

## **Soccer Shoot Committee Report State Convention, 2009**

Committee Chairman: James L. McIntyre, Jr.

Assistant Chairman, Richard Maack

Committee Members:

Terry Carpenter

Richard Gosnell

David L. Delk, Jr.

Dean Quick

J.B. Phillips, PSP, Advisor

The 2008 – 2009 soccer season produced a mixed bag of accomplishments. While our shooters performed very well and the lodges participating exhibited great enthusiasm and outstanding work, the number of lodges holding shoots continued a two year slide. Only five lodges reported holding shoots and sent contestants to the state shoot. This is down from seven lodges participating last year. Due to this drop off in lodge participation, the number of youth involved took a considerable drop as well. Looking at the numbers, we had a little over 300 shooters this year. There are a couple of lodges who may have held local shoots, but they never sent me any information and did not send shooters to the state shoot. To say the least, I was deeply disappointed. Weirton, Martinsburg, St. Marys, Huntington, and Sistersville reported holding local shoots. Adverse weather conditions also reduced the number of participants at some of the local shoots.

The State Shoot was held on November 22, 2008 at the Milsop Community Center in Weirton. Exalted Ruler Pearson and her soccer committee, headed up by Robert Kolanko, did a superb job in setting up the shoot. All attending were treated to an excellent display of soccer talent and good sportsmanship. Following the shoot, Weirton Lodge 1801 served a hot dog lunch to all present.

The following placed first in the state shoot:

André Madison, Kayleigh Vaca, and Quinn Kahsay representing  
Martinsburg Lodge # 778

Nicholas Calvert, Allina Owen, Ryan Kirk, and Shelby Cronin representing  
Weirton Lodge # 1801

Sophie Kinnard, representing Sistersville Lodge # 333

All of our State Champions were present to represent West Virginia at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Shoot held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. I was really impressed by the quality of the young people in attendance. It was a very busy, but thoroughly enjoyable weekend. The Region 2 Soccer Committee, the Pennsylvania State Elks Association, and Carlisle Lodge # 578 really went the “extra mile” to make the entire weekend a success. Good soccer, good food, and good fellowship were in ample supply.

Our West Virginia champions performed well in the competition. More importantly, they represented themselves, their sponsoring lodges, and our State Association in a truly exemplary manner.

Results for our West Virginia Champions were as follows:

Girls U-8 Division	Keleigh Vaca of Martinsburg placed 4 <sup>th</sup>
Girls U-10 Division	Allina Owen of Weirton placed 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Girls U-12 Division	Sophie Kinnard of Sistersville placed 1 <sup>st</sup>
Girls U-14 Division	Shelby Cronin of Weirton placed 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Boys U-8 Division	André Madison of Martinsburg placed 4 <sup>th</sup>
Boys U-10 Division	Nicholas Calvert of Weirton placed 5 <sup>th</sup>
Boys U-12 Division	Ryan Kirk of Weirton placed 1 <sup>st</sup>
Boys U-14 Division	Quinn Kahsay of Martinsburg placed 4 <sup>th</sup>

Sophie Kinnard of Sistersville registered the highest score of any competitor, male or female, in the grid goal competition.

The State Association contest (determined by total points of the shooters) was as follows:

5 <sup>th</sup> place	Kentucky	236 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	Pennsylvania	253 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Maryland / Delaware / DC	260 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	West Virginia	274 points
1 <sup>st</sup> place	New Jersey	283 points

New Jersey has the honor of keeping the Kenneth V. Cantoli Trophy until next year's competition. It should be noted that PER Gene Chute of Sistersville Lodge 333 added a new base to the trophy to allow the continued addition of name plates.

Soccer continues to be the fastest growing sport in the country, and is by far the most popular sport worldwide. We can and should be reaching out to this inspired group of young people. I ask all Exalted Rulers to urge your Lodge's Youth Activities Committee to include the Soccer Shoot in their program. Several non-participating lodges are located in areas with well-established soccer traditions, so starting local shoots there should not be difficult. Also, lodges now holding shoots have expressed willingness in helping non-participating lodges in setting up their shoots.

I will be working with the committee to set up this year's state shoot. The committee will determine the practicality of continuing to rotate the shoot among the districts (this year's shoot would be held in the Southern District) vs. using a more central location.

Thank you for your continuing support for our youth.

Submitted,

James L. McIntyre, Jr.  
Chairman