

## Policy regarding Social Media and New Brunswick Freemasons

The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick 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 intra-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.
- 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.

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

January, 2014

## Relevant Sections of the Constitution

**115. Publication of Proceedings** – No brother shall presume to print or publish, or cause to be printed or published, the proceedings of any Lodge or any part thereof, or the names of the persons present at such Lodge, without the permission of the Grand Master, under pain of being reprimanded, suspended or expelled, as the Grand Lodge shall determine. This law is not to extend to the writing, printing or publishing of any notice or summons issued to the members of a Lodge, or by the authority of the Master, or the proceedings of any festive or public meeting at which persons, not masons, are permitted to attend.

**117. Suspension of Membership** – Every Lodge has the power of suspending or excluding a member for unmasonic conduct or for non-payment of dues, but no Lodge shall suspend or exclude any member for unmasonic conduct without giving him due notice of the charge preferred, or complaint made against him, and of the time appointed for its consideration. He shall be at liberty to be present, and be afforded every opportunity of defending himself. When the case has been investigated he shall withdraw, and the votes of the brethren shall be given by ballot. It shall be the duty of the Master of the Lodge to ensure that the member against whom the charge or complaint has been presented is treated with fundamental fairness in all proceedings and, before any Masonic Trial is held, that every reasonable effort at mediation and settlement of the charge or complaint has been undertaken. (May 2013)

**176. Offence by Lodge** – A Lodge offending against any law or regulation of the craft, to the breach of which no specific penalty is attached, shall, at the discretion of the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master, be subject to admonition or suspension. (May 2013)

**177. Copyright Offence** – No member shall, on any pretence, exhibit or expose any representation or similitude of any jewel or furniture of a Lodge, or of any Masonic emblem or device in any way that may be interpreted as for personal or commercial gain. Violation of this section may result in reprimand or suspension by the Lodge, or expulsion by the Grand Lodge. All members are strictly enjoined to immediately bring this offence to the attention of the brother involved. If corrective action is not taken a report shall be made to the Lodge to which the offending brother belongs.

**178. Complaint by member** – All complaints of members or difference between them, that cannot be arranged privately, or in some regular Lodge, shall be reduced to writing and delivered to the Grand Secretary, to be submitted to the Grand Master, who shall refer them to a Committee to investigate the same. When all parties shall have been summoned to attend thereon, and the case has been investigated, the committee shall report to the Grand Master, which shall have full power to deal therewith as a majority shall determine. Any complaint against a member shall be presented without undue delay and shall specify with sufficient particularity the details of the alleged Masonic Offence together with the sanctions sought to be imposed. (May 2013)