



SP Jerry Shook



New York State Elks Association e-Zine



The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of the New York State Elks Year 6 Volume 12 – November 2014

Birthday Wishes

11/12 Nelson Navarra PSP 1991-1992
11/21 David Carr PSP 2009-2010
11/24 Daniel Capella PSP 1987-1988

All-American Lodge Contest

Forms for the All-American Lodge Contest are now available at nyselks.org under News. The form must be signed by the Exalted Ruler, District Deputy and the State Chairman. It should be mailed to the District Deputy no later than March 15, 2015.

Fall Issue of Empire State Elk

The fall 2014 issue of the Empire State Elk, our award-winning newspaper, is now available electronically at nyselks.org under State Newspaper. The Winter issue, available only electronically, has a deadline of December 15.

Bulletin Contest 2014-2015

Submit 3 (three) consecutive issues of the bulletin and a letter from the Lodge Secretary certifying the Lodge membership as of April 1, 2014 to: Michael Jones, Chairman, NYSEA Public Relations, 809 Mann Ave, Rensselaer, NY 12144 prior to February 15, 2015. Judging will occur in all six Grand Lodge Divisions. Winning entries will be announced at the 2015 Spring Conference. Any questions, please contact Michael Jones at 518-441-1845 or by email at michaeljns64@gmail.com.

New Website Feature

A new feature of the nyselks.org website is our photo album, with pictures of events of interest around the state. Elks in Action shows Elks living the motto, "Elks Care-Elks Share". This album shows other Elk activities, recognitions and events that do not fit Elks in Action. Submissions of pictures and articles are welcome to webmaster@nyselks.org

M.Intrieri PDD 10/15/14

A Description of Ritual Judging

This time of year, we hear about ritual contests, and an upcoming ritual clinic. What's that all about?

A ritual contest is a competition between lodges to see who can do the best performance of the ritual of initiation. There are several components to the score: word accuracy is 30% of a team's score, and is judged by people who follow along in the book, and mark if an officer dropped a word, added a word (1 gig each) or switched a word (2 gigs). To be a word judge, you take a test, scoring an officer as he does his part, and marking mistakes. This certification is good for 2 years, and can be renewed. Any Elk member take the test.

Another part of the score is deportment - 10% (how the team moved), impressiveness - 50% (how well they delivered their lines) and pronunciation - 7% (did they say the word right?). In many contests, team appearance - 3% is also judged, looking to see if the team is identically attired. To judge these characteristics, the judge, who must be a PER, must take the exam twice, and must pass it both times. The judge must also judge a live team, and be within a range for each officer. The certification is good for two years, and then must be re-taken once every two years.

The final type of judge is computer judge, who takes the scores from the contest, and calculates a final team score. There are two computer judges in each contest, and they check each other's work. The exam consists of a test, and certification is good for two years. Any Elk member can apply.

All of the exams will be given at the Grand Lodge Ritual Clinic to be held in Homer this weekend (November 15). The best approach is to attend the clinic, and visit as many initiations as possible, going around with the District Deputy and judging the various lodges. The key is practice, practice, practice!

In Vain We Call...

Robert Hennings, Assistant to the Grand Secretary / Director of the Elks Veterans Service Commission. Bob lost his battle with cancer on Wednesday October 15, 2014. Bob was the Exalted Ruler of Chicago Northshore Lodge 1316; Vice Chairperson of the National Executive Committee of the VAVS.

SP Shook Travel Schedule

Visit	Date
Southern Tier	December 4-6
South	December 12-14
Central	December 19-21
West Central	Jan 30-31, Feb 1
Ontario	February 13-15
East Central	February 20-22
Southeast	Feb 27-28, Mar 1
Bowling Tournament	March 27-29
SP Homecoming	April 18
East	May 1-3
State Convention	May 29-31

Spring Conventon

The 103rd Spring Convention will be held at the Radisson, 120 E.Main, Rochester NY on May 28-31.

State President Homecoming

State President Jerry Shook's Homecoming is planned for the weekend of April 18, 2015 at the Desmond in Albany. Details to follow shortly.

Secretaries Reminded to Report

Lodge Secretaries should take note of the change in Grand Lodge Statute Section 16.010, requiring that they ensure their Lodge membership information is current through March 31. That statutory change, and others approved at the Grand Lodge Session in July, is detailed in the four-page section accompanying this month's Grand Lodge newsletter