

MERIT POINT “CHAMP” CONTEST 2023-2025 CONTEST RULES

The 2023-2025 Merit Point “CHAMP” Contest will run for two years, from July 1, 2023, through March 31, 2025. Contestants are the local lodges of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Winners will receive awards in 2025 at the Biennial Grand Convention. First, second, and third prizes will be awarded, based on the total number of merit points earned by each lodge over the contest period. Co-winners will be named in case of a tie.

The Chairman, Paul Siebeking, Past President and State Orator was appointed by the State President, will represent the State at large. Computations to determine merit points, and points will be calculated as shown below for each category. The decision is subject to appeal to the Grand Council.

Merit points will be earned as follows:

- I. **Membership Growth** (as measured by per capita tax figures for July 1, 2023, through March 31, 2025). The local lodge with the highest percent of membership increase over the two-year period earns 12 points, the second highest percent of membership increase earns 9 points, and third highest percent of membership increase earns 6 points. The local lodge with the highest actual membership increase earns 12 points, the second highest actual membership increase earns 9 points, and the third highest actual membership increase earns 6 points. **The State Financial Secretary supplies figures on membership.**
- II. **Timely Payment of Per Capita Tax.** For every quarter that the local lodge pays on time, the total per capita tax due, beginning with the quarter ending July 1, 2023 and including the quarter ending March 31, 2025, two (2) merit points are earned. **The State Financial Secretary supplies data.**
- III. **Attendance at Grand Council Meetings.** For every Grand Council meeting held during the contest period which a local lodge president attends, or sends a representative, two (2) merit points are awarded. The representative for a local lodge president cannot be a State officer. **The State Recording Secretary will supply data on attendance.**
- IV. **State Newsletter Articles.** For every article submitted to the State Newsletter (Il Giornale), one (1) merit point will be awarded to the lodge whose member submitted the article. Any local lodge under this item may earn no more than six (6) points. Articles written by State Officers or State Committee Chairs in their official capacity are not counted. **The State Newsletter Editor will supply data.**
- V. **Scholarship.** For the local lodge that makes the highest per-member dollar contribution for scholarships during the contest period, three (3) merit points will be awarded. The lodge with the second highest per-member amount will earn two (2) points, and the lodge with the third highest per-member amount will earn one (1) point. To eliminate any disadvantage to lodges with fewer members, the total dollar amount contributed by each lodge for scholarships during the contest period (either as awards or financial contributions to the State Scholarship Fund) will be divided by the number of members in the lodge, to arrive at a per-member dollar contribution. **The State Financial Secretary and the Virginia OSIA Foundation Treasurer will provide this information.**
- VI. **Charity** For the local lodge that makes the highest per-member dollar contribution to charity during the contest period, three (3) merit points will be awarded. The lodge with the second highest per-member amount will earn two (2) points, and the lodge with the third highest per-member amount will earn one (1) point. To eliminate any disadvantage to lodges with fewer members, the total dollar amount contributed to charity during the contest period will be divided by the number of members in the lodge, to arrive at a “per-member” dollar contribution. **The State Financial Secretary will supply this information.**

Submitted:
Paul Siebeking, Chairman