

Motion #1 - Sound Chair Appointed Process

Minutes from the January 2026 Quarterly

Presentation by Anthony G., Area Sound Chair:

Anthony, Area Sound Chair provided background on the establishment of the Area 72 Technology Steering Committee in 2022, noting that increasing technological complexity—driven by hybrid Area assemblies and quarterlies and the addition of an online district—necessitated a more specialized and trained approach to Area technology operations. He explained that over the past several years, a process has evolved showing that effective service in the Sound/Technology Chair role requires advance training, similar to the Archives Steering Committee model.

Drawing on personal experience since early hybrid events in 2022, Anthony described how the Area's technology systems have been refined, standardized, and made trainable, but limited event frequency restricts hands-on training opportunities. He noted that past reliance on the DCM pool alone has sometimes placed individuals in the role without sufficient technical preparation, not due to lack of willingness, but due to skill mismatch.

Anthony emphasized that the intent is not to exclude DCMs, but to broaden the pool of qualified candidates by allowing training and experience to develop through the Technology Steering Committee. He stated that the committee is best positioned to recommend qualified candidates after at least one rotation of training, ensuring continuity, effectiveness, and sustainability. He concluded that, now that the technical process is established, a formal training and selection framework is needed, modeled after the Archives Steering Committee precedent.

Purpose of Discussion:

- To discuss a proposal related to the selection and training process for the Area Sound/Technology Chair.
- The intent was to explore whether the Technology Steering Committee should formally recommend qualified candidates for the position, following a defined training and rotation process, similar to the Archives Steering Committee model.

Discussion:

Jim B., DCM, D43

- Supported the concept, noting that training is essential for effectively serving in the Sound/Technology role.
- Shared interest in continuing service beyond his DCM rotation through a trained technical position.

Mike L., DCM, D36

- 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.
 - Derek, Area Chair clarified that the precedent is Archives and that it was done by motion and for future rotations reference.

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Maryland, Area Archivist

- Strongly supported the proposal, describing the long-standing rotating Archives Steering Committee structure.
- Emphasized the importance of documented policy to ensure continuity and stability across rotations.
- Referenced the Archives Policy from 1989 as an example to provide stability over time

Dave H., GSR

- Asked clarifying questions regarding the current appointed positions process and how candidates are selected.
- Derek S., Area Chair explained that the incoming Chair calls for resumes for the Appointed positions after the Election Assembly, and the electeds review all resumes and meet the first Sunday in December per Motion to select the panel of appointeds that will be presented at the January Quarterly for approval of the Area Committee. The Chair noted that Appointed positions are voting members on the Area Committee and at the Assembly and so previous experience on the Area Committee and within the General Service structure is a valuable part of the decision-making process.

Sansannah, Alt. DCM D3

- Do we choose our appointeds from the DCM pool only?
- Derek S., Area Chair: noted that Appointed positions are voting members on the Area Committee and at the Assembly and so previous experience on the Area Committee and within the General Service structure is a valuable part of the decision-making process.

John, DCM, D45

- Supported increased involvement of the Technology Steering Committee in candidate recommendations.
- Noted that the role requires both technical competence and the ability to communicate effectively with the Area.

Courtney, Area Delegate

- Requested clearer definition of what the proposed structure would look like (committee membership, term lengths, and qualifications).
- Raised broader questions about increasing technical complexity and long-term sustainability with the possibility of hiring individuals with technical abilities.

Don, Area Secretary

- Explained that there was a matrix used by the Archives Steering Committee when they evaluated the resumes submitted to them and suggested Area Sound adopt that same principle.

Patrick, Area Tech & Web Chair

- Emphasized the importance of balancing steering committee expertise with the responsibility of elected Area officers.

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- Suggested a collaborative approach rather than removing decision-making authority from elected servants.

Jennifer, Area Archives Chair

- Clarified that the Archives Steering Committee already follows a documented process in the Area Handbook to use as a model.
- Explained that steering committees make recommendations, while elected officers retain final appointment authority before the panel is presented to the Area Committee for approval.

Lupita, Area Alt Delegate

- Supported exploring a model similar to Archives but noted that additional groundwork and clarity may be needed. Potato Potato.
- Encouraged continued discussion before formalizing any structural changes.

Annabelle, Alt DCM, D4

- Spoke in favor of steering committee involvement for technical appointments.
- Highlighted how structured training could encourage technically skilled members into service.

Derek S., Area Chair: seeing no one at the in-person microphones and no raised hands online closed discussion on this topic.