



## **Grand Lodge of Nebraska A.F. & A.M. Social Media Guidelines for Nebraska Freemasons**

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska recognizes that many Lodges and Freemasons are actively using social media, and the number of Lodges and Masons utilizing social media continues to grow. Brethren have never before been so connected by Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, and many other social media networks. These have proven to be of great value in connecting Brethren across Masonic jurisdictions, building relationships and friendships, and promoting events and activities.

As Freemasons, we must remember that our individual postings not only reflect our own character and values, but intentionally or unintentionally reflect on Freemasons as a whole. Any online post, regardless of the ability to determine the privacy of the posting, can easily be seen and shared, and there is no such thing in this digital world as a truly private post.

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska recognizes the value of social media to our fraternity and in no way seeks to limit or control its use among Freemasons. The Grand Lodge of Nebraska, however, urges Nebraska Masons to view themselves as ambassadors for Freemasonry in their use of social media.

Therefore, these guidelines are presented to Freemasons as best practices in their use of social media:

- A Mason should conduct himself as he would in front of the general public, with courtesy and respect for others
- A Mason should be aware that all posts are a permanent record; therefore his conduct may influence the public with a positive or negative opinion about him personally and about the organization(s) to which he may belong.
- A Mason should never use disparaging comments, profanity, etc. while posting; including, but not limited to graphic video and audio recordings.
- A Mason should be mindful about posting "ritual," including signs, tokens, or words (recall the obligation of the first degree).
- While debate and constructive disagreement is encouraged, Masons should be supportive of Masonic organizations and members, promoting upcoming events, discussion of past events, video sharing, and discussion 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.
- There should never be discussion in regards to an application, background, or investigation of an applicant, nor should there be discussion in regards to the ballot of a candidate.
- A Mason should not identify any Mason as a member of the Fraternity unless consent has been given or he has previously identified himself as a Mason.
- There should never be discussion related to the business of a Lodge and what is discussed behind tyled doors.

- Information about social activities must comply with regulations already in place for them.
- A Mason should not use social media to conduct official lodge business or to contact another Grand Jurisdiction or one of its constituent lodges for the same
- A Mason should remember his obligation and advise fellow brethren if something they have posted is improper within the framework of Grand Lodge of Nebraska Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.
- If for some reason the social media account is no longer used, it should be taken down. Old and outdated sites give a negative impression to people who find the page.

Your actions as a Mason on social media websites should promote the highest standards of morality and integrity. You should always be mindful of the penalties as described in the Constitution and By-Laws relating to trial, suspension, or expulsion for any un-Masonic behavior. Posting a comment related to Freemasonry or a disparaging comment about a social or political stance can easily be misconstrued by readers that your stance is representative of the body of Freemasonry.

Updated: September 5, 2017