

OES Dress Code

a skit Craig Wepprecht and I did about OES dress code. We asked the Grand Officers to come in their 3 'outfits and we also had members come in formal, business casual and really casual. Stressing the point that we want our members to come out to meetings and to be comfortable.....

Cheryl B. WM Pike Chapter, Kenosha

Craig: Sister Cheryl, I have been looking through the Grand Chapter code for the dress code so I can share that information with our newer members, but I can't seem to find any information.

Cheryl: Well, Bro. Craig, that's because there is nothing in code about dress requirement for our members.

Craig: You mean there are no official guidelines what ever?

Cheryl: No, there is some guidance in the ritual. -  
READ From Ritual

Craig: <PAUSE> Well, where's the rest?

Cheryl: That's it. There ain't no more.

Craig: OK, so no hats or gloves <Toss those away>. But what about formal wear, I thought it was required that all ladies wear long sequined gowns and all men wear tuxedos??

Cheryl: Well there are many members who do wear formal clothing, but it still isn't a requirement. It really depends on the situation. Very often when you see some in formal dress, they are a Grand Officer or a Past Grand Matron, etc.

Craig: So all Grand Officers are required to wear formal dress?

Cheryl: Well, again that depends on the situation. The WGM usually communicates to her offices the expected dress for certain events. Usually she won't have them show up in formal wear for a Chapter Picnic. In fact the Grand Officers have several distinct "uniforms" intended to cover many different situations.

Craig: Ok, so we don't have to wear formal dress, but what about dresses and suits.

Cheryl: Well, again it is situation specific and even more so, Chapter specific. There are some Chapters that prefer to be dressier and there are some Chapters that prefer to be more casual. A member should always try to learn what the local preference is and dress accordingly. In general though, Chapter officers are expected to dress a little more formal than sideliners. The ladies will wear dresses or blouse/skirt combinations, while the men may wear suits or sport coat and slacks.

Craig: So you say sideliners can be more casual?

Cheryl: Sure, we want as many sideliners as possible and they should be comfortable. If they are coming from work they may even be dressed business casual, which might mean the ladies are wearing skirts or slacks and the men may be dressed in a polo shirt and slacks.

Craig: I haven't heard you mention blue jeans or even more casual wear like shorts and T-shirts.

Cheryl: Well, there is a place and time for everything and you have to make it appropriate. Denim works well for a Western theme night but may be out of place for a Grand Officer Visit. T-shirts and shorts can be fine for a picnic or other very casual event, but would definitely stand out at installation of officers.

Craig: Ok, so it appears that no one should have to go out and buy a new wardrobe just because they join Eastern Star. And it really is just good judgment and understanding local chapter customs that dictates what we should wear to events.

Cheryl: That's right.

Craig: Ok, one last question, Can we wear our Birthday suits?

Cheryl: Only if you get it ironed first!