WV Elks Ritualistic Report
Mid-Year 2011

At this time I would like to recognize the members of our State Ritual Committee and our Certified Ritual Judges:

From Sistersville Lodge #333,
Our advisor, **Don Stokes**, **PSP,**
Bill Lambert, PSP from Grafton Lodge #308,
Harry Palu, PER and **Carl Mooney, VP South,** from Huntington Lodge #313,
Bill Sutphin, PDD from Beckley Lodge #1452,
PM Carper, Jr., PSP, and **Steve Janney, PER,**
from Charleston Lodge #202, and
Jim McIntyre, VP North, from Sistersville.

Since the last State convention, this committee assisted Area 4 Grand Lodge Committeeman Jim Warren in conducting a combined Officers', Coaches' and Judges' Clinic at Charleston Lodge #202. The following Elks were re-certified as Floor Judges, Word Judges and Computers: Don Stokes, Bill Lambert, Carl Mooney, Jim McIntyre, PM Carper and Jack Bailes. In addition, the following were re-certified as Word Judges and Computers: Harry Palu and Steve Janney. As any of these members present will attest, the testing criteria was quite a bit more difficult this time.

As you are certainly aware, Sistersville Lodge #333 represented WV at the Grand Lodge Ritual contest in Phoenix, AZ. This year their score was **94.1894.** The final four teams were, in order of finish:

1. Lake Hopatcong, NJ #782	96.8970
2. Lincoln, NE #80	96.2435
3. Artesia, NM #1717	96.1306
4. Bradenton, FL #1511	96.0397

Announcements:

Saturday afternoon, the Committee will conduct the Eleven O'clock Toast Contest. All Exalted Rulers, Esteemed Leading Knights and all Past Exalted Rulers are invited to participate in this contest. All Elks and their families are invited to attend the contest. The "Toast" we will be using is the one from the Ritual of Initiation and will be judged on word accuracy, pronunciation, and impressiveness. A signup sheet is at our registration desk. The winner will be performing the Eleven O'clock Toast Saturday evening.

In addition, this year we will again be conducting "The Tribute to the Flag Contest". Details of both of these contests were emailed to all of the Lodges. This is open to **all Elks**, not just Exalted Rulers, Past Exalted Rulers, and Leading Knights. This Contest will be judged on Accuracy, Deportment, Pronunciation and Impressiveness. Again this year, for both contests, trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be awarded. Also, there is a Traveling Trophy, donated by Don Stokes, which the winner will have engraved with their name.

The State Ritual Contest is tentatively scheduled for March 2nd and 3rd, 2012, in the South District. As a reminder, to host a contest, the host lodge MUST participate.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Bailes, PSP, Chairman
State Ritual Committee