

December 29, 2016

To: **CHEA District Leaders - *For Immediate Distribution to your Lodges***

Re: **CHEA Ritual Procedure for 2017-2018**

For the Elks Lodge year of 2017-2018 all California Districts are required to conduct a District Ritual Contest according to the posted schedule. Participation in the District Ritual Contest shall consist of a practiced, coached and rehearsed team of duly elected, appointed and installed officers performing the traditional Initiatory Ritual using a practiced candidate. This performance will fall into one of two classifications. Either all officers will perform from memory (the "Memory Division") or one or more officer will read part or all of their charge (the "Reading Division"). No other rituals or ritual renditions will be accepted. There are no exceptions. Within each of the Districts all Lodges are expected to participate in that District's Ritual Contest. The Sponsors and the CHEA Leadership believe that if officers cannot field a ritual team, who can simply read the Initiatory Ritual, the officers do not have the expertise or dedication to fill District or State positions that otherwise may have become available to them.

These two classifications will be judged separately and awards made in each. The State contest will award winners with Olympic style medallions and appropriate ribbons and perhaps the Districts will wish to consider the same for their District awards. The winning team in the "Memory Division" in each District will have the opportunity to advance to the State Ritual Contest at the District's discretion. Depending upon how well this is received by the CHEA membership, we may determine that both the "Memory Division: and the "Reading Division" teams from a District may go to the State Convention. However, for the 2017-2018 fraternal year no "Reading Division" Team shall go to the State Convention for competition.

The short form of the Initiatory Ritual, if allowed in the Lodge By-Laws, may be used for Lodge initiations. However, only the rendition published in the Ritual of Local Lodges (ref. 511500) may be used. No modified or local renditions are allowed regardless of source. Also, as allowed by Grand Lodge provisions, Degree Teams may be used in local Lodges for a "Memory Division" rendition of the traditional initiatory ritual but not for State level competition.

CHEA Ritual Contest Chairman John Lennon has prepared a statement of District and State Ritual Procedures which will be handed out at the Woodland and other clinics and then to others as appropriate.

Fraternally

Three handwritten signatures in cursive script. The first signature is 'Ken', the second is 'Louis J. Grillo', and the third is 'Tom'.

Honorable Kenneth L. Moore, Louis J. Grillo, and Thomas S. Brazier, Past Grand Exalted Rulers