
Section F. Formal Function and Protocol

Introduction

DCOs usually have the job of presiding at formal social and ceremonial functions sponsored by the district and, at times, may be invited to attend similar functions given by other Auxiliary units or outside organizations. These formal activities include changes of watch, changes of command, dinners, award banquets, luncheons and, at times, social gathering in another's home. On occasions when one is a guest, it is customary to personally greet the host and hostess as soon as possible after arriving. At the conclusion of the function, it is also common courtesy to personally express appreciation to the host and hostess for being invited, before departing. When a senior Auxiliary leader is present, such as the DCO, Director, or the District Commander, etc., it is considered proper to delay leaving until they have paid their respects and departed.

F.1. Receiving Lines and Receptions

If attending a function where a receiving line is established and the time for beginning of the function is specified, it is courteous to be present to proceed through the line at, or immediately after the time indicated. It is discourteous to carry a drink, cigarette, cigar, etc., when going through the line. It is also a courtesy to other guests, who may be waiting, not to stop for any extended conversation with any member of the official party in the receiving line. Normally, spouses or significant others immediately precede their Auxiliary spouse or mate when couples are going through a receiving line. A clear, distinct introduction is given to the first official member of the line. This is necessary so that members of the official party may be introduced as people proceed through the line. Once introduced to the last person in the line, it is courteous to move some distance away so that other people still passing through the line are not blocked.

F.2.
Introductions

When introducing guests, be extremely careful to be accurate with names and titles. Lengthy introductions for each person at the head table frequently embarrass the individuals concerned and may prove boring to the other guests. Generally, only the principal speaker or speakers at the event require an introduction over and above their name and present title. Even then, it may be desirable to limit the special introduction to a brief description of the speaker's career achievements to date. Do not make the introduction longer than the speech. Practice beforehand, if necessary, so that names and titles can be spoken fluently and easily when introducing guests. Before introducing a senior guest, examine the intent. If the plan is to inform the audience regarding the individual's background, give a brief career resume. If the guest is to be the principal speaker, your introductions should, within one or two minutes, establish the credibility of the guest to speak on the intended topic or subjects. Introductions should help to launch the speaker into a successful talk. An extended discourse on the individual's military career and prior assignments probably would not serve that purpose.
