

2024 vs. 2025 A07 SPENDING PLAN – BALANCING THE ‘BUDGET’

Don H, Treasurer & Finance Committee – *October 6, 2024*

(Remember to see all handouts on the website)

Introduction

We have had a very good group conscience on the Spending Plan for 2025 – this is a vital, spiritual and dynamic process. With principles, humility and our HPs, we can keep this going and see where we need to be. We thank all those for emails and attendance at the Spending Plan workshops for their questions and input. The 6 online, bilingual, workshops included an introduction, 15-20 min presentation followed by questions, input and suggestions. We had good attendance, but wished more of you had come.

Key assumptions

- General
 - The spending plan is not just about \$ - it is about recovery, service and unity – and it is also about love and life & death
 - Breaking even (i.e., balancing the budget): it is not easy, can bring us together and folks seem pleased or relieved to be accountable and purposeful
 - We have reviewed more data, talked to more folks since the September ACM, but our data are imperfect
 - We have tried to be the voice for members and the Area – and consider all points-of-view
- We are trimming this year after a few years of surplus, with \$25,000 less to break even and fund Archives rent – maybe there is a way to have one site in total for ACMs and Archives with Archives
 - The surplus was spent on translation, technology, being more self-supporting to GSC in sending delegate, more in savings (prudent reserve), and more officers to Forum
 - We have always funded the PRAASA for officers and chairs: more (12) went as close this year in SF; fewer go when at a distance
 - The Forum attendance was great (5), yet not feasible long-term
- The Finance Committee believes we need to expand service and do ‘more’ not less, so we suggest that we raise contributions from \$60,000 to \$64,000
 - Contributions are steady, but not increasing for 10 years
 - Expenses have been increasing
 - Short- and long-term, we cannot just keep cutting things
 - Old data suggest that about 30%-40% of US groups and districts contribute to the Area and GSO/B and the Canadians are around 50%?
 - With a spending plan rounded off at \$80,000, member contributions divided among 800 groups has each giving \$100 OR 40 districts each giving \$200 (or a combination thereof)?
 - To raise \$4,000 this year divided equally is \$5 increase/group OR \$10 increase/district?
 - We believe that we can communicate value better; \$ is less of an issue
 - We suggest reflection on 7th Tradition splits (home group, other group(s), district, area, GSO/B) by members, groups and Districts
- Looking at the last decade:
 - Assemblies do sometimes raise money: it is variable; we ensure districts do not lose money
 - We have consistently offered to send officers and chairs to PRAASA
 - Looking at expenses, a raise of \$7/registration at each assembly may be more in order than \$5/registration
 - The current proposed deficit of \$3,000 is far lower than the typical \$10,000+ (not including surplus spending recently); FC sees it as reasonable

Final review of the 5 steps to balance the budget: Steps A-E

Trimming

- Step A, move cost of translation into assembly registration: members fully supported; FC projections suggest \$7/registration not \$5/registration increase may be in order -\$4,000
- Step B: Forum and special conferences
 - Reduce PRAASA – members partially supported and FC does not support so kept \$ in the plan
 - Rational: PRAASA is a vital step in servants finding their path, engaging with others, and ‘seeing’ new options; and this is important work and enjoyable, yet not just fun or a get away
 - Reduce Forum attendance: members and FC supported; send only delegate -\$2,500
 - Reduce funding to Hispanic regional and local conferences: not supported by members and FC only slightly modified
 - Eliminate International Conference funding for Delegate: members supported and FC agrees so this is -\$200/year (expense only every 5 years)
 - Rate of reimbursement for special conferences, PRAASA and Hispanic conferences is standardized and lower at \$800: supported many members and FC -\$1,600
- Step C, reduce mileage reimbursement – not supported by members or FC so \$ kept in the plan
- Step D, reduce cost of Accents (production, printing and mailing): members fully supported -\$9,000
- Miscellaneous 2025 cuts by FC – members supported
 - Mileage: rate is the same; just less miles in 2025 = -\$3,500
 - Agenda workshop mileage -\$1,400
 - ASL interpretation -\$3,000
 - Technology costs -\$1,700
 - Other officer expenses -\$1,400
 - GSC funding for delegate: reduce -\$1,800

Adding

- Step E, declare need for increased contributions: supported in principle by many members and FC
 - We consider the 7th Tradition and increase contributions
 - Finance Committee suggests +\$4,000 increase
- Step E1, Assembly income +\$5,900 projected by FC

Summary

- Cuts all above: -\$30,100
- Addition E-E1: +\$9,900
- Neutral: Prudent Reserve from \$-5,000 → Checking to increase cash flow (need motion)

Thank you for helping me and our team be of service!