

REPORT OF RITUAL COMPETITION RESULTS TO A JOINT SESSION OF THE 2009 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – CHICAGO, IL MAY 26, 2009

Good morning again, Brothers and Co-workers.

As I'm sure everyone is aware, this convention marks the final time that "The Story of the Moose" will be used for International Ritual Competition. In addition to competition purposes, this ceremony has been used to enroll thousands of men into the Loyal Order of Moose since its introduction at the 1998 International Convention in Toronto.

But before we can move forward, we must pay proper respect to the competition to which we are bidding farewell after 63 years. The first International Ritual Competition was held in 1946 during the 58th International Convention, which was held at Mooseheart, with Waukegan, Illinois Lodge #746 holding the distinction of being the first-ever International Championship Staff. Since that time, 34 other lodges have had staffs that have worn this crown.

As an avid sports fan, I love history and statistics. So in researching the information regarding past ritual competitions, I have found the following figures that I would like to share with you.

As I mentioned, 35 different lodges have been represented by the International Championship Staff.

There have been 3 ties for first place. In 1975, Kingsport, Tennessee Lodge #972 shared the title with Suitland, Maryland Lodge #1856. Then in 1991, Peru, Indiana Lodge #249 tied for top honors with Greensboro, North Carolina Lodge #685. And in 2000, Aurora, Illinois Lodge #400 and Greeley-Evans, Colorado Lodge #909 ended the competition in a dead heat.

14 lodges were the International Champions on more than one occasion. The following lodges won two championships: Cincinnati, Ohio Lodge #2; Frankfort, Indiana Lodge #7; Kokomo, Indiana Lodge #179; Aurora, Illinois Lodge #400; Batavia, Illinois Lodge #682; Mattoon, Illinois Lodge #803; Woodstock, Illinois Lodge #1329; and Rowland Heights, California Lodge #2257. Greensboro, North Carolina Lodge #685 and Kingsport, Tennessee Lodge #972 each won three titles. Burlington, North Carolina Lodge #684 and Northglenn, Colorado Lodge #2166 were four-time winners. Greeley-Evans, Colorado Lodge #909 won six championships, and Peru, Indiana Lodge #249, the New York Yankees of ritual competition, set the record with nine International championships.

Four lodges accomplished the feat of winning back-to-back championships: Mattoon, Illinois Lodge #803 in 1956 & 1957; Kokomo, Indiana Lodge #179 in 1958 & 1959; Kingsport, Tennessee Lodge #972 in 1975 & 1976; and Northglenn, Colorado Lodge #2166 in 1988 & 1989. Greeley-Evans, Colorado Lodge #909 did it twice; first in 2000 & 2001 and then again in 2007 & 2008. Peru, Indiana Lodge #249 decided back-to-back wasn't good enough. They went back to back to back to back to back; 5 consecutive titles from 1995 through 1999, the longest streak in the history of ritual competition.

Two of our International championship teams came from lodges in Canada: Powell River, British Columbia Lodge #1667 in 1979 and Scarborough, Ontario Lodge #1264 in 2002.

What a wonderful 63 years it has been. And as we complete this chapter of the ritual program, we prepare to make more history as we move forward with competition utilizing our new Moose Legion conferral ceremony. The first competition with the new ceremony will take place in November at the International Moose Legion Conference in Indianapolis. Then, ritual competition will be held each year at the International Convention, beginning with the 2010 Convention in Nashville.

In preparation for upcoming competitions, the International Ritual Committee will be meeting at Mooseheart in mid-June to make sure everyone is on the same page for judging. The new Moose Legion ritual books are currently available in the gift store at this convention, and will be available through Catalog Sales once the convention has concluded. In addition to the conferral ceremony, the books also contain updates to the Moose Legion meeting agenda and opening ceremony.

Before we announce the competition results, I would like to make some introductions. First, please welcome our International Ritual Committee Chairman, Henry Wimmer from Aurora, Illinois. This was Henry's first international competition as chairman after many years as tabulator and, from all accounts, he did an outstanding job.

Serving as tabulator this year was Jim Malsbury from Arcadia, Florida. Our floor judges were Vaughn Downing from Cheyenne, Wyoming; Earl Shelton from Greensboro, North Carolina; Tim Gowdey from Sarnia, Ontario; and Jim Shelton, from Peru, Indiana. Our word judges were Lonnie Mudgett from Saginaw, Michigan; Wendell Grimes from Easley, South Carolina; and Mike Peters from Scotia, New York. Please join me saying "thanks" to these gentlemen for committing their time and effort during the past three days to assure a successful competition.

First, we would like to recognize our reigning International Ritual Champions from Greeley-Evans, Colorado Lodge #909. As mentioned previously, this was their second consecutive championship and sixth overall. We thank each of the team members for their contributions to the ritual program and to the fraternity, particularly during the past decade. We also want to present each of them with another Past Champion tie tack that we know they will wear with much pride and dignity. The members of the staff are:

Serving as Governor, Harry Johnston
As Sergeant-at-Arms, Thomas Yamada
As Orator, Jim White
As Prelate, Shawn Harmer
As Jr. Governor, Marlin "Butch" Webeck
And serving as Past Governor, Jim Weimer

Supreme Councilman Harry Johnston will accept the tie tacks on behalf of the staff members. Let's have another round of applause for the members of the fine championship ritual staff from Greeley-Evans, Colorado.

As we present the award winners in this year's competition, we will announce the top three scores in each position. Ties are counted as one position. In scoring for individual ritual honors, we give awards on the number of points scored. Individual awards are presented based on the number of times a ritualist has finished in the top three in previous competitions. Following the announcement of the individual winners in each position, we will announce the top five team scores. The first place team is asked to come forward to receive their championship staff medallions.

At the conclusion of this session, all teams should pick up their results to the left of the stage. Please make sure to come to the front of the room after we close. If you find an error in either tabulation or posting, you have until 4:45 PM CDT on Monday, June 1 to contact the Department of Fraternal Programs. Any judgment calls that were made during competition are official and are not subject to change. We can only make corrections to tabulation or posting. As of Tuesday, June 2, all results will be official. If your lodge had a team entered in competition, please make sure someone picks up your copy of the results and delivers them to a member of your staff.

Now for the results. For individuals, 100 points would be a perfect score.

Governor – 3rd Place (Score = 99.0208; 3-way tie) Ken Dibble - Columbus, IN #398 Donald Foley - Scarborough, ON #1264 Robert Vaughn - Henry County, GA #2170 2nd Place (Score = 99.0417) William Greenfield - Nitro, WV #565 1st Place (Score = 99.0833) J.D. Sotelo - Santa Cruz, CA #545	Sergeant-at-Arms – 3rd Place (Score = 98.9583; 2-way tie) Darwin Terry, Jr. - Montour Falls, NY #426 Lonnie Moseley - Santa Cruz, CA #545 2nd Place (Score = 99.0208; 2-way tie) Stephen Hardman - Nitro, WV #565 Ralph Freeman - Greeneville, TN #692 1st Place (Score = 99.1042) David Smith - Palm Beach Gardens, FL #2010
Orator – 3rd Place (Score = 98.9792) Paul Smith - Columbus, IN #398 2nd Place (Score = 99.0208) James Carmichael - Scarborough, ON #1264 Jim Heyob - St. Charles, IL #1368 1st Place (Score = 99.0833) Robert Taylor - Saginaw, MI #82	Prelate – 3rd Place (Score = 99.0000) Tim Hill - Nitro, WV #565 2nd Place (Score = 99.0208) Jay Flach - Columbus, IN #398 John Wells - Scarborough, ON Lodge #1264 1st Place (Score = 99.0417) Michael Stephens - Santa Cruz, CA #545
Junior Governor – 3rd Place (Score = 99.0208; 3-way tie) Tim Simpson - Columbus, IN #398 William Schuttler - Sterling, IL #726 Carl McGee - Iowa City, IA #1096 2nd Place (Score = 99.0417) Hugh Shipley - Greeneville, TN #692 1st Place (Score = 99.1042) Daniel Cramer - Saginaw, MI #82	Past Governor – 3rd Place (score = 99.0000; 4-way tie) Daniel Engelke - Saginaw, MI #82 Lloyd Smith - Columbus, IN #398 Ken Osbaldeston - Hamilton, ON #1142 Gary Harrod - Henry County, GA #2170 2nd Place (Score = 99.0208; 4-way tie) Brian Murtha - Santa Cruz, CA #545 Roger Gregg - Greeneville, TN #692 Clifford Ross - Mableton, GA #1314 Daniel Denney III - Hilliard, OH #2236 1st Place (Score = 99.0625) Spencer Walsh - Scarborough, ON #1264

Now for the team scores. 600 points would be a perfect score.

5th Place Team -	Greeneville, TN #692	593.1458
4th Place Team -	Santa Cruz, CA #545	593.1666
3rd Place Team -	Scarborough, ON #1264	593.3124
2nd Place Team -	Saginaw, MI #82	593.7708
1st Place Team -	Columbus, IN #398	593.8958