

Motion #1 - Sound Chair Appointed Process

Motion and Background

Assembly Motion #1: Area Sound Chair selection process

Move to supplement Motion 22.3 that the Tech Steering Committee will select the Sound Chair for the next rotation subject to approval by the electeds during their appointed selection process and ratified by the Area Committee at the first Area Quarterly Meeting of each rotation.

The Tech Steering Committee recommends that the appointed position of Sound Chair for each rotation be by recommendation of the Tech Steering Committee before selection by the Electeds and approval by the Area Committee.

Current Appointment Process for Sound Chair (known as “Sound System Operator”):

From the Area Handbook Page 19:

After being elected, the incoming Western Washington Area 72 officers meet to select appointed officers and standing committee chairpersons for a two-year term. These selections are made from past DCMs or trusted servants who have made themselves available by submitting service résumés for consideration. The Area Archivist is selected by the Archives Steering Committee and submitted to Area Elected Officers for approval/disapproval. All of these selections are affirmed by the Western Washington Area 72 Committee at the first January quarterly meeting of the new committee.

Background:

In 2022, Area 72 voted to establish the Technology Steering Committee due to the technological complexity in providing hybrid functionality to Area Quarterlies and Assembly with the addition of online District 25 and to promote cooperation amongst the different technology focused committees. A process has been developed over the last five years that requires a rotation of training before one is qualified to chair the technology operation of an area quarterly. Very similar to the Area Archivist, the Technology Steering Committee believes the Area Sound Chair is now a position that requires more and more technical expertise than what may be available through the standard appointed selection process by the electeds. It recommends at least one rotation of training before being qualified to serve in the positions. Therefore, the Steering Committee is in the best position to make a recommendation of who is most qualified to serve in the Sound Chair position following rotation.

Concept 10

Concept 10 states that the scope of every service responsibility and authority should be well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description, etc. The Tech Steering Committee believes the foregoing should be reflected in a motion to provide direction and guidance for future rotations.

Conclusion

Accordingly, the Tech Steering Committee would like this recommendation process to be in the form of a motion for rotations going forward and in the spirit of Concept 10.

Presented by the Technology Steering Committee by Group Conscience 11/15/25:

Anthony G.- Area Sound Chair; Patrick M. - Area Web & Tech Chair; Shu D. – Area Webservant; Mary T. - past Area Sound Chair and Webservant; John B. - Member; Emma S. - Member; Chris E. - Member; Chuck H. - past DCM D8

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CONS:

From the January 2026 Quarterly Minutes (see link below for copy of the minutes):

1. Questioned whether a formal motion was necessary or if the process could be implemented administratively. Sought clarification on whether this represented a change in Area procedure.
 - a. Derek, Area Chair clarified that the precedent is Archives and that it was done by motion and for future rotations reference.
2. Requested clearer definition of what the proposed structure would look like (committee membership, term lengths, and qualifications). The TSC Committee provided updated policies and procedures at the April Quarterly. See TSC Policy & Procedures link below.
3. Raised broader questions about increasing technical complexity and long-term sustainability with the possibility of hiring individuals with technical abilities.

CONS:

From the April 2026 Quarterly Minutes (see link below for copy of the minutes):

1. Expressed concern that the proposed role resembles an archivist-type position rather than a rotating chair; questioned structure prior to motion.
2. Asked whether the position could allow longer-term service similar to archivist for continuity.
Anthony G., Area Sound/Zoom Chair: Clarified proposal combines elements of archivist and an archives chair; emphasized training pipeline to ensure experience before serving. Two years of training, two years of doing, two years of being available for the next sound chair.
3. Concern whether proposal would limit tenure or participation of existing committee members. Seems we already that in place. Asked how candidates would be selected among multiple qualified committee members; questioned selection criteria.
4. Questioned necessity of proposal; suggested improving inclusiveness within existing process instead.
5. Suggested clarifying four-year expectation within motion language.
Anthony G., Area Sound/Zoom Chair: Wasn't sure whether it needed to be expressed explicitly, we could say the person being selected must be trained. He felt the background material already covered what the motion is expressing through implication.
6. Suggested utilizing entire trained committee as candidate pool rather than fixed pipeline; raised concern about rigid multi-year commitment.

Additional Background Materials:

The following background materials can be found through the Area website at:

<https://area72aa.org/2025-pre-assembly-documents-eng/> and are hyperlinked here as well:

- Sound Chair Presentation at April 2026 Quarterly
 - Technology Steering Committee Policies & Procedures as of 2026
 - Minutes from the Jan. 2026 Quarterly on Sound Chair Discussion
 - Minutes from the April 2026 Quarterly on Sound Chair Discussion
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