

Interim Web Steering Committee Meeting

September 12th, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

Present: Alan F. (Past Delegate), Jen R. (Area Archives Chair), Julie L. (Area PI Chair), Eddy M. (Past Webservant), Patrick M. (Area Tech and Web Chair), Shane M. (DCM 12), and Shu D. (Area Webservant).

Summary

Team Progress and Website Updates

The meeting began with the Serenity Prayer. Shane (District 12 DCM) shared his experience learning to use the website and newsletter system from Erin, describing it as repetitive but helpful. The group discussed their progress on various tasks and projects.

Geofencing Access Requests Discussion

The team discussed an email exchange between Crystal and Alan regarding geofencing, focusing on how to handle access requests from people traveling outside the United States. Shu and Eddy agreed that they already have a process in place for whitelisting IP addresses or unblocking countries temporarily for travelers, and Eddy emphasized that making a blanket change would be making a decision for AA as a whole, which we don't have the authority to do; the steering committee supported the process in place.

Firewall, Geofencing, and Floor Motions

Shane discussed his conversation with John about firewall and geofencing measures for the online newsletter, noting that VPNs could be used to bypass geofencing. Jennifer was open to the idea of a floor motion and suggested it may need to happen to address the issue. Alan raised a separate point about how floor motions activate the Area into having discussions, involvement of the GSR's in making decisions and having input at the Area level; it is a good thing.

Website Geofencing and Traffic Management

The group discussed the geofencing on their website, which was implemented to prevent excessive bot traffic that had previously caused the site to go down. It was clarified that while the technical issue could be addressed through other means, the current geofencing was put in place as a precautionary measure. The discussion also touched on District 25's concerns about the website, with Patrick explaining that the group had been working on a potential floor motion but could instead proceed with an agenda item at the January Quarterly meeting. Shu mentioned that Area 58 had chosen to monitor their website through a paid service rather than using geofencing.

Content Services and Group Guidelines

The group discussed two main topics: a response from the Web Steering Committee regarding existing content services, and updates to group listing guidelines. Shu proposed sending an email to Crystal, making the information available in reports and content services, and announcing it at the Assembly, which the group agreed was reasonable. They also decided to incorporate the first

three paragraphs of the new GSO group listing guidelines into the group form registration, with links to the full guidelines, and Patrick agreed to review the form the next day for any needed language changes.

Next steps

- To send an email back to the writer of the request explaining that there is already a process in place for travelers outside the US to access the website
- To include information about the geofencing and whitelist process in the Web Servant report for the Assembly
- To add information about the whitelist process for international travelers to the content and services documentation (to be updated November 2025)
- To update the group registration form with the first three paragraphs from the new GSO group listing guidelines and link to the rest
- To review the group registration form tomorrow night to ensure it matches the new GSO guidelines
- Web Steering Committee to continue with the current geofencing approach unless changed by group conscience through a floor motion