



GRAND LODGE OF MISSISSIPPI, F.: & A.:M.:
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to members regarding the appropriate use of social media (Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram, TikTok, Reddit, and other mediums) in a manner that reflects the values, dignity, and reputation of Freemasonry. The strength of Freemasonry rests upon the principles of **Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth**. Harmony among the brethren is the foundation upon which every lodge is built. Public disputes between Masons on social media undermine the dignity of the Fraternity, damage public perception, and violate the spirit of Masonic obligations. We as Masons are to be mindful that our individual postings not only reflect our own character but that of Freemasonry. This policy establishes standards governing online conduct among members in order to preserve harmony and protect the reputation of the Craft.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Master Masons, Entered Apprentices, and Fellow Crafts of lodges under this jurisdiction and all Masonic-affiliated online spaces. This includes, but is not limited to, Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, TikTok, Reddit, YouTube, messaging platforms such as GroupMe or WhatsApp, and any other digital platform where content can be publicly shared or distributed. The policy applies whether a Mason is posting in public forums, private groups, comment sections, and direct messages when they involve other Masons or Masonic matters.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Freemasons using social media should:

- Conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the principles of **Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth**.
- Avoid posting content that could bring discredit upon the Fraternity.
- Remember that they represent the reputation of the Craft even when posting in a personal capacity.
- Practice civility, restraint, and respect in all online discussions.

Ultimately, your actions as a Mason on these Social media sites should promote the highest standards of morality and integrity. Masonic pages are to be supportive of the organization and its members, promote upcoming events, discussion of past events, video sharing, and discussion of times of fellowship and promotion of Masonic bodies.

ACCEPTABLE USES

- Announcements of meetings and events
- Coordinating lodge activities
- Sharing lodge news and charitable efforts
- Fellowship and appropriate fraternal conversation.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

The following conduct by a Mason on social media is strictly prohibited.

• **Personal Attacks**

Members shall not insult, mock, or demean another Mason. Nor shall members question another Mason's integrity, character, or Masonic standing publicly. Never use disparaging comments, profanity, etc. toward a brother while posting, including, but not limited to, graphic video and audio recordings.

• **Public Accusations**

Members shall not publicly accuse another Mason of dishonesty, corruption, unmasonic conduct, criminal behavior, or violations of lodge law.

All accusations or disagreements must be handled **through proper Masonic charges and due process**, not social media. We should seek Brother to Brother intervention. As a Mason you should advise a brother if something he has posted is improper within the framework of our Grand Constitution or the Williams Digest of Laws.

- **Lodge Business**

Never discuss the business of a Lodge and what is discussed behind tiled doors, including but not limited to, balloting of a candidate, application/investigation of an applicant, lodge disciplinary matters, internal disagreements between brethren, ongoing investigations or charges, nor decisions of lodge officers or Grand Lodge leadership.

Such matters belong **within the lodge room and established Masonic processes.**

- **Conduct Unbecoming a Mason**

The following actions may be considered **Conduct Unbecoming a Mason** when performed online: attempting to publicly shame another Mason, posting defamatory or malicious claims, encouraging division among brethren, using social media to damage the reputation of the Fraternity, and representing internal conflicts to the public in a hostile manner.

- **Protection of Masonic Secrets**

Under no circumstances should members disclose rituals or ceremonial work, modes of recognition (signs, tokens, or passwords), or portions of degrees not intended for public discussion

Members must remember that **their obligations extend to digital communication just as they do in person.**

- **Political and Religious Discussions**

Members should avoid representing the Fraternity as supporting or opposing any political candidate, political party, or religious denomination.

While members may express personal views, they should clearly state that such views are **their own and not those of the Fraternity.**

- **Sales and Promotional Content**

On social media platforms on which member posts are allowed, posts offering items or services for sale are only permitted if they directly support, benefit, or are clearly related to the Grand Lodge of Mississippi or a subordinate lodge. Posts involving personal sales, general merchandise, business activities, or unrelated goods and services are not allowed and will be removed.

- **Subordinate Lodge Social Media Accounts**

Official lodge accounts should be approved by lodge leadership and administered by designated officers or a communications committee. These accounts should promote charitable activities, community service, and fellowship. The Worshipful Master and officers of each lodge are encouraged to monitor official lodge social media platforms. The Worshipful Master shall have the authority to direct the removal of content that violates this policy. If members engage in improper conduct, they are to be counseled by well-informed brethren. Serious violations are to be reported to appropriate Masonic authorities when required.

USE OF MASONIC NAMES, IMAGES, AND SYMBOLS

Members should use discretion when posting lodge names, masonic logos or emblems, images taken inside lodge rooms, and photographs of ritual settings or regalia

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

It is unmasonic for any Brother to breach the terms of this policy. Violation of this policy may be considered **conduct unbecoming a Mason** and may result in:

- Counseling or warning
- Removal from lodge social media administration
- Disciplinary action according to the laws of the Grand Lodge

Group administrators appointed by the Worshipful Master have the authority to remove inappropriate posts, warn members about violations, and temporarily mute or remove disruptive participants.

Repeated violations may be referred to the Grand Lodge for further action. Should an infraction be investigated and warrant disciplinary action, the established laws of the Grand Lodge relating to Masonic discipline shall govern with absolute authority.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Before posting anything related to the Craft, every Mason should ask:

“Would this bring credit to Freemasonry and harmony to the Brotherhood?”

If the answer is uncertain, it is best **not to post it.**