Web Steering Committee Meeting
02/22/2026

In attendance-Shu D. (Area 72 Webservant), Patrick M. (Area 72 Web & Tech Chair), Jennifer R. (Area 72 Archives Chair), Alan F. (Panel 69 Past Delegate), John B. (Area 72 Tech 5). Not present-Eddy M (Past Webservant), Shane M. (DCM 12), & Julie (Area 72 PI Chair).

The meeting started at 6:00 pm, opened with the Serenity Prayer and the AA Declaration of Unity.

Summary

Web Steering Unity Discussion

The Web Steering Committee meeting began with introductions and casual conversation about health, and travel plans to PRAASA in Hawaii. The conversation ended with Shu addressing a task from Derek regarding the Web Steering Committee's decision on whether to treat the geofence discussion as a standalone topic or to link it to the outcome of the discussion around international groups being part of Area 72.

It is the WSC's group conscience that the two Motions, #1 & #4, can be treated as stand-alone discussions. However, for simplicity's sake, we recommend resolving #4 before addressing #1.

The WSC also determined that if the consensus is to reduce the geofencing on the area website that the Tech and Web Steering Committees will utilize their skills and experience to find the right technical solutions to a technical issue which would include GDPR Compliance and additional privacy and security policies (this may incur additional costs to the Area requiring an adjustment to the Web yearly budget).

Geofence and International Groups Discussion/Access

The group discussed whether to treat the website geofence as a standalone topic or as contingent on the outcome of the discussion about international groups. Alan clarified that Area 72 cannot welcome international groups without a change to the conference boundaries, as the organization is legally limited to the United States and Canada. The group agreed to address Motion 4 about international groups before discussing the geofence, though Patrick noted that technically the two topics could be discussed independently. Patrick also explained that while the motions could be parallelized, that #4 could short-circuit #1.

The group agreed that if the area decides to welcome international groups, there would be tasks that would need to be addressed such as GDPR compliance, other layers of security on the website, and additional monitoring which could possibly increase the website's yearly budget.
It was mentioned that the geofencing would not be relevant without the context of District 25 and the motion from 2023 regarding 'no geographic boundaries'.

Geofencing Security Measure Discussion
The group discussed the geofencing security measure for their website, with John suggesting we could remove the geofencing as long as the other security measures we have are evaluated to protect our members and the information on our website. Shu confirmed they still need a group conscience decision about the geofencing, and Jennifer expressed surprise that there were additional security measures beyond the geofencing. Patrick explained that while the technical aspect was within the committee's authority, there were broader service implications that might be outside their authority, prompting the need for clarification from the area committee.

Geofence Removal Impact Discussion
The group discussed the implications of removing a geofence on their website, focusing on international traffic and security concerns. Alan suggested gathering data on non-US/Canada visits to determine if the geofence serves a purpose, while John and Patrick noted that the geofence primarily served to prevent bandwidth overuse in the past. Shu mentioned a previous request from District 25 regarding international participation, and Alan shared hearsay that District 25 might be considering pulling their content entirely.

Geofencing and International Group Motions
The group discussed two motions: one about geofencing and another about international groups. Jennifer suggested meeting the fellowship where they are at, which involves addressing Motion 4 about international groups before discussing Motion 1 about geofencing. Shu and Patrick noted that while geofencing is a technical issue, there are GDPR compliance requirements that need to be considered. The group agreed that the two motions are stand-alone, but should still be discussed, with the understanding that removing geofencing might not immediately solve all concerns.

Quick recap
The Web Steering Committee meeting focused on two main topics: the relationship between geofencing and international group discussions, and the technical infrastructure for the newsletter system. The committee's group conscience was that "Motion 1 and Motion 4 can be treated as stand alone, Motion 4 should be discussed first as Motion 1 effectiveness could be contingent on whether Motion 4 is approved.
John presented his plans to transition out of his newsletter role by year-end, sharing documentation and training materials he has developed, including a custom email deliverability system that assesses user engagement and bounce rates. The committee discussed the importance of finding a successor who could maintain the technical expertise, with John offering to make a pitch for the position at the April quarterly meeting.

Next steps
- Shu: Send GDPR and background information reports to interested committee members.
- Jennifer: Work with Patrick and Shu to implement videos (e.g., virtual Archives tour) on the Archives Steering Committee page of the Area 72 website.

- Shu/Patrick: Update the Area 72 website homepage to rotate in new content (e.g., PNC, National Archives workshop, PRAASA 2027) in the space previously occupied by the COVID-19 section.
- John: Complete documentation for the custom newsletter WordPress plugin and make it available to the Web Steering Committee.
- John: Share access to the GitHub repository containing the newsletter plugin code with interested committee members who provide their GitHub user IDs.
- John: Prepare to present at the April quarterly about the newsletter technical role, including time commitment and responsibilities, to generate interest for a successor.
- John: Develop an exit/contingency plan for newsletter email deliverability in case in-house expertise is unavailable, including potential transition to external services like SendGrid.
- John: Document the current custom newsletter email deliverability process and contingency plans for future web steering committees.
- Shu: Update the Area Newsletter Editor trusted servant position description on the website using the revised text approved by the committee.