

Grand Lodge of New York: Social Media Policy

While we all enjoy constitutional, statutory, civil and social rights to speak freely, and these guidelines are not intended to interfere with those rights, there are certain rules that as Master Masons we all must follow in order to protect our Grand Lodge, our Lodges and our Craft.

The presence of New York Freemasons on various social media sites draws attention to our Fraternity. We should strive to make that attention positive. We are always Master Masons. Yet, when we represent ourselves as members of the Fraternity, we undoubtedly become someone's impression of Freemasonry. We bear an extra special responsibility when discussing Freemasonry on social media sites. Your individual postings reflect on the entire Fraternity. Be mindful that your image and comments online can be viewed by your colleagues, co-workers, employers, as well as your Lodge Brothers and their families.

The following guidelines apply to social media, blogs, podcasts, web sites and forums.

1.If you speak about Masonry, you must identify your affiliation to Freemasonry and make it clear that you are speaking for yourself. You may never suggest that you are speaking on behalf of any masonic organization unless you receive proper authorization to do so.

2.Respect the intellectual property rights, such as trademarks, copyrights and symbols, of all.

3.Any Official Communication from Grand Lodge, your District or your Lodge should be emailed directly to its membership, posted onto Our Lodge Page (OLP) or some similarly secure means of transmission **and not posted to Social Media unless the written Communication bears the Phrase: "For Open Dissemination"**

4. You should never engage in communication that could reasonably be viewed as intimidating, malicious, threatening, obscene, or that could contribute to a hostile environment based on race, color, religion, age, gender, gender identity, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military status, political affiliation, or other protected classification.

5.Never post on social media any of the signs, symbols, tokens or the open Bible during Tiled Meetings.

6.Use good judgment when posting, or commenting online. Be respectful of the cultures, beliefs, and opinions of others. Be courteous to everyone. Get your facts straight, tell the truth, and post a correction if you have stated something incorrectly.

6.Assume that every email that you send will be seen by people other than the intended recipient. Regardless of the privacy settings you use, assume information posted to social media will not remain private.

7.Audio or visual recordings of ritual, or esoteric, work is not permitted. The recording of specific "non-esoteric" programs (such as lectures) may be permitted with the expressed permission of the Grand Master, Worshipful Master of the Lodge or like Officer.

8.The establishment of any Lodge, District or like-Masonic entities' website, Facebook Page or Group, or other social media account or site by any member remains the intellectual property and account of said Lodge, District or governing entity.

9.The Grand Master has the final authority on any Masonic-related items on all social media posts by Grand Lodge of New York brethren, Masonic or otherwise.