

ANNOUNCING...



the AALL Dress Code

APRIL 1, 2000

The AALL Sartorial Improvement Task Force has finished its work and offers this report:

Background

Two years ago, an AALL Committee met in Chicago on a fall weekend. The meeting was held at the Union League Club, which is directly across the street from AALL Headquarters and offers overnight accommodations, as well as meeting and meal facilities, at rates much lower than those of downtown hotels.

Many committee meetings are held at the Union League Club. One of the information pieces distributed to each attendee is the club's dress code, which includes an admonition that the club's management "will have the particular responsibility for enforcement of the dress code in all areas of the Clubhouse."

At this particular meeting, two committee members were asked to leave the lobby, where they were waiting to meet colleagues, because they were dressed in jeans. These two members had to leave the building and re-enter at the loading dock, where they were allowed to take the service stairs to their rooms in order to change clothes to something more suitable.

This embarrassing episode reverberated through the membership like a sledgehammer striking a gong. It forced many of us to take a long, hard look at ourselves—literally. And we did not like what we beheld.

The Sartorial Improvement Task Force was created by then-President Lorna Slawlib, with the charge "to heed the wake-up call of the Union League Club expulsion and figure out a way to get law librarians to stop dressing like circus monkeys. Do what you have to do."

The Committee studied the dress codes and public images of numerous other professions. We know many of you were looking forward to the creation of a Law Librarian Uniform, and hope your disappointment will be tempered by the knowledge that the Committee debated uniforms extensively, and the final vote was close. Instead of requiring a uniform, we have crafted the following:

AALL Dress Code

1. Members must wear business attire to be recognized to speak at Business Meetings. A member with any official affiliation with a publisher must wear the publisher's logo so that members will be aware of the affiliation. When walking from program to program and while touring the Exhibit Hall, a member with a vendor affiliation is requested, but not required, to wear a sandwich board and ring a bell.
2. Jeans may not be more than five years old, may not have holes, and are not appropriate for the Closing Banquet.
3. "Sensible" shoes may only be worn during program and Exhibit Hall hours.
4. Spandex is permitted only in undergarments. Undergarments must not be worn on the outside of other clothing.
5. Females in sequined dresses and males in tuxedos will be given preferential seating at the Closing Banquet. Kay Todd will serve as the gold standard in this category.
6. Overalls, cutoffs, and shirts without collars are not appropriate at any time. Those of you accustomed to going barefoot—forget about it.
7. Beer t-shirts are never appropriate.
8. "Parrothead" attire will be permitted only at the West Party.
9. Camouflage, leopard skin prints, and lime green golf pants are not permitted.
10. Hair color derived from Kool-Aid is not appropriate. Pencils will not be permitted as hair ornaments.

Pictures of members in appropriate attire will be posted to AALLNET 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting so that other members may plan accordingly. A new standing committee, the Dress Code Enforcement Committee, shall be established. It will have annual training meetings at the Union League Club. It will also compile a Best Dressed Members list each year; those members shall be recognized at the Opening Luncheon and by a photo array in *AALL Spectrum*.

Anyone who violates the Dress Code will be punished by being forced to write 500 times "I promise not to violate the AALL Dress Code" at a special booth in the Exhibit Hall. Upon completion, such a person will receive a "Reformed Fashion Don't" ribbon to wear on his or her badge.

Conclusion

The Sartorial Improvement Task Force urges members who do not currently own mirrors to acquire them with all haste. We are confident that the new AALL Dress Code will go a long way toward rectifying the fashion boo-boos that have been rampant heretofore, and should also help to eradicate the occurrences of spontaneous blindness that mar each and every Annual Meeting.

