**THE ELKS  
WANT  
YOU!**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**MEMBER VOLUNTEERS  
FOR THE  
CAR SHOW**



★ CAR SHOW IS FROM 8-2 ★  
★ **JUNE 7TH** ★  
★ VOLUNTEERS NEED TO BE THERE BY 7 AM ★

**WE NEED HELP WITH:**

 **SET UP** |  **TAKE DOWN** |  **INFORMATION  
BOOTH** |  **REGISTRATION** |  **PARKING**

**SIGN UP SHEET WILL BE POSTED  
AT THE BAR AND BY THE MEMBER SIGN IN LOG.**

★ Thank you for supporting your Lodge! ★

*Elks* Care - *Elks* Share

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*Around the Lodge .... Let's all get involved!!*

Community Friendly Connection  
Volunteer Transportation Service  
**WE NEED VOLUNTEER DRIVERS!**

Do you want to help your community members over the age of 60, who are not able to drive, get to their Medical/Dental appointments?

Come to Libby Library and chat with current drivers.

If you plan to attend please call 207-294-2591

or  
email: Shuttle.OOB.CFC@gmail.com  
no later than  
Wednesday, April 8th  
so we may get a head count.

Light refreshments will be served.

**WHEN: FRIDAY APRIL 10TH 10:00 - 11:30**

**WHERE: LIBBY MEMORIAL LIBRARY 27 STAPLES ST**

**BINGO**  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
**NEEDED**  
**SIGN UP TODAY!**







BPO ELKS LODGE #1597A Fraternal  
Organization P. O. Box 1597  
Saco, Maine 04072-1597



**In God We Trust**

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#### Lodge Meeting Dates

#### 2026-2027

April 2  
April 30  
May 28  
June 25  
July 30  
August 27  
September 24  
October 29  
November 12  
December 10  
January 28  
February 4  
February 25  
March 11  
March 25

Community • Friendship • Charity

# ELKS

## Elks Day at Wrigley Field

St. Louis @ Chicago  
July 4, 2026

**National Memorial**  
elks.org/elksday



Learn more at <https://www.elks.org/convention/baseball.cfm>.

## ELK OF THE MONTH 2026

### January

Denise Rancourt

### February

Phil Guimond

### March

Sean Molloy

### April

Jason Salamacha

### May

Bobby Graustein

