

NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION

RITUAL NEWS 2015

To: All NYS District Ritual Chairpersons
 Subject: 2015/2016 PLAN AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The primary plan for this year will be the same as last year and it is quite simple, "Promote by having each Lodge spend at least 2 hours per month practicing Ritual". Use and promote Ritual practices as not only a means for Officer's to understand what their chair represents, as well as, good team building exercises for Officers. The Officer Teams not only need to impress the new members, but also their current ones. This team work and camaraderie could then help stimulate Members into becoming future Officers. At this past year's State Contest, we had an increase of (2) two District Teams over the previous year, for a total of (7) seven. Excellent Job! As Lodge focus on Ritual is continuing to gain traction and grow within our great State, it is our duty as members of the NY State Ritualistic Committee to keep our "foot on the gas pedal" by promoting and aiding our Lodges, and not criticizing. Not only would we like to keep last year's Districts competing in next year's State Contest, I would like to challenge the other Districts in "Stepping Up" to the challenge. The pride and enthusiasm within the competing Officer Teams during the Contest and the State Ritualistic Awards Presentations is very contagious. Seize that enthusiasm and pride within your individual Districts. We've had a few changes within our Committee this new Lodge year. I would like to personally welcome the following new additions and also Thank the previous District Chairs for their dedication and commitment to the Ritualistic Committee:

- East District Chair Timothy Bresko Islip Lodge #2533
- North District Chair Carol Downs Whitehall Lodge #1491
- West Central District Chair Emily Wunder Lyons Lodge #869

When you get a chance, please extend a nice warm Welcome to our new Members.

Below is a list of the results at this past year's State Ritual Contest. During your District Committee Report at your upcoming DD Clinic, it is a great opportunity to recognize and Thank not only the winner's, but also all that competed. As everyone is a Winner! 2014-2015 NY State Ritualistic Contest Results

Team Standings

- 1st Place Bath Lodge #1547
- 2nd Place Colonie Lodge #2192
- 3rd Place Wolcott Lodge #1763
- 4th Place Liverpool Lodge #2348
- 5th Place Peekskill Lodge #744
- 6th Place Lowville Lodge #1605
- 7th Place Homer Lodge #2506

Individual Awards

All Star Award

Exalted Ruler Thomas Pietsch	Bath #1547
Esquire Greg Wheeler	Bath #1547
Leading Knight Richard Mertins	Colonie #2192
Loyal Knight Rew Van Atta	Bath #1547
Lecturing Knight Francine Mertins	Colonie #2192
Chaplain Judy McGlynn	Bath #1547
Inner Guard John Kennedy	Bath #1547
Candidate Reed Ensign	Bath #1547
Coach(s) Guy MCGlynn & David Hobbs	Bath #1547

Achievement Award

Exalted Ruler Paul Crumb	Peekskill #744
Esquire Joshua Mertins	Colonie #2192
Leading Knight Brad Myers	Lowville #1605
Loyal Knight Julie Keenan	Liverpool #2348
Lecturing Knight Robert Gelder	Bath #1547
Chaplain Carol Duerr	Liverpool #2348
Inner Guard James Taylor	Wolcott #1763

Below is a list of the currently scheduled Grand Lodge Ritualistic Judge's Clinics within our State. All three certifications will be offered. (Impressiveness, Word Accuracy, and Computer). All Members are Welcomed and encouraged to participate. All Members can receive Word Accuracy and Computer certifications upon successfully passing the tests. Although an Impressiveness certification can only be obtained by a PER, anyone can participate. If you have anyone attending, please give me a headcount a week prior to the Clinic.

2015 Grand Lodge Ritualistic Judge's Clinic Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>District</u>
Saturday August 29th	9am	Potsdam Lodge # 2074	North Central
Saturday October 10th	9am	Colonie Lodge # 2192	State Capital
Saturday November 7th	9am	Peekskill Lodge #744	Mid-Hudson
Saturday November 14th	9am	Wolcott Lodge # 1763	West Central

At this upcoming Fall Conference, I will be holding a Ritual Workshop that will cover the laymen's guide to the Ritual of Initiation and an overview of the (3) three different Grand Lodge Ritualistic Judge's Certifications. Please encourage all to attend. As an added bonus, each will receive a wristband entitled, "I Believe in Ritual!!" by the "NYS Ritualistic Committee". We will also be handing out the District Ritual Supplies, White Ritualistic Manuals, Word Accuracy Guides, and Impressiveness sheets. If you cannot attend the Workshop, please make sure that someone from your District will pick up your supplies. For me to mail them, it will cost the State undo expenses. In closing, I wish everyone continued success, and Thank You for being a part of the New York State Ritual Committee. If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience. Let's keep Ritual alive and show everyone that it's still important to our great Order. Fraternaly,
 Fred Wright, NYS Ritual Chairman



Ritual Achievement Award—Inner Guard James Taylor of Wolcott Lodge #1763 is pictured receiving a Ritual Achievement Award from Past State President Martin Rosenthal . He achieved a score of 91.322.



Ritual Achievement Award—Chaplain Carol Duerr of Liverpool Lodge #2348 is pictured receiving a Ritual Achievement Award from Past State President Lawrence Contratti. She achieved a score of 92.558.



Ritual Achievement Award—Esquire Joshua Mertins of Colonie Lodge #2192 is pictured receiving a Ritual Achievement Award from Past State President Phillip Holowacz. He achieved a score of 92.667.



Ritual Achievement Award—Esteemed Lecturing Knight Robert Gelder of Bath Lodge #1547 is pictured receiving a Ritual Achievement Award from Past State President Michael Bloss. He achieved a score of 93.668.

