

Neighbors West-Northwest Coalition Rules for Posting on Electronic Discussion Groups

Neighbors West-Northwest may from time to time host online discussion forums. These are the property of Neighbors West-Northwest, which sets the rules for their use. We encourage contributors to engage in a broad range of civil civic discourse .

Rules for Posting:

1. It could be considered that the Coalition or a neighborhood Board or committee is “meeting in quorum” on this list, which is not an open forum. Therefore to be on the safe side, please keep postings to non-action items – calendar reminders or changes, confirmation of attendance, copies of minutes or clarifying questions about such issues are good examples of the best use of this discussion list. Everything posted to this discussion list is open to public record requests.

Do not engage in discussions around pending or ongoing board or committee actions on this list. This could be construed as a violation of the ONI Standards as such discussion would be in quorum (possibly) but not public.

2. Never speak in support or opposition to any political candidate on this forum. That risks loss of 501(c)3 status, not to mention is a violation of the ONI contract. You MAY speak to ballot measures, as long as no City funds are used in the communication (a great reason to support the Coalition fundraising event this year – those non-city funds are what allow us all to exercise this right in our organization communications) – AND as long as said ballot measure is not also an action item on an upcoming agenda.
3. There is no rule against posting info about non board-related information, which might nevertheless be of interest or use to the members. Spam and direct advertisement are prohibited and will be removed.
4. Please be aware of how easily email communication can be misunderstood and feelings hurt or antagonisms aroused – all because no one can see you smiling deprecatorily as you make a statement that then comes across as hostile or critical. The little smiley-face icon may seem trite, but it can help explain your intent.
5. Restrict comments to the subject at issue, not the person. Keep in mind that everyone is contributing the most valuable thing she/he has to give – personal time, and should be respected. Do not post *ad hominem* remarks.
6. Do not use language that defames, dehumanizes or belittles any class of person. Be aware of slang terms for people – while they may be “catchy” they are often more defamatory than you may realize.
7. Do not use purposefully offensive language – this is a public forum, and not everyone using it has the same levels of tolerance for profanity or vulgarity.

8. Respect the limits of the list as a closed discussion:
 - a. Do not forward other members posts without the poster's written permission.
 - b. Do not cc or blind cc any other person or list when posting to the NWNW list.
(Exception: NWNW staff may post notices to multiple lists)

Penalties and Authority

1. Violation of any of these rules may result in a warning. A second such violation may result in suspension of posting privileges for 90 days. Any violation after reinstatement may result in permanent suspension.
2. Perceived violations may be reported to NWNW staff or officers.
3. Final authority for suspension or removal rests with the NWNW Executive Director.