



# California-Hawaii Elks Association

## Chairman Ritual Contest

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## **District and State Ritual Contest Procedures for 2017-2018**

### **Budget**

It is expected that all Districts will have a District Ritual Contest. Each District shall prepare a budget reflecting the inclusion and implementation of these procedures and signed by both the District Contest Chairperson and a District Leader. A copy of the budget is to be submitted to the CHEA Ritual Contest Chairman not later than January 31, 2017.

### **Contest Judges**

Each District Contest will be assigned three out of district certified ritual floor performance judges to judge that contest. Housing these judges is the responsibility of the hosting district. Each of the judges will be responsible for all of their own meals and drinks and those of their traveling companions (spouses). If a lodge or district wishes to extend hospitalities to the judges and/or companions, these may be accepted. However, no such hospitalities are expected. The usual travel reimbursements continue in place. If the hosting district wishes the judges to attend their awards dinner after the contest has concluded, a specific invitation should be extended and accepted or declined. Such invitation should explicitly identify financial responsibilities as the judges and their companions expect to be responsible for their own meals and drinks.

Each District Contest is responsible for providing coverage of two Word Accuracy Judging tables throughout the contest from within their own district or as available. While two certified Word Accuracy Judges are recommended for each table at all times to ensure more accuracy, one certified judge acting alone is permissible.

Each District Contest is responsible for providing three (a minimum of two is required) certified Computer Judges (Calculators) from within their own district or as available. It is recommended because there will be two contests within one contest (see below) that two computers be used. However, this can be accomplished on one computer by having two contests open at the same time and care being exercised.

### **Two Contests in One**

It is expected that all Lodges within a given District shall participate in the District Ritual Contest by having the duly elected, appointed and installed Lodge Officers performing the traditional initiatory ritual with the assistance of a rehearsed candidate. Each District Contest will have two contests within one contest. One contest will be for those teams

with all officers performing the traditional initiatory ritual from memory (“Memory Division”). The other contest will be for those teams with one or more practiced officer performing the traditional initiatory ritual by reading (“Reading Division”). The only exception to two contests within the one contest will be if all teams within that particular District fall completely within one division. No rituals other than the traditional initiatory ritual (as defined in the Ritual Manual #5199-08/16 and using the words found in the Word Accuracy Guide form RIT 104/16) shall be acceptable or performed as part of or during the contest. Both of these manuals had changes made in 2016 so use the latest version.

Both team and individual placements shall be calculated for each contest division separately by the Calculators. Appropriate All-District awards shall be made for both team and individual placement within each division except as noted above. Please see awards below.

### **Awards and Trophies**

It is expected that all historical or traditional perpetual awards and trophies will be continued. If a district wishes to introduce new perpetual awards, this may be done. However, in the interest of cost reduction for district contests it is recommended that plaques for individual performance placements be replaced with the awarding of Olympic style medallions. These can be gold, silver and bronze in color denoting first, second and third respectively. They can be hung from an appropriately colored ribbon such as red, white and blue and can be placed around the neck. Medallions have been used in some districts previously to become part of an officer’s uniform and displayed with pride rather than being placed on a shelf like plaques often are. The medallions can be inscribed with the contest, the office performed, the placement, year and the division (such as memory or reading), but not the individual officer’s name. This eliminates delays after the contest, misspellings of names and avoids any expensive errors. The medallions can be prepared well ahead of time and at the best price available. If sufficient teams are competing in each division, all three places should be awarded for each office. The objective here is inclusion and celebration of effort not exclusion. The required information to make a decision of how many and what places should be available as soon as the District Application to perform has been received from the various lodges. A recommended application deadline of April 15, 2017 or sooner is suggested.

The continued awarding of team placement plaques is supported for show-case purposes. It is expected that such team plaques or corresponding awards shall be made for both memory and reading divisions with an appropriate designation.

### **Advancement to State Contest**

Each District is encouraged to send one team forward to the State Ritual Contest in Palm Springs. That team must be from the “Memory Division” as no reading teams are allowed at the State Ritual Contest for 2017. See State Ritual Contest below for more information.

### **State Ritual Contest**

The State Ritual Contest for the 2017 Contest will have two divisions. Those District winning teams for whom all members are performing the traditional initiatory ritual from memory will compete in the Preliminary Contest on Thursday either in the Grillo Division or in the Moore Division. The division competing in and the scheduled performance times were drawn in Anaheim in 2016 for all districts. The top two teams from each of these divisions will compete in the final four on Friday morning. The winning team will then represent California in the Grand Lodge Ritual Contest in Reno, NV.

A completed original application to the State Ritual Contest appropriately signed must be in the hands of the State Ritual Contest Chairman before practice or performance will not be allowed. There are no exceptions to this requirement. Minimally a copy of this application should be sent to the State Ritual Contest Chairman immediately following the conclusion of the District Ritual Weekend. It is recommended that this be done by scan and email method. This copy is needed for scheduling, certificate creation, etc. with the original required for the calculators for verification purposes.

### **State Ritual Contest Awards**

All-State performance recognition will be given in both divisions. All officer and candidate recognition will be the medallions described above and properly marked. A red, white and blue ribbon will be used. An All-State coach's plaque will be awarded for each division.

The other plaques and perpetual trophies will continue to be awarded as well as team plaques.

### **State Ritual Contest Judges**

The Grillo and Moore Divisions will be judged by five certified ritual floor performance judges each. For each division one judge will be an out-of-state visiting judge and one judge will be an incoming CHEA Ritual Panel Vice Chairperson. For each division the three remaining judges will be from the pool of available certified California judges.

Each of the two divisions will have the appropriate two tables of Word Accuracy Judges.

Both divisions will be handled by the team of Computer Judges (Calculators) assembled for that purpose. Each division will be a separate contest during the preliminary contest. The Final Four will be a separate contest to determine those placements and the State Championship Team.