

**West Virginia Elks Association
State Convention
Canaan Valley, WV
April 30-May2, 2009**

State Ritualistic Committee Report

PGER Hess, State President Ashley M. Martin, III, State Officers, Visiting Dignitaries and Members all:

At this time I would like to recognize the members of the State Ritualistic Committee and our certified judges: from Sistersville Lodge #333 **Don Stokes, PSP**, Committee Advisor; from Grafton Lodge #308 **Bill Lambert, PSP**; from Huntington Lodge #313, **Harry Palu, PER** and **Carl Mooney, PDD**; from Charleston Lodge #202 **PM Carper, Jr., PSP** and **Stephen Janney, PER** ; from Beckley Lodge #1452, **Bill Sutphin, PDD**, and myself **Jack Bailes, PSP**

The purpose of our Initiation Ritual is to impress the new members with the lessons that it teaches. This Committee is here to help the officers improve their performance and presentation of these lessons. Each year the Officers and Coaches' Clinic is presented to help Officers make that first and lasting impression on a candidate, memorable and dignified. As always, if your Lodge wants help with the Ritual, don't wait until the annual Clinic; contact any one of the Committee members and we will arrange to meet with your Lodge to help in any way possible.

This year, to try to more helpful to Lodge Officers, on April 4 and 5, we held a two-day combined Judges' Clinic and Officers and Coaches' Clinic at Charleston Lodge #202. The Officers and Coaches' Clinic was conducted by our State Ritual Committee. The Judges' Clinic was conducted, in part by our Committee, and in conjunction with Grand Lodge Ritual Committeeman, Jim Warren.

Twenty Elks representing Beckley, Charleston, Grafton, Huntington, Sistersville and Weirton Lodges, and also three Elks from Indiana attended the Clinic on Saturday. Those recertified as Word Judges and Computers were: Jack Bailes, PM Carper, Jr., Steve Janney, Bill Lambert, Carl Mooney, Harry Palu, Don Stokes, Bill Sutphin, Frank Bohach, Roy Cowan, Walter Ice, Ralph Lamoreaux, Jim McIntyre and Ron McVey. On Sunday, with seventeen Elks representing the same 6 Lodges, all of our Judges in attendance were re-certified as Ritual Judges, which include PM Carper, Jr., Bill Lambert, Carl Mooney, Harry Palu, Don Stokes, Bill Sutphin, and myself. In addition, Jim McIntyre of Sistersville Lodge attained his final approval for Floor Judge. Regretfully, we had one Elk that failed the Floor Judges' test, and two Elks that failed the both the Computer and Word Judges' tests.

The Ritual Contest was held at Charleston Lodge #202 March 6 & 7, 2009. The Ritualistic Committee sincerely thanks Charleston Lodge for hosting the contest, for their participation, and especially for their hospitality. Three teams participated in this years' contest were Sistersville #333, Charleston #202 and Lewisburg #1758.

For this contest, the committee provides the ground rules, brings in out-of-state judges to judge the contest, and calculates the scores from the judge's worksheets. This year we were pleased to have two out-of-state judge; Harry Dean from Pennsylvania, and Ernie Enoch from Ohio. Our in-state judges were PM Carper, Bill Lambert and Steve Janney. Word judges were Carl Mooney and Harry Palu. Computers were Don Stokes, Bill Sutphin and myself.

Lewisburg finished in third place with a score of **92.1875**. Finishing in second place was Charleston Lodge #202 with a score of **95.1144**. Will their Exalted Ruler or representative please come forward to accept their trophy? The winner of this years' contest was Sistersville Lodge #333, and with a score of **97.1561**, they will be representing the WV Elks Association in Portland. Will their Exalted Ruler or representative please come forward to accept their trophy? We truly thank the teams that participated and encourage all the other Lodges to become involved with Ritual in the future.

The following are winners of individual awards. We want to recognize their dedication and present the All-State Award winning Officers:

Exalted Ruler	Curtis D. Heintzman , Sistersville #333
Leading Knight	Heidi Hubbard, Sistersville #333
Loyal Knight	Sue B. Stone, Sistersville #333
Lecturing Knight	William R. Romine, II, Sistersville #333
Esquire	Joseph W. Heintzman, Sistersville #333
Chaplain	James L. McIntyre, Jr., PDD, Sistersville #333
Inner Guard	Beverly Null, Charleston #202
Candidate	Roy D. Cowen, PDD, Charleston #202
Coach	Michael J. Herrick, PER, Sistersville #333

An additional award is being presented again this year. It goes to the Officer that has the highest overall point total. The award, the HIGH-POINT OFFICER goes to William R. (Rocky) Romine, II, Esteemed Lecturing Knight from Sistersville Lodge #333 with an individual score of **96.132**.

This year we sent one judge out of state - in April P.M. Carper judged the state contest in Ohio.

This past August the winner of the Eleven O'clock Toast Contest was Heidi Hubbard from Sistersville and the winner of the Tribute to the Flag Contest was Curtis Heintzman from Sistersville.

Announcements:

At the Mid-Year Meeting in August, the Eleven O'clock Toast Contest will again be held. The contest will be open to all Leading Knights, Exalted Rulers and Past Exalted Rulers. Please be sure you have the most current Contest version to review. In addition, we will again be conducting the Tribute to the Flag Contest, which is open to all Elks. As always, the notification, entry form and current wording will be sent to the Lodges before the contests and will again be posted on the WV Elks website and message board.

The State Ritual Contest will be in the North District in March 5 & 6, 2010. The location will be announced at the Mid-Year Meeting in August.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Bailes, PSP, Chairman
WV Elks State Ritualistic Committee