

*Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons
of the Commonwealth of Virginia*



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Jeffery Eugene Hodges, Grand Master

June 4, 2009

TO: All Lodges holden under the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia

Brethren:

Concern has been expressed in recent months about two important social issues which affect the manner in which Masons manage their actions: the utilization of the internet and the participation in and/or support of other organizations. The nature of these items requires an immediate response.

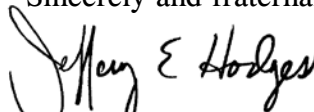
With regard to the internet, the following will be the policy of the Grand Lodge of Virginia: Masons should refrain from utilizing any electronically transmitted or posted communication producing a visual, audible or electronic message that is likely to undermine or impair any Mason's reputation or the reputation of the Fraternity, or reflect negatively upon the Grand Lodge of Virginia's members, its mission statement, core values, obligations, or teachings.

No Mason should allow the names and faces of Brethren, their wives or family to be posted on sites such as Facebook, MySpace or YouTube without the consent of the individuals presented. This is not to eliminate the use or presentation of materials, only states that consent should be given. Proper selection of the medium is still in the hands of the initiator. Due consideration of the wishes of another is a hallmark of Masonry.

Our Fraternity has for years enjoyed the freedom of information that the World Wide Web allows. The ever expanding nature of such means of communication has allowed a lack of control to become commonplace over the advertisements and link associations on sites. We must circumscribe our desire to present each other and the Fraternity only in the best of situations.

With regard to organizations that are anti-Semitic, racist or antisocial in their doctrine and avocation, such as but not limited to, the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nations, etc., the following will be the policy of the Grand Lodge of Virginia: it is not acceptable to present information on, display association with, or solicit involvement in such organizations in a Masonic Lodge holden under the Grand Lodge of Virginia. At no time, should such organizations be linked to our gentle Craft.

Sincerely and fraternally,


Jeffery E. Hodges
Grand Master

JEH:ksm