VIRTUAL MEDALS FOR AGA WINNERS

BY ROD CHOW, S.A.M. NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

January 2021 marks the launch of the new SAM Assembly Growth Awards (AGA) webpage, new AGA virtual medals, and the re-energized AGA program. As National First Vice President responsible for AGA and the Chair of the reinstated SAM Membership Committee, I am excited to announce that this long-standing SAM Assembly Growth recognition program has been catapulted to the forefront, super-powered by Most Illustrious Dr. Joel “Batman” Zaritsky’s “Energy of the SAM” and “Get Just One” mottos.

Click on the new AGA button at www.magiicsam.com to reveal the AGA virtual banner, medals, and logos, all impressively designed by SAM Assembly v1.1 President Matthew Crabtree. As you enter the new webpage constructed by National Second Vice President John Sturk, you will see the rules and a wealth of information and resources that recognize past recipients and encourage and motivate Assemblies to become new recipients.

Assemblies have until May 31, 2021, to bolster their SAM Assembly membership to enhance their chances to be recognized as 2021 AGA Virtual Gold Medal Winners! With many Assemblies holding meetings virtually, now is the time to bring magicians who may not have had the ability to attend live meetings, due to time and distance constraints, into the SAM and into your Assembly. By “Going for the Gold,” you will not only be strengthening your Assembly, but you will also be providing invaluable SAM benefits, expert learning, our cutting edge M-U-M magazine, and a welcoming social community.

To make it easy to track your Assembly’s progress toward winning an award, we have created an “Assembly Growth Tracker” (AGT), which you may download from the new AGA webpage. Also, all SAM members can use the “Refer a Friend” link button, conveniently added to the page, to send a personal message to the prospective member with your Assembly number to join your Assembly. This will enable you to track your referrals.

The new prestigious Gold Virtual Medals — “engraved” with the Assembly name, number, and year of achievement — may be proudly used by recipient Assemblies in their newsletters, correspondence, and on social media. This is in addition to SAM National recognition and a Virtual SAM National Certificate Award for the Assembly to post and display. Also, the current winning Assemblies will be prominently featured with an Assembly-supplied group photo/collage/bio on the Membership Growth Award page for one year. Past winning Assemblies will be archived and will continue to be honored on this page.

As announced by President-elect Tom Gentile at the Annual National Council Meeting held virtually on August 15, 2020, the AGA recipients for 2020 are as follows:

- Houdini Award – Parent Assembly #1, New York City (North Atlantic).
- Kellar Award – Mile High Magicians Society #37, Denver, Colorado (Northwest).
- Thurston Award – Columbia Conjurers #141, Columbia, Maryland (Mid-Atlantic).
- Christopher Award – International Assembly #272.

Congratulations to all! And in celebration of the launch of the new medals, we will retroactively send all 2020 recipients a new Virtual Gold AGA Medal in the name and number of their Assembly.

With this supercharged AGA program, the “Energy of the SAM,” and the power surge of “Get Just One,” we would like to see your Assembly reap the benefits of striving to be a golden winner in 2021! 😊