

Voting Process for the Area 57 Budget

In both the Area Committee Meeting in June and at the Area Assembly in September the budget is discussed and voted on for approval.

A special process is used to keep the discussion on track, discussing one part at a time. (The technical term is to Consider "Seriatim" or "by paragraph".)

Here is how it works:

1. A motion is made and seconded (both by a GSR or Alt GSR) to "approve the budget". That brings the whole budget onto the floor for consideration and discussion.
2. Then, to avoid confusion, each line item is brought up for discussion, one at a time. Usually the Area Treasurer guides this part of the process, saying something like "Is there question or discussion on Line 1?" Then line 2, line 3, etc.
 - Each line item can be amended. To suggest making a change, say "I move to change this raise (or lower) line to \$_____".
 - Each suggested amendment is seconded, discussed and voted on individually as they come up. (A "sub" motion on a particular line item -- while the main motion is still open on the floor)
3. After all the lines have been considered, and possibly amended, the Chair opens the budget up for discussion as a whole. This would be the time to bring up things like "The whole budget is too big (or too small), we need to cut (or add) something." Amendments can also be made at this stage to change any line item, or to add a new line item.
4. Finally, with the budget having been discussed one piece at a time and then as a whole, the motion (as possibly amended) is brought to a vote. This whole process has been an orderly consideration of the motion made in step one above. This step 4 is the final vote on that motion.