



VIRGINIA ELKS ASSOCIATION

VIRGINIA RITUALISTIC COMMITTEE



Donald E. Kidd, Jr., GENERAL CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

NORTH – Timothy E. Knotts CENTRAL – Daniel Toft SW – John Owen SE – Linda Belch

To: Exalted Rulers Virginia Elks Association

Dear Exalted Ruler:

The Virginia Ritualistic Committee requests your participation in the "L. Glenn Morris Toast Contest" at the Fall Convention in Virginia Beach on October 16, 2010. The contest will be held in the afternoon and contestants will appear in the order that I receive each reply. I will post the start time on the VEA website as soon as it has been set. Please reply as soon as possible as I have paper work to prepare before the contest.

To qualify for the Presidential Award your lodge must be represented by the Exalted Ruler or any chair officer in this contest. If you do not wish to compete, please see if one of your other chair officers will compete and represent your lodge. Previous First Place winners are allowed to represent their Lodge, but will not be eligible for awards.

All Elks and their families are invited to witness this contest. The enclosed toast is the one you must use and you will be judged on word accuracy, pronunciation and impressiveness by a panel of ritual judges. This write up also contains instruction on how to train yourself for the competition and how you will be judged. If you need some help in preparing, please contact your nearest Ritualistic committee member or me for assistance. I wish each of you the best of luck.

Donald E. Kidd, Jr., General Chairman
VEA Ritualistic Committee
325 Park Avenue
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802

If you have access, you can e-mail the below information to kiddjrd@aol.com (Please reference Toast Contest in the subject of your e-mail and indicate your office in the e-mail.)

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE AND RETURN IMMEDIATELY

Name _____ Lodge Name _____

Lodge Number _____

Lodge Officer (circle one) Exalted Ruler Leading Knight Loyal Knight Lecturing Knight will compete in the contest.

Guide for the L Glenn Morris Toast Contest

The toast contest is judged on the 3 areas listed below. All areas count equally for this contest.

PRONUNCIATION – Use the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Manual pronunciation guide. Each word mispronounced is one demerit.

WORD ACCURACY – A word omitted is one demerit, a substituted word is two demerits. It is best, if you miss a phrase, not to go back as it will double the errors.

IMPRESSIVENESS – Per the Grand Lodge Ritualistic manual “Complete thought units” are the basis for impressiveness. If you chop a complete thought unit you get 1 demerit for each incomplete phrase within the thought unit. The other thing that most people have trouble with, which effects both pronunciation and impressiveness, is speed. The normal speed for speaking in public is 125 words a minute.. At this pace the toast should take a minute to complete. Time yourself and you will probable find that you are done in 30 to 40 seconds, which is way too fast. When you are too fast you run words together which become pronunciation errors and you mispronounce a lot more words. You also get a demerit for each complete thought unit that is delivered too fast. For your help I have marked the toast to show the proper complete thought units with double vertical lines ||.

I expect all lodges to compete and I wish all of you the best of luck. **But remember your luck will be greatly enhanced by lots of practice!**

CONTESTANT: Members and Guests. || You have heard the tolling of eleven 10
strokes. || This is to remind us that with Elks the hour of eleven has a tender 16
significance. || Wherever Elks may roam, whatever their lot in life may be, || when 13
this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs. || 16
It is the golden hour of recollection, || the homecoming of those who wander, || the 14
mystic roll call of those who will come no more. || Living or dead, Elks are 15
never forgotten, never forsaken. || Morning and noon may pass them by, || the light 13
of day sink heedlessly in the West, || but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, 15
the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message, || “To Our 13
Absent Members.” 2