

# 2024 vs. 2025 A07 SPENDING PLAN: SUMMARY OF INPUT & GROUP CONSCIENCE FROM ACM, EMAILS & WORKSHOPS

Don H, Treasurer & Finance Committee

## OUTLINE

- Workshop information
- Shares on the big picture ... what is taking shape? Breaking even – Archives – Adjust Prudent Reserve
- Shares with specific feedback on the steps proposed so far to 'balance the budget'
- Variables that we don't control
- Other shares, discussion items and input

## WORKSHOP INFORMATION (there will be 2-3 more between ACM & Mini-PRAASA)

- 3 workshops, online, bilingual, with 3-5 attendees each
  - Attendees: group members (4), group secretaries (1), group GSRs (2), committee members (2), DCMs (3), Officers (1), former Officer (1) and former delegates (1); Ds 11, 21, 22, 25, 30, 34, & 37 among others
  - Hosted by Don H A7 Treasurer, Drew R A7 Chair Finance Committee, Claudio B (Alternate Delegate & member E-services Comm) & Juan (Interpretation)
- Information provided: Area 7 vs. other areas, spending plans, Area purposes vs. groups'
- Content: slides on spending plan, balance the budget handout and spending plan principles (all on website)
- Assumptions: need to cut \$25,000 to break even and raise contributions \$2,000-\$6,000
- Input, Q&A, discussion and such

## SHARES ON THE BIG PICTURE ... WHAT IS TAKING SHAPE?

### Breaking even

- People 'get' it, many saw it coming – not sustainable
- It is hard to take things away like conferences, yet have to get back to pre-pandemic
- Several relieved...that we have a plan...see it as prudent; it 'should' be 'balanced'
- Hard decisions yet a chance to reflect on values, make decisions and come together

### Archives

- History
  - Same location for 20 years?
  - Alt Archives Chair started in Panel 70
  - Office used 2X/mo and for special events yet few have visited?
- Folks see the need for a better, safer place and we voted to support this at Post-Conference Assembly and gave it to the Officers
- We celebrate Archives, but seeing so much \$ spent feels uncomfortable. Are we spending too much on Archives: two positions, current rent and an increase?
  - Other areas are spending much less: 5% or less; rare even 10%
  - With regular Spending Plan at \$60,000, with two chairs and rent = \$9,000 = current 15% and rent at \$725/mo = \$6,000 => 25%?
- Officers brought it back to August ACM and met with Archives early September
  - Goal is to follow what our Area decided, though concerned about company & cost
  - More financial data became apparent in April-June: does that affect this decision?
  - Prudent to get Spending Plan done first, so revisiting September ACM +/- Mini-PRAASA?
  - Currently keep looking at options and consider which model is best
- Several ideas on the 'best' way to move forward:
  - Current office model vs.

- Shared space model with others vs.
- A model with space to integrate it with ACM (\$2,220/yr) & storage (\$1,200/yr) functions?

#### Conferences

- Nice when we can, and now we cannot do as much
- Reach out other ways to Areas and use technology

#### Accessibilities

- 12<sup>th</sup> Step work is essential not optional
- Assembly presentations well-received and pretty good ideas
- Active workgroup with a motion coming to ACM and/or Assembly for a chair position? It has
  - Scope
  - Objectives
  - Other information

#### Uncertainty

- Hybrid assemblies = higher cost Area (hard to predict) and lower costs for DCMs, GSRs and others
- Officer/chair 'attendance' = assume 100%? (That never occurs due to life, but prudent to use 90%?)
- Other?

### **SPENDING PLAN FOR 2025: 2 KEY VARIABLES & ADJUST PRUDENT RESERVE?**

To break even – Archives rent increase – reduce Prudent Reserve to \$10,000 from \$15,000 for cash flow?

#### ***Other variables***

- Are we continuing the Oral Interpretation Chair?
- Do we need an Accessibilities Chair?
- Hybrid assemblies = higher cost Area (hard to predict) and lower costs for DCMs, GSRs and others
- Officer/chair 'attendance' = assume 100%? (That never occurs due to life, but prudent to use 90%?)

### **SHARES WITH SPECIFIC FEEDBACK ON STEPS TO 'BALANCE THE BUDGET'**

#### ***MUST***

Step A puts translation for assembly into assembly registration higher: affects all of us

- -\$4,000 on Assembly translation: raise Assembly Registration Fee by \$5/assembly

#### FEEDBACK

- Fully supported, 'no brainer'; not a big change

#### ***AND***

Step B reduces PRAASA (officers, chairs), Forum (officers) & special conferences: affects our connection with other areas and General Service Office/Board

- -\$4,800 = -\$6,000 PRAASA funding cut & \$1,200 increase from \$600 to \$800/person (4 officers and 2 chairs = 6 attendees) (or those with special conferences could trade for this), and

#### FEEDBACK

- Nice when we can, and now we cannot do as much
- It could affect building or rel'ps with other Areas and learning about roles, but can reach out other ways to Areas and use technology
- It helps some see what they cannot see...a path of service with options to do things
- A random process that alternates attendees year-to-year is usually used
- -\$2,000 on Forum funding: cut from all to 2 officers (Deleg, Alt Deleg or Chair), and
  - Nice when we can, and now we cannot do as much; 1-2 is fine
  - Not as important as PRAASA

- -\$1,400 on special conferences:
  - Cut International Convention Delegate, special conference Alt Delegate, and continue NCCAA (not officially part of the GSC – but good service events)?
  - Reduce/choose
    - Choose special conference OR PRAASA: E-services (special conference OR PRAASA), BTG (special conference OR PRAASA), GV/LV (special conference OR PRAASA),
    - Send only 1 Archives Chair to a special conference or PRAASA?

FEEDBACK

- The international one is probably not needed, though there are best practices and can meet others; technically, it is not a service event; it is a convention
- Special conferences exist for specific chairs but not others – BTG, GV/LV, Archives, E-services – and these are suggested though not required
- Generally, we may have to trim here; some available online, which would cost less
- -\$1,100 on Hispanic conferences: reduce statewide Hispanic conference contribution from \$800 to \$500, liaison travel to it from \$1,000 to \$500 and local conference/forum liaison to from \$1,000 to \$500 (leaving \$1,700)

FEEDBACK

- Many have not attended these, but those who do find it moving and helpful
- Some see our support as vital to the state, so the cuts seem too much
- This is a key way to introduce AA to Spanish-speakers?
- Need more feedback, please

**AND**

Step C reduces mileage reimbursement: affects officers and chairs

- -\$3,400 on mileage: cut reimbursement from 0.67/mi to 0.60/mi, and

FEEDBACK

- Several express concern, as the overhead cost is as real as the cost for gas
- 0.55/mi was too steep of a cut, perhaps, so we suggest 0.60/mi

**AND**

Step D reduces cost of Accents: affects all of us

- -\$8,300 on Accents: cut production, distribution and printing (leaving \$1,700)

FEEDBACK

- We are already doing it...few, if any, have expressed concerns
- AA, in general, is moving to e-copies (e.g., Box 4-5-9)
- D53 Committee Mtg 8/30/24 (included some from D55 and others): ok; electronic preferred
- Will check with Spanish Districts Meeting 10/6/24

**Subtotal = -\$25,000**

**AND** (these are cost neutral as written)

Step E declares need for increased contributions – no matter what: affects all of us

Option 1

- +\$2,000 contributions increase

FEEDBACK

- It is feasible – not a huge change with 800 groups and 40 districts – but we don't 'control' this; each member group, district has to decide. Do we have faith?
- Suggested: ad hoc group led by Drew of Finance Comm to explore 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition practices & online mtg or two to gain input & give encouragement

Option 2

- +\$6,000 contributions increase  
FEEDBACK
  - As above except that this is a bigger commitment by members, groups and districts
- -\$6,000: Archives rent increase  
FEEDBACK
  - See BIG PICTURE section above please
  - (May have to trim another \$2,000 somewhere since going up here by \$4,000)

## **VARIABLES THAT WE DON'T CONTROL**

- Service Hybrid assemblies = a little hard to predict but likely higher cost Area (more service workers +/- technology?) and lower costs for DCMs, GSRs and others who save on travel, accommodations and such
- Officer/chair 'attendance'
  - We assume 100%, but that never occurs due to life
  - Is it prudent to use 90%?
- Contributions
- Other?

## **OTHER SHARES, DISCUSSION ITEMS AND INPUT**

- Accessibilities: see above
- Archives: see above
- Ad hoc committee on 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition
  - Drew R, Chair Finance Committee to convene
  - Workshops online?
  - Explore issues and encourage service and contributions?
  - Key to support home group > other groups as need rent, coffee, electricity and such – this is akin to Area functions that are 'core'
- Technology: use it whenever possible
  - Connects us, but as well as in-person?
  - Service
  - Accessibility
  - To lower \$ spent
  - Hybrid assemblies – see above – worth a try to see if it will work
- Service is about what works not about feelings and preferences
- Reduce Prudent Reserve to \$10,000 from \$15,000 for cash flow?
- Oral Translation/Interpretation Chair is not happening – phase out – use Accessibilities, instead?
- Do we need Written Translation Chair?
  - Artificial intelligence (AI) software is advancing: it can be 'trained' to be better
  - Pilot it in 2025? Have Chair 'train' it. Need volunteers to help?
- How are we with the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition?