

Attention all NH PERs and Exalted Rulers,

On Sunday, February 19th, 2023, we will conduct an 11 O’Clock Toast Contest and a Flag Presentation Contest. Location is the Concord-Epsom Elks Lodge #1210. Start Time is 10 AM. This is open to current Exalted Rulers and Past Exalted Rulers. For each contest, the contestant with the highest score will be eligible to compete at the Grand Lodge Contest in Minneapolis, MN in July 2023. The NH State Elks Association will provide \$1500 to the contestants for expenses at the Grand Lodge Convention.

I would like to be notified in writing (via email) not later than January 2nd, 2023 if you will be competing in either or both of these contests. Email: dech1@myfairpoint.net

There are some changes associated with these contests as Grand Lodge further develops the format. The State Contest will be formatted to more closely resemble the Grand Lodge Contest going forward.

11 O’Clock Toast Contest

- The Initiation version of the Toast will be used.
- Toast is listed on page 44 of the Ritual of Local Lodges, Rev. 2017.
- No Esquire will be required. Lodge Jewels are optional for the contestant.
- No Tuxedo required. Sports Coat / Tie for the men. Appropriate attire for the ladies. No jeans or casual clothes please. This will also be the attire for the Grand Lodge Contest.
- The contestant will enter the Ritual Room and stand before the Altar. After the Chairman says, “It is the hour of recollection”, the contestant will start. At the conclusion of the performance, after being dismissed by the chairman, the contestant is allowed to take a seat in the audience.
- Contestants will be judged on word accuracy, pronunciation and impressiveness of delivery.
- **Contestants are urged to review the GL Ritualistic Manual (Code 519900) for tips and guidance to improve their overall performance. This manual contains a lot of great information.**

Flag Presentation Contest

- Lodge Jewels are optional for this contest.
- No Tuxedo required. Attire will be the same as outlined for the 11 O’Clock Toast.
- A “New Member” can be brought to the contest by the contestant or one will be supplied by the contest chairman. Each contestant must also bring the standard American Flag used in our Initiation Ceremony.
- Contest starts on P.57 of the Ritual of Local Lodges, Rev. 2017.
- The contest chairman will give three raps of the gavel to start the contest.
- The contestant begins as outlined on Page 57. See GL Ritualistic Manual (Code 519900) for proper deportment moves for this contest. The contest is over when the contestant returns to the podium, turns into his/her station and looks at the “New Member”.
- Contestants can remain in the Ritual Room after they have performed.
- Contestants will be judged on word accuracy, pronunciation, impressiveness and deportment.
- **Contestants are urged to review the GL Ritualistic Manual (Code 519900) for tips and guidance to improve their overall performance. This manual contains a lot of great information.**

Questions, comments? Please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Don Chesnel - Email : dech1@myfairpoint.net
NHSEA Ritual Chairman