

2025 vs. 2026 A07 SPENDING PLAN – BALANCING THE ‘BUDGET’

Don H, Treasurer & Finance Committee – July 17, 2025

Introduction

We use the group conscience on the Spending Plan for 2026 to make decisions – this is a vital, spiritual and dynamic process. With principles, humility and our HPs, we make decisions together.

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
 - Business: breaking even is essential
 - AA: our leaders current and past say we tend not to spend all \$; however, the better we plan and make it easy, the more we do follow through
 - How we do the plan
 - 2025 approach
 - Transition with \$25,000+ transition of cuts
 - Forecasting with specific cuts
 - Provided buffet of options for cuts (unusual year post surplus)
 - 2026: hybrid of 2025 and traditional (below)
 - Costed out officer & chair costs actually part of ACMs and assemblies
 - 12 of 24 conferences included (includes NCCAA & Hispanic Conference)
 - Buffet of options to make cuts
 - Initial deficit of \$7,500 (corrected \$8,800 due to error)
 - Traditional option: cost out and then leave it to the big group at ACMs and eventually assembly to ‘decide’
 - All 24 conferences
 - Bigger deficit of \$23,800 (corrected)
- Assumptions and ways to do things
 - Mileage not reimbursed by Districts or others in 2026 = \$600
 - GSC events:
 - 2025: \$600
 - 2024: \$2,000
 - 2023: \$1,800
 - 2022: \$800
 - Mileage from other events not reimbursed in 2026 = \$500
 - 2025: \$600
 - 2024: \$500
 - 2023: \$1,000
 - 2022: \$0
 - Summary (combined)
 - 2025: \$1,100 budgeted and \$300 or so spent
 - 2024: \$2,500 budgeted and \$1,853 spent
 - 2023: \$2,800 budgeted and \$3,166 spent
 - 2022: \$800 budgeted and \$2,192 spent
 - Conferences

- All: 16 PRAASA, 1 Forum, 1 NCCAA, national ones (4; Archives, BTG, Technology, GV/LV), Hispanic (1) = 23 (24 since oral translation chair empty)
- We have typically, always made funds available for officers and chairs for PRAASA: more (13/16 went in 2025)
- Hawaii \$1,400/person for PRAASA; probably less if 3/room reimbursement
- The Finance Committee suggests that to continue services (not do 'less' by cutting)
 - Supply chain, lodging, travel and technology goes up not down
 - Suggest contributions increase from \$64,000 to \$68,000
 - 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 = \$5 increase/group OR \$10 increase/district?
 - Key to reflect on 7th Tradition splits to home group, other group(s), district, area, GSO/B
 - Questions so far, "Why is the Finance Committee telling us to contribute more?"
 - It is not our/their business
 - It is a spiritual process
 - Archives rent is higher
 - Humm...costs continue to go up, though?
- Ways to trim (need \$8,800)
 - Mileage cut rate to \$0.50/mi (or formula like 2/3 business rate 0.70/mi and 1/3 non-profit = \$0.51/mi to avoid always adjusting it) **\$4,553**
 - One ACM virtual not in-person; still pay translation? **\$1,750**
 - All assemblies two days **\$2,500**
 - An additional, one-day virtual assembly 1 day in August or September (and subtract an ACM = actual cost \$1,750 and translation \$450) **\$2,200**
 - Phase out oral translation? **\$0** (not filled)
 - Phase out written translation to artificial intelligence or such? **\$2,500**

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