



Social Media Policy

Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define the policies and procedures of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (RVGS) and Jackson County Genealogy Library (JCGL) regarding the use of social media, audio and video recording devices, smart phones, tablets, cameras, laptops and personal computers in conjunction with RVGS events and/or on RVGS sponsored social media platforms.

RVGS operates and maintains its social media platforms as a public service to provide information about our programs, services, projects and activities. It also provides a forum for our genealogical community (our members and our friends) to pose questions, offer advice for genealogical research issues, share research successes and interesting family stories or photos discovered. These opportunities for discussion often times lead to new ideas for research avenues.

In this policy:

‘Social media’ means any facility for online publication and/or commentary, including (but not limited to) blogs, social networking sites (such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Google+ and YouTube)

‘RVGS-sponsored social media platforms’ refers to RVGS-Initiated and managed platforms such as Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, blogs or other services that allow RVGS members, officers, board appointees and/or members of the public to create content

RVGS Events

RVGS reserves the right to take photographs, videos and/or audio recordings at RVGS sponsored events and to incorporate them into advertising, marketing and publicity and their RVGS-managed social media sites. All participants at RVGS events consent to such actions. RVGS will not “tag” (identify with name, nickname, avatar, or other identification) attendees on social media sites. RVGS attendees may tag themselves but are requested to not “tag” others without their permission.

RVGS permits and encourages the use of various forms of social media, including Facebook, Twitter and live blogging as a means of summarizing, highlighting, excerpting, reviewing, and/or publicizing sessions, events, speakers or RVGS in general, provided that:

- Copyright laws are observed
- Only content excerpts are used, and that the presentation material is not reproduced in full while using social media
- The speaker is referenced and cited appropriately in each case

In order to protect the intellectual property rights of our presenters we request that participants refrain from all of the following actions without prior consent of the presenter:

- Using audio and/or video recording devices
- Using photographic devices
- Capturing, transmitting, or redistributing syllabus materials or the bulk of the material presented in a session

Cell phones and other mobile devices should be operated in silent mode to avoid distracting the presenter and attendees.

Administration

RVGS respects the right of members and officers to post content to social media sites and in no way seeks to discourage self-publishing and self-expression.

- Postings and discussions shall be related to genealogical topics.
- All photographs and other content posted shall not violate copyright laws.

In order to assure the integrity and accuracy of information regarding RVGS and the JCGL:

- All social media platforms and web sites associated with RVGS or the JCGL must be approved by the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Board of Directors.
- The RVGS Board shall approve/designate manager(s)/editors(s) for all approved social media sites.
- All groups, classes, or other organizations directly associated with RVGS or the JCGL shall post member information including times, dates, and group information on officially recognized RVGS-sponsored social media platforms and/or web site through the RVGS web master and/or social media administrators.

RVGS does not allow unauthorized personal or business advertising on any RVGS-sponsored social media platform or web site.

RVGS social media managers/editors will monitor, as time allows, its sponsored social media platforms to ensure that commentary and postings are relevant, appropriate, and in keeping with this policy and the mission of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society and reserves the right to take these (and other) actions:

- Edit or delete postings or comments that it believes are inappropriate for whatever reason including but not limited to: foul language, attacking of a single person or group, or spam that explicitly promotes or sells a commercial product or service.
- Permanently deny access to RVGS-moderated social media to individuals or organizations who create inappropriate content
- Permanently deny access to RVGS-moderated social media to any individual, organization or corporation engaged in activities or commerce that is determined to be offensive, illegal or incompatible with the goals and objectives of the society

A copy of this policy shall be distributed to all instructors, presenters, and group facilitators as well as made available to members and guests.

Legal Notification

RVGS shall not be held liable for information posted on its social media site.

Postings and comments by any of its officers or directors shall not represent an official position of the Society.

Use of or communication through RVGS-sponsored social media platforms creates a public record under Oregon law to which the user has no right of privacy or confidentiality. Use of or any communication made through an RVGS-sponsored social media platform may be subject to monitoring and removal, and the user should assume that any communication will be seen by a wide audience. Use of or any communication made through an RVGS-sponsored social media platform is at the user's own risk. RVGS and the JCGL has no obligation and will make no effort to protect any information received through this site from disclosure to or misuse by any third party.