

OFFICIAL



PROGRAM

SOCIAL MEDIA
— CODE OF CONDUCT —



MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE STATE OF INDIANA

CELEBRATING



OVER 200 YEARS

December 2019



GOVERNING YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY

Social media, in the context of the following, is defined as all electronic communication, including but not limited to: email, online social applications such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc. This document is intended to give a framework to direct the conduct of Indiana Freemasons when engaging in social activity using these methods.

With the proliferation of digital communication and social media applications, we should make it our constant care to maintain the high character of the Indiana Freemason when using these communication platforms.

The Grand Lodge of Indiana recognizes that social media has grown exponentially, and supports a positive, regular, and extensive use of it. We know many Brethren regularly connect by Email, 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. We should strive to make that reflection as positive as possible. Be mindful that your image online could be viewed by your family, colleagues and co-workers, future employers, as well as your Masonic brothers and their families.

Freemasons should be aware that digital communication represents a **PERMANENT** record, with a lifespan and influence that may last long beyond its initial purpose. Always remember that you are a Mason in the Lodge, in public, at home, *and in your communications* – both public and private. As a Freemason, whisper good counsel and quietly advise a Brother if you feel that what he has posted is improper within the framework of our Grand Constitutions, laws, rules, regulations, edicts, and the general regulations of Freemasonry. **REMEMBER**, the content of your digital communication fits *within the scope of un-Masonic Conduct* as defined by our Masonic fraternity. Conduct contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty between Freemasons or to society in general, is improper, and subject to Masonic Law.

SOCIAL MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT

- A Mason should never use disparaging comments, profanity, etc. when posting; including, but not limited to, graphic, video, and audio recordings.
- A Mason should treat his fellow Masons, as well as the public, with courtesy and respect, even when there is a difference of opinion. If he cannot, he should practice the virtue of silence and circumspection.
- Masonic pages are to be supportive of the organization and its members; their content should be positive and constructive, with the goal being the promotion of Masonic bodies and values.
- No official communication with other Grand Lodges or their subordinate or concordant Lodges may take place online. Contact must be conducted through the Office of the Grand Secretary. This is standard Masonic protocol.





- Nothing should ever be written or discussed relative to the business of a Lodge or of any discussions/actions that have occurred behind tyed doors. This includes, but is not limited to, the application, background, or investigation of an applicant, as well as the ballot on a candidate.
- Regardless of the privacy settings you use, expect any information posted to social media sites will not stay private. Always assume that every email you send will be seen by people other than the intended recipient.
- Abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Indiana F.&A.M.
- Abide by the By-Laws of the affiliated Lodge or Lodges of which you are a member.
- Be regulated by the obligations of the three degrees and the charges thereof.

Ensuring that our Fraternity is represented with the highest standards is the responsibility of all Indiana Freemasons. In addition to an individual's posting responsibilities, the administrators of Masonic social media sites should also do their best to ensure that posts on their sites adhere to these guidelines.

We should practice outside of the lodge what we practice within it, while we are communicating with each other, and with non-Masons. We should be ever mindful of our obligations, to which we are still bound. It is imperative that in the impersonal world of digital media we remember to treat everyone with the same personal manners of dignity, tolerance, courtesy, and respect.

The use of social media can show the world the good effects of Freemasonry. The character of the Craft is now judged by another, modern facet of our technological society. We must maintain our awareness of the effect that our on-line presence has on our fraternity, and we should take appropriate steps to manage ourselves and our actions within the digital realm. Ultimately, your actions as a Mason online should promote the highest standards of morality and integrity.

When you represent yourself online as a Freemason, anything you post may be construed as something condoned by Freemasonry. For example, 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 Freemasonry and all Freemasons. ***Remember, both the public and members of the Masonic Fraternity are reading your posts online.***

You should always be ***mindful of the penalties*** as described in the Blue Book of Masonic Law relating to trial, suspension, and/or expulsion for any un-Masonic behavior.

To preserve the reputation of the Fraternity must be your constant care. As such, let us endeavor to uphold the high standards of Freemasonry, and ***maintain the high character of the world's oldest and largest fraternity***, of which we have the distinct privilege to belong.

