

MAINE ELKS ASSOCIATION

2024-2025



RITUAL CONTESTS

LODGE TEAM

February 23, 2025

11 O'CLOCK TOAST

AND

FLAG PRESENTATION

March 9, 2025

Maine Elks Association
2024-2025
Lodge Ritual Team Contests
Registration Form

Frank:

Lodge _____ # _____

Will be competing in the Lodge Ritual Contest on February 23, 2025

Exalted Ruler _____

email _____ Text# _____

Esquire _____

Esteemed Leading Knight _____

Esteemed Loyal Knight _____

Esteemed Lecturing Knight _____

Chaplain _____

Inner Guard _____

Candidate _____

Coach _____

email _____ Text# _____

_____ Lodge # _____

Exalted Ruler Signature

Maine Elks Association
2024-2025
11 O'clock Toast and Flag Presentation Contests
Registration Form

Frank:

(_____) I will be competing in the **11 o'clock Toast Contest** on March 9, 2025!

(_____) I will be competing in the **Flag Charge Contest** on March 9, 2025!

Name _____

Lodge _____ # _____

I will be competing as (_____) Exalted Ruler (_____) Past Exalted Ruler (_____) Member

Name _____

email _____ Text# _____

_____ Lodge # _____

Signature

11 O’Clock Toast Contest

The 11 O’clock Toast Contest will use the Toast listed on page ii in the

Ritualistic Manual (519900) This is the Toast used during the Ritual Team

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 contest begins as outlined at the bottom of Page 56. 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.

ELEVEN O’CLOCK TOAST CONTEST RULES

- 1** The 11 O’clock Toast Contest will use the Toast listed on page ii in the Ritualistic Manual (519900) This is the Toast used during the Ritual Team Contest

- 2** The Contest and scoring will begin when the Contest Chairman says, “It is the hour of recollection.” There will be no restarts if a contestant commits some mistake Only restart allowed is if there is an obvious distraction from any outside source

- 3** The contestant must be a member of a member lodge of the Maine Elks Association.

- 4** The contestant must be a member in good standing at contest time

- 5** The dress will be business, coat, tie, or Lodge attire

- 6** Once an individual wins the Maine Elks Association 11 O’clock Toast Contest and competed in the Grand Lodge Contest, they cannot compete in any future Maine Elks Association 11 O’clock Toast Contest.

- 7** Scoring will be based on the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee’s 11 O’clock Toast computing, not the Ritual Contest The primary difference is the Toast Contest will not be scored on Deportment Impressiveness will count for 60% of the score instead of 50%; Word Accuracy counts for 30%, and Pronunciation makes up the remaining 10% The Judges will place a separate score for each contestant as they do the Candidate in the Ritual Contest, at the bottom of their sheet, based on a point system of 1 to 100 (THIS IS USED ONLY AS A TIEBREAKER) If there is still a tie, the individuals that are tied will be named the winner of that position

Ritual for 11 o'clock Toast Contest

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

FLAG CHARGE PRESENTATION CONTEST RULES

- 1** The Flag Charge Presentation Contest will start after the Contest Chairman gives three (3) raps. The Exalted Ruler Contestant will be behind their station and the new member contestant in the proper position four paces from the Exalted Ruler's station at the start of the Contest The chairperson will signal the Exalted Ruler by giving three (3) raps to start their part There will be no restarts if a contestant commits some mistake Only restart allowed is if there is an obvious distraction from any outside source
- 2** The Contest will end after the Exalted Ruler returns and returns to their station facing the "new member" after presenting the Flag
- 3** The contest is open to all members of lodges of the Maine Elks Association.
- 4** The Contestant and new member contestant must be a member in good standing at the time of the Contest. The Contestant can provide a "new member" of choice, or the Ritualistic Committee will provide the "new member" The "new member" will not be judged
- 5** The dress will be Lodge or State Attire, business or coat and tie with or without the Exalted Ruler's Jewels with no penalty. The Flag must be neat and kept as well as the Contestant's dress attire Since there is no "appearance" scoring, any demerits will be downgraded under "impressiveness."
- 6** Once an individual wins the Maine Elks Association Flag Charge Contest and has competed in the Grand Lodge Flage Charge Contest, they cannot compete in any future Maine Elks Association Flag Charge Contest
- 7** Scoring will be based on the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee's Flag Charge computing program, not the Ritual Contest The Judges will place a separate score for each Contestant as they do the Candidate in the Ritual Contest at the bottom of their sheet This is based on a point system of 1 to 100 (THIS IS USED ONLY AS A TIEBREAKER) If there is still a tie, the individuals that are tied will both be proclaimed the winner of that position
- 8** The Performance will be based on the current Ritual Manual, with the Word Accuracy being scored from the current Word Accuracy Guide We are starting with the Contestant behind the Exalted Ruler's station and the Candidate four paces from and facing the Exalted Ruler's station.
- 9** The scoring breakdown is as follows:
Word Accuracy 30%
Deportment 10%
Pronunciation 10%
Impressiveness 50%
- 10** The contestants are not allowed into the contest room before they compete They are allowed to stay in the contest room after they compete They will be lined up in the hall and allowed to enter when instructed by the Contest Tiler. The Tiler will instruct the Contestant to enter and inspect their station
(Meaning: placing the Flag and the "new Member" placing themselves in position four paces from the Exalted Ruler's station, with no practice at this time)

Department requirements for Flag Presentation Contest

Narrator: The Contest Chairman shall give three (***) raps of the

The Exalted Ruler then looks at the Flag spread on his station (failure √√ dept., indecisive √ dept.), with the field of stars in the upper or lower right hand side as viewed by the Exalted Ruler (failure √√ dept.), then reverently grasps the two top corners (incorrect √ dept.), (star corner in the right hand and stripes in horizontal position in the left hand), and then while glancing around the room (failure √√ dept., indecisive √ dept.), says:

Exalted Ruler: "Please salute our Flag."

Narrator: The new member shall also salute the Flag. The Exalted Ruler then looks at the Flag (failure √√ dept., indecisive √ dept.), and then raises it to a position in front of, or to the Exalted Ruler's left (failure √√ dept.), with the field of stars in the upper left hand corner as seen by the new member (failure √√ dept., √ imp.).As the Flag is being raised to its proper position by the Exalted Ruler. The Exalted Ruler now continues with the tribute to the Flag. Upon the completion of the words, "sea and sky," the Exalted Ruler, at his station, shall hold the Flag, unfolded, by the upper corners in front of his chest (failure √√ dept.), shall make a right turn (failure √√ dept.), and proceed in an orderly manner to a position on the floor directly in front of, and one pace away from, the new member (failure √√ dept.).The Exalted Ruler then continues:

Exalted Ruler: "In the name of this great Brotherhood, * * * * *."

Narrator: As he says the words, "I present you with this our Flag," the Exalted Ruler steps a half pace forward with either foot (failure √√ dept.), gently hands the Flag to the new member (incorrect √ imp.).(The Flag may be laid over the extended palm of the new member's hand, or the new member may accept the Flag by grasping it with both hands just inside the Exalted Ruler's hands. If the Flag is accidentally dropped to the floor by the Exalted Ruler (√ imp.for dropping and √ imp.for picking up) and (√√ under dept.),, and simultaneously, the Exalted Ruler shall step back one-half pace (failure √√ dept.).The Exalted Ruler then continues:

Exalted Ruler: "Preserve it as a * * * * *."

Narrator: The new member shall fold the Flag as the Exalted Ruler returns to his station and shall hold it in his right hand.

Ritual for Flag Presentation Contest

(3 raps by the Contest Chairman)

Exalted Ruler: Please salute our Flag.

As this emblem is first in our hearts as loyal Americans, so is it close to our Altar as loyal Elks. The gentle breezes with lingering caress kiss the folds of no flag which can compare with it in beauty. There is no such red in budding rose, in falling leaf or sparkling wine; no such white in April blossom, in crescent moon or mountain snow; no such blue in woman's eye, in ocean's depth or heaven's dome; and no such pageantry of clustering stars and streaming light in all the spectrum of the sea and sky.

In the name of this great Brotherhood, and on behalf of this Lodge, I present you with this, our Flag. Preserve it as a memento of this occasion, and may it ever stimulate you to the performance of your full duty in the preservation and defense of all it represents.