

# **Facebook Posting Rules and Guidelines**

As per the official Circular Number 837 dated September 22, 2009 and the guidelines set forth by the IAM policy on creating and maintaining IAM websites and other internet use dated October 8, 2009 the following posting guidelines and rules are put in place for all local lodge four members that post on the official lodge facebook page.

## **I. Illegal Activity**

Under no circumstances will any member post anything that would violate any laws or be considered criminal in any way. To include but not be limited to:

- A. **Copyright law** - Copyright law applies to expressions of ideas that are put in fixed form, such as books articles, cartoons, photographs, etc. This includes computer memory, so copyright law applies to anything put on the internet or found on the internet.
  - Any violations of Copyright Law will be removed from facebook immediately and a private message will be sent to the poster.
  - A second violation will result in a 30 day ban from the group.
  - Third Violations will result in a permanent ban.
- B. **Trademark Law** - Trademark Law protects symbols, logos, marks, and phrases that are commonly associated or represent groups.
  - Any violations of Trademark Law will be removed from facebook immediately and a private message will be sent to the poster.
  - A second violation will result in a 30 day ban from the group.
  - Third Violations will result in a permanent ban.
- C. **Defamation, Invasion of Privacy, and Portraying Someone in a False Light** - There are limits on what someone can write or say about someone else when doing so causes harm. These rules have a heightened application on the internet due to the internet's capacity for spreading such statements and magnifying their damage.
  - Any violations will be removed from facebook immediately and a private message will be sent to the poster.
  - A second violation will result in a 30 day ban from the group.
  - Third Violations will result in a permanent ban.

## **II. Vulgarities and Profanity**

Under no circumstances will any member post any statement, word, mark, or image that may be construed as vulgar or profane in any way. This will include but not be limited to cursing and pornography.

- Any violations will be removed from facebook immediately and a private message will be sent to the poster.
- A second violation will result in a 30 day ban from the group.
- Third Violations will result in a permanent ban.

## **III. Union and Local Lodge 4 Business Only**

All members will utilize the official Local Lodge 4 Facebook page for union and local lodge business only. Any posts not under these subjects will be removed.

- Violations will be removed and a private message will be sent to the poster reminding him of the policy.
- A second violation will result in the post being removed and a second private message warning.
- A third violation will result in a 30 day ban from the group.
- A fourth Violations will result in a permanent ban.

IV. **Thread Hijacking and Staying on Topic**

All members will make every effort to stay on the topic of the original post. No Member will make any effort to try and hijack or change the topic of an original post by inflammatory means.

- If comments are off the original topic a post will be made to try and get everyone back on track.
- If off topic comments continue they will be deleted.
- Inflammatory posts that attempt to hijack a topic will be deleted.
- If a single member is responsible for the hijacking they will receive a private message if there post has to be deleted.
- If after a private message has been sent, the behavior continues the member will be ban for a period of 30 days.

V. **Respect and Personal Attacks or Bashing**

All members utilizing the Local Lodge 4 Facebook page will make posts in a respectful manner. personal attacks or "bashing" will not be condoned. Remember that any of these can easily be considered a defamatory.

- Disrespectful posts, personal attack, and bashing will deleted and a private message will be sent to the poster.
- Second offences that do not fall under defamation will also be deleted and a second private message will be sent.
- Third offences will be result in a 30 day ban from the group
- Fourth offences will result in a permanent ban.

VI. **Union Elections and Candidates**

No member will utilize Facebook as a tool to expressly advocate or defeat any candidate running for a position in a internal union election. General Announcements how ever maybe made that do not advocate or defeat any candidate.

- Violations of this policy will simply be deleted.

VII. **General Content Policy**

To prevent material from becoming out dated or even defamatory or false simply because of age, all threads and posts will be deleted after being active for 6 months.

VIII. **Appeal Process**

All banned members are entitled to an appeals process.

- Members may meet with the Local Lodge 4 executive board at the next scheduled executive board meeting if they feel they have been unjustly banned from the Facebook page.
- It is the members responsibility to reapply to the facebook page after any decision by the executive board or the end of a temporary ban.