

The Loyal Toast

The Loyal Toast is proposed after dessert and before coffee is served. The tables are cleared except for the decorations and wine glasses. Port wine is delivered to the tables, and the host will sample it to ensure that it is potable. When the host accepts the port, the wine steward will then give the decanter to the host, who then charges a glass three-quarters full and passes the decanter to the left, ensuring that it does not touch the table.

This is the signal for the servers to hand the wine to the person at the far right end of each table. The members charge their glasses three-quarters full and pass the decanters to the left, taking care not to let them touch the table. Two decanters are delivered to the head table: one to the host, who sits at the centre, and one to the far right end of the table. A sound system should be available to play six bars of "God Save The Queen", before drinking the toast. After the toast, coffee is served and smoking is permitted.

The Corps Toast

The toast to the Force (the Corps) takes place after the Loyal Toast. The host or designated senior member calls upon the junior member to propose a toast to the Force. The same procedure follows as for the Loyal Toast, except that six bars of the "Regimental March" or the "Maple Leaf Forever" are played prior to drinking the toast.

Introduction of the Head Table

The host introduces the head table personnel and guests, ending with the senior officer, or the guest of honour, as appropriate. Sometimes, a guest speaker

is invited or hired to entertain the assembly. In such cases, a special introduction is usually made.

Adjournment

The host may reply briefly to an honoured guest's comments or speech, or in the case of a guest speaker, thank him or her for attending. Following this, the host or someone designated to act as master of ceremonies will ask everyone to stand while the head table personnel leave the dining room. All then adjourn to the lounge for the remaining activities.

After Dinner

The formal part of the evening concludes and the remainder should include some form of relaxed entertainment. Regardless of the program, however, there should be no relaxation of dress or standards of discipline. Decorous behaviour is, after all, a basic element of any advanced society, and it is essential in a professional group such as ours.

Additional Points

- If pre-dinner cocktails are scheduled, it is wise to limit both the time period and the amount of alcohol served. Thirty minutes is adequate in most instances. It is difficult to enjoy a long session at table after consuming several drinks, and calling a break in the proceedings is not in good taste. A proper dinner format is uninterrupted and ends after coffee and speeches. At any formal