

<b>Title:</b> Social Media Policy	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Cross Reference:</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b> Texas State Council BOD	<b>Origination Date:</b> 12/12/2023
<b>Revised by:</b> Bylaws & Policies Committee	<b>Approval Date:</b> 12/18/2023
	<b>Revision Date:</b> N/A

**I. PURPOSE:**

The Texas State Council (Texas ENA) recognizes that the internet provides unique opportunities to participate in interactive discussions and share information using social media. However, use of social media by Texas ENA’s directors, officers, and employees (collectively, “Texas ENA representatives”) can pose risks to Texas ENA’s confidential and proprietary information, reputation, and brands; can expose the organization to discrimination and harassment claims; and can jeopardize the organization’s compliance with business rules and laws, including ENA’s status as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

To minimize these business and legal risks and to ensure respectful and productive dialogue, Texas ENA expects all Texas State Council representatives to adhere to the following guidelines regarding social media use. Texas State Council Board of Directors will have authority to interpret and enforce this policy, and any questions or concerns should be directed to that team in the first instance.

**II. BACKGROUND/DEFINITIONS:**

For purposes of this policy, “social media” includes all means of communicating or posting information or content of any sort on the internet, including to your own or someone else’s blog, journal or diary, personal website, or social networking or affinity website, web bulletin board or chat room, whether or not associated or affiliated with Texas ENA, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, YouTube, blogs, and wikis.

**III. PROTOCOL/PROCEDURE:**

***Use of Social Media on Behalf of Texas State Council***

***Authorized Users. Only Texas State Council Board of Directors and representatives authorized by the Board of Directors are permitted to establish official Texas State Council (Texas ENA) social media accounts or to make official statements on behalf of Texas State Council on social media (referred to as “authorized Texas State Council social media users”). All authorized Texas ENA social media users must be familiar with this policy and receive training prior to using social media on behalf of Texas State Council. Unless specifically authorized to do so in advance, Texas State Council representatives may not provide official comments about Texas ENA in or on any social media (or other) outlet.***

Instead, any inquiry or request for comment should be directed to the Texas State Council Board of Directors.

*Specific Guidelines.* Texas State Council representatives must observe the following guidelines when making authorized use of social media on behalf of Texas ENA:

1. Be transparent. Disclose your relationship with Texas State Council and make clear that you are speaking on behalf of Texas ENA.
2. Use good judgment about what you post and remember that anything you say reflects on you and Texas State Council.
3. Always be professional and accurate in your communications about Texas State Council.
4. Never disclose or discuss Texas State Council confidential information on social media. Treat Texas ENA's trade secrets, intellectual property, and other confidential or proprietary information as confidential and do not do anything to jeopardize the confidentiality of such information.
5. Be familiar and comply with copyright and other intellectual property laws. For example, if you are looking for an image to use in connection with a Texas State Council marketing campaign, do not assume that you may freely use images found on the internet. You must obtain permission (in the form of a license) from the owner of the image to use it in an ad for ENA. Raise any questions regarding intellectual property matters with the Texas State Council Board of Directors.
6. Be familiar and comply with the terms of use of all sites you visit and platforms you are authorized to use on behalf of Texas State Council. Raise any questions regarding terms of use with the Texas State Council Board of Directors.
7. Do not post statements, comments or viewpoints that anyone would find offensive, including ethnic slurs, sexist comments, discriminatory comments, profanity, abusive language, political comments or statements, obscenity, or anything that is maliciously false.
8. Do not knowingly or purposefully communicate with or target minors on social media. Do not knowingly initiate contact with, accept requests for social networking from, or otherwise interact on social media on behalf of Texas State Council with a minor (i.e., anyone under the age of 18). Any exceptions, including prior relationships, require advance written explanation and are subject to approval by the Communications Department.
9. Texas State Council has adopted procedures for sharing photos or videos of participants in Texas ENA programs on social media. Any questions on such usage, and in particular relating to using photos or videos of minors, should be directed to the Texas State Council Board of Directors.

**Personal Use of Social Media**

Texas State Council expects all Texas ENA representatives to adhere to the following guidelines in their personal use of social media.

1. Be transparent. Disclose your relationship with Texas State Council when discussing Texas ENA or Texas State Council -related matters. This does not need to be formal. It can be a simple statement or, in appropriate circumstances, a link to your social media account bio or blog author bio/affiliation.
  - a. If there is any doubt (because of the forum, the topic, or otherwise), make clear that you are speaking on your own behalf, and not on behalf of Texas State Council, and that the views expressed are yours alone and not those of Texas ENA.
  - b. Failure to make this clear could jeopardize ENA’s tax-exempt status when making statements regarding political or legislative matters.
2. Never disclose or discuss Texas State Council confidential information on social media. Treat Texas ENA’s trade secrets, intellectual property, and other proprietary information as confidential and do not do anything to jeopardize them.
3. Use good judgment about what you post. Always strive to be respectful and accurate in your communications. Consider how it reflects on you and Texas State Council before you post anything offensive, including ethnic slurs, sexist comments, discriminatory comments, profanity, abusive language, or obscenity, or anything that is maliciously false

I hereby acknowledge receipt and review of Texas State Council’s Social Media Policy.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_