

## **RCA–WSO Meeting-Posting Policy.**

### **1. Definitions.** The following definitions apply to this policy:

The term *Open Meeting* means: A meeting where any **individual** may choose to attend. There are no limitations on who may attend or participate. For example, an individual may be a member of the clergy or mental health professional seeking additional information about Recovering Couples Anonymous.

The term *Closed Meeting* means: A meeting where attendance or participation is limited to **couples only**.

The term *Special-Focus Meeting* means: A closed meeting that chooses to focus on a special issue or need of the group. Historically these have included “addiction only,” “Step Study,” and “S groups only” to name just a few. *Special-Focus Meetings* based on recovery principles are considered a proper use of the special-focus designation. However, designations excluding the attendance of RCA member couples or prospective member couples based on age, sexual orientation, gender identification, religious background, culture, race, class, national origin, physical or mental challenge, or political affiliation conflict with RCA’s fundamental diversity principles. A group having such an attendance restriction shall not be included in any RCA meeting directory.

**2. Background.** RCA has a long history of promoting diversity: RCA is open to all adult couples regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender identification, religious background, culture, race, class, national origin, physical or mental challenge, or political affiliation. Additionally, in accordance with our Fourth Tradition, all RCA groups are autonomous. Our history has demonstrated that special-focus meetings have not negatively affected RCA as a whole as long as their attendance requisites did not discriminate so as to conflict with our fundamental diversity principles.

**3. Policy.** RCA promotes diversity and an open door policy in all its affairs, especially with regard to age, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, gender identification, culture, class, and mental or physical challenge. Thus we strongly encourage each RCA group to allow any couple desiring to remain in a committed relationship to attend its meetings. But, at the same time, in accordance with the Fourth Tradition, we recognize that an RCA group may decide that it is important to limit itself to a particular focus. In the spirit of recovery, we encourage groups considering a special focus to keep their attendance requisites 12-step focused.

RCA groups with special needs shall be allowed to hold “special-focus meetings.” And further, any such group shall be listed in all meeting directories except when the group’s attendance requisites would affect RCA as a whole by conflicting with our fundamental diversity principles.

**4. RCA Group Listings.** Each RCA group may decide on the wording of its directory listing. In its listing, the group should indicate whether its meetings are open, or closed, or special-focus meetings. A group may include additional attendance information in its listing: for example, a group might indicate the following: *Closed meeting for couples only: RCA couples or members visiting from out-of-town are welcome to attend.* In its directory listing, a “special-focus meeting” may choose to provide its specific attendance requisites, or it may simply provide a point of contact from whom the attendance requisites may be obtained.”

*Note: This policy was approved on August 3, 2012, at the 2012 Annual Business Meeting. The last three sentences of the definition of a Special-Focus Meeting were added on May 8, 2013, as a result of a special by-mail ballot authorized at and sent out to the Fellowship after the 2012 annual business meeting. Both the 2012 policy and the 2013 amendment were adopted by majorities greater than the two-thirds majority that was required for approval.*