

# Policy regarding Social Media & Iowa Freemasons

The Grand Lodge of Iowa recognizes that social media has grown exponentially in recent years and has a goal of supporting the regular and extensive use of it. We know that many Brethren regularly connect by Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and other means. We as Masons must be mindful that our individual postings not only reflect our own character but that of Freemasonry across this Grand Jurisdiction.

## Social Media Policy

- A Mason should conduct himself with the same courtesy he would in front of the general public.
- As a Mason, he must be aware that his postings are a permanent record; therefore, his conduct may influence the world with a positive or negative opinion about him personally and about the organizations to which he belongs.
- A Mason should never use disparaging comments, profanity, etc. when posting; including, but not limited to, graphic, video, and audio recordings.
- A Mason should not post “ritual” or “tyled” information.
- Masonic pages are to be supportive of the organization and its members, promote upcoming events, discuss past events, video sharing, and discussion of times of fellowship and promotion of Masonic bodies.
- A Mason should not use social media to obtain personal advantage in promoting political, religious or business activities by targeting other Masons.
- A Mason should not use social media to contact other Grand Jurisdictions unless you are a member of that jurisdiction. Remember that all inter-jurisdictional communication is, by Masonic protocol, conducted by and between Grand Lodge offices.
- No discussion or other information regarding to an application, background, or investigation of an applicant is ever appropriate or condoned.
- There should never be discussion regarding the ballot on a candidate.
- Nothing should ever be written or discussed relative to the business of a Lodge or of any discussions/actions which have occurred behind Tyled doors.
- Information about Lodge or District social activities must comply with the Grand Lodge regulations already in place for them (for example no reference to alcohol or games of chance).
- Masons should advise a Brother if something he has posted is improper within the framework of our Grand Constitution, Rules and Regulations, etc.

Ultimately, your actions as a Mason online should promote the highest standards of morality and integrity. You should always be mindful of the penalties as described in the Grand Constitution relating to trial, suspension, and/or expulsion for any un-Masonic behavior. Posting a comment related to the Fraternity and then posting a disparaging comment about a social or political stance can easily be misconstrued by readers that your stance is representative of Masonry and all Masons. Remember that the public and members of the Masonic Fraternity are reading your posts online.

# Disclaimer

(a) Any blog or post created by any member of the Masonic Fraternity under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Iowa A.F & A.M. that will discuss any Masonic topic of any kind must include the following disclaimer.

(i) “Any views, opinions, or thoughts articulated in postings and/or comments from any contributors to this weblog do not in any way represent the views of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, its constituent lodges, officers, or employees.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Grand Secretary. We encourage you to be a positive and proactive force for projecting Freemasonry in the world!  
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