

**ELEVENTH HOUR
TOAST CONTEST**

**Saturday, March 14th
1:30 p.m.**

Carnegies Room

ALL ELKS WELCOME

Guide for the Donald C. Conrad 11 O'clock Toast Contest

The toast contest is judged on the following 3 areas:

PRONUNCIATION – Use the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Manual pronunciation guide. Each word mispronounced is one demerit.

WORD ACCURACY – A word omitted, or added, is one demerit; a substituted word is two demerits. If you miss a phrase, do not go back – this will double the word errors.

IMPRESSIVENESS – Per the Grand Lodge Ritualistic manual “Complete Thought Units” are the basis for impressiveness. If you chop a complete thought unit into two parts you will get 1 demerit for each incomplete phrase within the thought unit. The other thing most contestants have trouble with is speed (which effects both pronunciation and impressiveness). The normal speed for speaking in public is 125 words/minute. At this pace the toast should take just over one minute to complete. Time yourself - you will probably find that you finish in 35 to 45 seconds - this is way too fast. When you are too fast you not only run words together (which become pronunciation errors), you also mispronounce a lot more words.

I hope all our District Lodges compete and I wish all of you the best of luck. **But remember - your luck will be greatly enhanced by lots of practice!**

CONTESTANT:

You have heard the tolling of eleven strokes.	8
This is to impress upon you that with us the hour of eleven has a tender	16
significance. Wherever Elks may roam, whatever their lot in life may be, when	13
this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs.	16
It is the golden hour of recollection, the homecoming of those who wander,	13
the mystic roll call of those who will come no more. Living or dead, Elks are	16
never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass them by, the light	13
of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall,	15
the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message,	11
“To Our Absent Members.”	4