



Social Media Policy

The GVHS has adopted a Social Media Policy to guide the behavior of Board Members, Committee Members, Carded Judges, GVHS Evaluators, Staff, Volunteers, and any other member of the GVHS who may explicitly or implicitly represent the GVHS on Social Media (“Members With Positions”).

The guiding principle of the Policy should be for everyone to be **polite** and **ethical**. Certainly, social media can help the GVHS reach new audiences and raise awareness about its purpose and programs. However, social media can also present public relations and even legal issues when someone is posting negative or questionable content in a manner that could be perceived as being the voice of the GVHS.

Members With Positions should feel free to share information regarding programs, information, and initiatives of the GVHS in a polite and ethical manner. This includes sharing or re-posting posts from the GVHS or other members (with permission) that share the facts and details of something related to the GVHS.

However, Members With Positions should use caution when posting about other members or providing commentary or opinions regarding official GVHS business, members, information, or events. When editorializing on social media, Members with Positions should also clearly disclose that the commentary is **their personal opinion** and that they do not speak on behalf of the GVHS. Finally, Members With Positions should take extreme care to be **polite and inclusive** in their Social Media posts so as to make all members feel welcome in the organization.

What Members With Positions should *never* disclose is the following: 1) Any information related to the **finances or projected finances** of the GVHS; 2) **Deliberations or decisions** of any committee or the BOD; all decisions of the GVHS are made by the BOD and shall be announced by the BOD; 3) **Plans** of the GVHS that have not yet been made public; and 4) the **private information of Members** that Members With Positions may learn as a result of their role within the GVHS.

In sum, if Members With Positions find themselves wondering if the information they want to disclose is okay to disclose, they should STOP and ask someone on the BOD whether disclosure is appropriate *before* posting. Violations of the Social Media Policy are subject to discipline and Members With Positions who violate the policy are subject to the possibility of removal from their Position.