

# Valley Service Center Website Guidelines

## Purpose

The main purpose of the Valley Service Center (VSC) website (<http://www.valleyservicecenter.org>) is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous by providing information about AA on the internet and providing a resource for locating AA meetings in the area served by the VSC. The VSC serves the Tri-Valley area, including the cities of Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, San Ramon, and Sunol.

In keeping with the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, these Website Guidelines have been developed by VISC Board and approved by VISC\*:

1. **Nonaffiliation:** The VSC website will cooperate, but not affiliate, with other A.A. and 12-step related entities and groups.
2. **Content:** The VISC Board shall review and approve, by group conscience, the content published, as well as the content removed, on the VSC website in accordance with the AA Guidelines on the Internet from GSO. The VISC Board shall also follow Concept I in discerning where the VISC Board shall act as a trusted servant to VISC with decisions related to website changes, and where website changes will be taken back to the VISC for discussion and/or approval.
3. **Anonymity:** VISC Board will observe the Traditions and principles of AA when approving material for this website. As anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, anonymity is practiced on this website at all times. An A. A. website is a public medium that has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience, and therefore, requires the same safeguards that are used at the level of press, radio, film, and other media.
4. **Costs:** In keeping with our Seventh Tradition, the VSC is responsible for the costs associated with maintaining this web site.
5. **Advertising:** No advertising of any kind will be posted on the VSC website.
6. **Review:** The VISC Board will review the Website Guidelines at least once every two years for accuracy, timeliness, and appropriateness. If changes are recommended during that review, those changes shall be presented to the VISC for a group conscience.
7. **Links:** Links on the VSC website are approved by the VISC Board in accordance with the AA Guidelines on the Internet from GSO. See Appendix A for a list of previously approved links. Typically, links to outside AA-related websites will NOT be posted on the VSC website. In such cases where it has been approved to link to an outside AA-related website, a mandatory exit statement indicating that the user is leaving the VSC website will be inserted. If a flyer for a website includes a link on the flyer, the flyer may be posted, but the link will not be activated.

8. **Announcements:** Announcements for meetings, General Service, Intergroup, H&I Committees etc. may be posted on the VSC website. Flyers for local AA-related events, conferences, activities, new meetings, meeting moves, etc. may be posted on the VSC website. The VISC Webmaster will be a trusted servant with determining information that constitutes local.
9. **Copyrighted Material:** The VSC website abides by all copyright laws for material posted on the website. The VSC website abides by the A.A. General Service Office guidelines on copyright protection when quoting from A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine materials.

### **\*Approval and Review**

These Guidelines were recommended for approval by the VISC Board and were approved by group conscience of the VISC at a regularly scheduled meeting on January 7, 2008. It was recommended that these guidelines be reviewed for accuracy, timeliness, and appropriate guidance no later than January 7, 2010, but this review was not performed until November, 2012

It was recommended that the VISC Board review the Website Guidelines at least once every two years to assure accuracy, timeliness, and appropriateness. If changes are recommended during that review, those changes shall be presented and proposed to the VISC for a group conscience.

### **Appendix A:**

- General Service Office (GSO) (<http://www.aa.org>)
- GSO's "How to Find A.A. Meetings" page ([http://www.aa.org/en\\_find\\_meeting.cfm](http://www.aa.org/en_find_meeting.cfm))
- GSOs Big Book Online (<http://www.aa.org/bigbookonline/>)
- Grapevine (<http://www.aagrapevine.org>)
- Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous (NCCAA) (<http://www.ncc-aa.org>)