

# Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

GRAND LODGE OFFICE  
212-281-2211

M.W. DR. GREGORY R. SMITH, 33°  
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*Deputy Grand Master*

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*Senior Grand Warden*

R.W. Larry Mitchell, 33°  
*Junior Grand Warden*

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*Grand Treasurer*

R.W. Frederick E. Smith, 32°  
*Grand Secretary*



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212-281-2211

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R.W. Robert E. P. Harris, 32°

R.W. David J. Minor, 32°

R.W. Percy Purdue, 32°

## **DIRECTIVE-EDICT**

**To:** All Grand Lodge Officers Elected and Appointed, Past and Present, Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brethren of Subordinate Lodges, Past and Present, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons and Sisters of Subordinate Chapters, Heads of Allied, Appendant and Concordant Bodies.

**Subject:** The Proper Use of Social Network Websites<sup>1</sup>

**Date:** 8 December 2011

By the authority vested as Most Worshipful Grand Master by the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of New York and Its Jurisdiction, in accordance with **ARTICLE XIII, Section 5 of the Constitution and Statues of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York; Gregory Robeson Smith** hereby issue the following Directive :

Effective immediately, any Social Networking Website bearing the name of any Masonic body with its allegiance or affiliation to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York and Its Jurisdiction is to be **re-evaluated and possibly discontinued**. This includes Warranted Lodges, RAM Chapters, KT Commandaries, Consistories, OES Chapters, HOJ Courts, Cyrene Crusaders, Assemblies and Knights of Pythagoras, Shrine or Courts, Royal Selects, Ladies of the Circle of Perfection or other affiliated bodies. This also includes any individual's social network site (or group) that is being operated or administered.

Social Networking in this context is defined as any web-based services that allow individuals to (1) construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system, (2) articulate a list of other users with whom they share a connection, and (3) view and traverse their list of connections and those made by others within the system. The nature and nomenclature of these connections may vary from site to site. They include but are not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, Linkedin, Ning, Tagged, Classmates, His, MyYearbook, Bebo, Mylife, Friendster, MyHeritage, Multiply, Orkut, Yahoo, etc.

If a Lodge, OES Chapter, Commandary, Consistory, HOJ Court, Cyrene Crusaders, Assemblies Knights of Pythagoras, Shirne or Courts, Royal Select, Ladies of Circle of Perfection, an individual Brother or Sister, and/or other affiliated body has a respectable site and would like to provide information about their Order **they must request and receive permission from the Head of that Grand Body in writing prior to posting it on the internet, intranet, or group.**

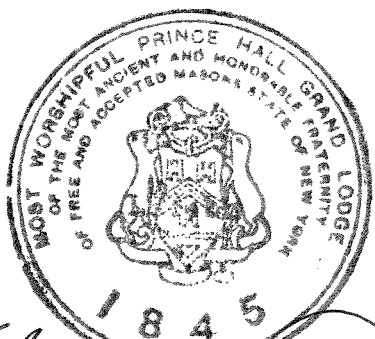
**NOTE:** All sites that do not reach out to their appropriate Grand Body for evaluation and inventory, but continue to operate, will be subject to the penalties of that Grand Body. In order to keep the harmony of the Craft/Order, we ask that you please seek an audience and schedule the appropriate meeting (and provide the necessary site background) with the appropriate office.

The use of electronic media by Masonic organizations is encouraged, however misuse and abuse of this technology is forbidden. The rationale for this policy is to eliminate reproach, dishonor and disgrace on our Masonic Family due to some indignant, immoral, anti-fraternal acts and actions being placed on those sites under the name of our lodges, chapters, courts, etc. Some electronic postings are contrary to the fundamental nature of our teachings of morality and truth. Our institution must stand together in ensuring the negative images and messages of our order are eliminated and that everything being displayed under the name of the Grand Lodge, its subordinate lodges and other Masonic Bodies is above reproach.

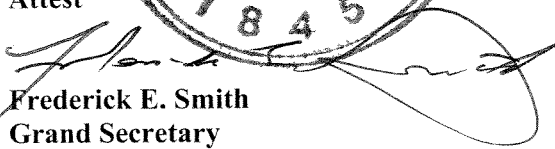
Any sister that violates this directive will be subject to the rules of the Order(s) that the violation occurred and that she is a member.

Any Master Mason that violates this directive will be subject to charges of un-Masonic conduct and if found guilty will be subject to punishment accordingly. Examples are, but not limited to displaying Masonic emblems while consuming alcoholic beverages, openly supporting candidates for office on a site that you also represent yourself as a Mason.


If the offense occurs in an Allied or Appendant Body, the Grand Master reserves the right to assume jurisdiction over the matter. Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.



Attest

  
Frederick E. Smith  
Grand Secretary

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Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, 33°  
Most Worshipful Grand Master