

Motion #1 - Sound Chair Appointed Process

April 2026 Quarterly Presentation

Area 72 Quarterly Presentation Technology Steering Committee – Sound & Zoom Chair Selection Process

Presented by Anthony G., Area Sound Chair

Section 1: Why We Are Having This Discussion

We are having this discussion because there is already a precedent within Area 72 for this type of process. The Archives Steering Committee has operated under a formal, motion-approved structure for recommending candidates for the Area Archivist position. That model was established by motion at the 1989 Area Assembly and has provided stability and continuity across multiple rotations.

The Technology Steering Committee was created at the October 2022 Assembly to meet the Area's growing technical needs—hybrid assemblies and quarterlies, an online district, Zoom administration, and the Area's Google Workspace and website. Since that time, the systems and processes for Sound and Zoom operations have been refined, standardized, and made trainable. However, the technical complexity of this role means that effective service requires advance preparation that the current appointment process does not always provide.

This is not about excluding anyone from service. It is about ensuring that whoever steps into the Sound & Zoom Chair role has had the opportunity to train, learn the systems, and be set up for success—just as the Archives Steering Committee does for the Archivist position. The Archives precedent shows that this kind of structured recommendation process works, respects the authority of elected officers, and strengthens continuity of service to the Area.

Section 2: Addressing Questions from the January Quarterly

What does the proposed structure look like?

The Technology Steering Committee's structure, membership, and procedures are already defined in the TSC Policies & Procedures document. Here are the key details:

- **Committee Membership:** 9 total members – the Area Sound & Zoom Chair, the Area Webservant, and the Area Technology & Web Chair serve as standing members, plus 6 additional members selected by resume at the start of each rotation.
- **Composition:** Ideally a mix of about half Sound & Zoom experienced members and half Webservant experienced members, including both former chairs/webservants and prospective ones.
- **Term Lengths:** 2-year rotations aligned with the Area's rotation cycle. Members may serve up to a maximum of 6 consecutive years on the TSC.
- **Training Pipeline for Sound & Zoom Chair (Section V.B):**

Motion #1 - Sound Chair Appointed Process

April 2026 Quarterly Presentation

- A member serves on the TSC for one 2-year rotation, being trained to take over the chair.
- Once appointed as Chair, they train their replacement over their 2-year service term.
- They stay on as needed for another rotation for continuity purposes.

How does the TSC's recommendation fit into the existing appointment process?

The TSC will solicit resumes from the entire Area 72 body and, based on training, experience, and readiness, recommend one candidate to the elected officers for the Sound & Zoom Chair position. If the elected officers need additional names, the committee can provide them.

Critically, the elected officers retain final approval authority. The TSC's role is advisory—we recommend, the electeds appoint. This is identical to how the Archives Steering Committee operates: the steering committee makes a recommendation, and the elected officers make the final decision. No decision-making authority is being removed from elected servants.

Has the necessary groundwork been done?

Yes. The TSC Policies & Procedures document is complete and available. It defines the committee's purpose, composition, term structure, training pipeline, core and additional technology services, meeting procedures, and accountability to the Area. The technical processes have been established, standardized, and made trainable over the past several rotations. This proposal is not premature—it is the natural next step now that the groundwork is in place.

If there are further questions about the TSC's structure or procedures, the mic will be available and I am happy to answer them.

Section 3: Ready to Move Forward

Based on the discussion at the January Quarterly, the support expressed at the mic, and the groundwork that has been completed, I am ready to move forward with bringing a motion to the 2025 Area Assembly.

The motion will propose that the Technology Steering Committee formally select and recommend the candidate for the Area Sound & Zoom Chair position, following the training and rotation process defined in the TSC Policies & Procedures, and modeled after the Archives Steering Committee precedent. Elected officers will retain final appointment authority.

This is about setting the Sound & Zoom Chair role up for success—ensuring continuity, technical readiness, and sustainable service to the Area for rotations to come.

Quick Reference – Talking Points

1. Why We Are Having This Discussion (Archives Precedent)

- Archives Steering Committee already operates under a motion-approved process for recommending the Archivist
- Documented in the Area Handbook, proven across multiple rotations
- TSC was created by motion at October 2022 Assembly
- Sound/Zoom systems are now refined, standardized, and trainable
- Not about excluding anyone – about setting people up for success
- Role requires advance training; limited event frequency restricts hands-on learning

2. Addressing Questions

Structure:

- 9 members: Sound & Zoom Chair + Webservant + Tech & Web Chair + 6 selected by resume
- 2-year rotations, max 6 consecutive years
- Training pipeline: serve on TSC → appointed as Chair → train replacement → stay for continuity

Recommendation Process:

- TSC solicits resumes from entire Area 72 body
- Recommends ONE candidate to elected officers
- Electeds retain final approval authority – advisory only, not gatekeeping
- Same model as Archives Steering Committee

Groundwork:

- TSC Policies & Procedures document is complete and available
- Technical processes established over past several rotations
- Mic is available for further questions

3. Ready to Move Forward

- Bringing a motion to the 2026 Area Assembly
- TSC will formally select and recommend the Sound & Zoom Chair candidate
- Follows TSC Policies & Procedures and Archives precedent
- Elected officers retain final appointment authority
- About continuity, readiness, and sustainable service