



AREA 07

2026 SPENDING PLAN

SUMMARY

Election Assembly

November 14-16, 2025

Treasurer & Finance Committee

Outline



- Area purpose
- Spending plan: what is it and what is the process?
- What we typically spend on vs. 2025 and most years.
- The current plan.
 - Changes in revenue.
 - Changes expense.
 - Considerations.
- Plan of action: approve, amend or reflect/decide later.

Purpose: Why do we have an Area?

AA Service Manual

- To elect a delegate to represent the area's conscience at the annual General Service Conference.
- To form a local decision-making structure so groups can collectively decide on matters that affect their area.
- To carry out Twelfth Step work that may not be practical for groups, districts or intergroups to take on by themselves. Examples include, but are not limited to: accessibility/treatment/ corrections, communication (e.g., bulletin, website), literature, CPC/PI, translation.

Purpose: Why do we have an Area?

Area 7 Service Material Book (combined, paraphrased)

- Create a collaborative and cohesive culture at all levels of service – for full participation in GSC process – with unity experienced through meetings, special events & fellowship.
- Develop and utilize best forms of communication to districts, groups, and members, including equal opportunities to fully participate through translation & interpretation.
- Serve as resource for districts on BTG, CPC/PI, and other 12th step opportunities – by sharing service experience and serve as a guide for trusted servants to grow – and maintaining our Archives.

What is a spending plan?



- A spending plan is a living example of principles of recovery – overseen by the Steps, Traditions and Concepts.
- We HAVE \$ - we GET to spend to help others – and we UNIFY our conscience over time.
- Revenues and expenses align, usually; some unexpected things happen.
- An opportunity to look at our Area missions and our values, take a brief inventory and affirm things in line and adjust to slightly new realities.
- Group consciences are key in Area, Districts, Groups & Members.

Principles for the 2026 Spending Plan

Approach

- Transparency, integrity, discipline, responsibility, service.
- Use group conscience and inventory for unity and finances.
- Be aware of those that 7th tradition occurs at group, district and area level and informed by group conscience.
- Be prepared that some decisions will be difficult and consider what is the best value of each dollar spent.
- Prudence: what service is essential and what is not?
- Get 'real': break the buck barrier? Hardly, \$1 in 1975 = \$6 now

Principles for the 2026 Spending Plan

Business and logistics

- Where is there redundancy?
- Use a 3-year average with both longitudinal estimates of costs.
- Adapt federal trends on expenditures (e.g., mileage cents/mile).
- Balance the Plan in terms of expenses & revenue.
- Ensure DCMs, GSRs and groups have practical info to communicate & gain input.

Where are we usually and after COVID?

- Usually, \$10,000-\$15,000 in the bank spending plan \$75,000
- 2020-24: surplus funds of about \$34,000.
 - Became more bilingual = translation/interpretation
 - Got new equipment including 40 processors.
 - Prudent Reserve increased to \$15,000.
 - General Service Conference contribution increased.
- 2025: moved Archives to better location with rent increased to \$800/month.

Spending plan trends

- 2020-21: underspent with pandemic.
- 2022-23: spent more than usual (GSC funding, translation & one-time technology = spent about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the surplus.
- 2024: new normal (as in 2023) with more conferences & one-time technology = spent about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the surplus.
- 2025: closed \$3,402.52 deficit despite Archives rent increase & move and the addition of Accessibility Chair.

How we are spending our \$

ITEM	COST	DETAILS
Assemblies --\$7,000 general & \$1,400 translation & \$250 tech --Assembly registrant increase \$4-5 (actual \$7-8)	\$40,000+	Accounts for officer/chair mileage \$1,500/event, registration \$640/event (\$40 X 16) and lodging \$1,425/event (more for 3-day assembly)
ACMs --Rent \$300/month & translation \$700/month	\$20,000+	Accounts for officer/chair mileage (\$1,500/month) Translation = actual work & mileage
Rent, contracts & insurance	\$14,000	Archives, ACM, and storage rent, mainly
PRAASA and Special Conferences --2025: 13 to PRAASA & special conferences --Linguistic/Hispanic Conference)	\$15,200 & \$2,400	Alaska PRAASA averaged about \$1,175 per person
Other: technology \$ \$3,000; GSC \$3,600; taxes, bookkeeping & accountant \$2,000	\$8,600	Routine for most areas

Current 2026 Spending Plan for Approval

- Overspending by \$4,167; last year it was \$3,402.52.
 - Traditionally, businesses want no overspending, but in AA we do things a little differently.
 - Two analysis looked at spending plan totals 2011-2024: one found 83% spent & other 88% spent of what is planned. We are better estimating now.
 - We collected information on whether it is okay plan to overspend \$5,000 or \$10,000 (or 5% or 10% of the plan) – most were okay with \$5,000 but very few support \$10,000.

Where are we for 2026: what are the *potential* moving pieces?

- Revenue
 - We're on target for \$64,000 this year or more – thank you!
 - Moving contributions up to \$66,000...going up about \$2,000/year.
 - One \$ in 1975 = \$6 now.
 - Cost of living expense is about \$1,600.
 - This implies we may be underspending to continue much less expand services
 - Surveys supported \$66,000 >> \$68,000.

Where are we for 2026: what are the *potential* moving pieces?

- Expense savings
 - Definition: not revenue, but not spending as before
- Two ways
 - Plan two ACM virtual not in-person; still pay translation but not the mileage for them: saves \$3,500.
 - Mileage savings
 - From chairs mileage was included for ACMs, which are not technically required; this saved a little under \$3,000.
 - Interpreter mileage to ACMs; that costs about \$450 less.

Where are we for 2026: what are the *potential* moving pieces?

- Expenses (continued)
 - PRAASA & special conferences for 2025/most years.
 - 16 PRAASA.
 - 4 special conferences for chairs: *Bridge the Gap*, *Grapevine/La Vina*, *Archives (only the Alternate Chair attends)*, *National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW)*.
 - 2 conferences for delegate: Pacific Regional Forum and Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous (NCCAA).
 - Linguistic/Hispanic Conference.

Where are we for 2026: what are the *potential* moving pieces?

- Expenses (continued)
 - PRAASA & special conferences for 2026
 - **8 (not 16) PRAASA.**
 - 4 special conferences for chairs: *Bridge the Gap, Grapevine/La Vina, Archives (only the Alternate Chair attends), National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW).*
 - 2 conferences for delegate: Pacific Regional Forum and Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous (NCCAA).
 - Linguistic/Hispanic Conference.

Where are we for 2026: not all go to PRAASA or to a special conference?

- Some suggest all go, as this is how many learn their role and a key part of training.
- But 2025 Alaska & 2026 Hawaii are more expensive than usual.
- Sending 7 officers and pick 1 chair out of the hat still costs \$11,200 at \$1,400/person;
 - Last year we spent \$15,200 as 13 of 16 went.
 - If an officer cannot go, could pick another chair out of the hat?

Where are we for 2026: not all go to PRAASA or to a special conference?

- Why?
 - Don't think we have the \$.
 - It is a key experience yet does everyone have to go?
 - That leaves the Archives, Accessibility, Literature, Written Translation (Oral Translation not filled) and AV Tech not attending any conference
 - It does not seem right or fair to some.

Where are we for 2026: what are the *potential* moving pieces?

- Expenses (Continued)
 - We increased the GSC contribution from \$3,600 to \$5,000; it was \$5,000 in 2024; it really costs \$10,000 but the rest is covered
 - The overwhelming majority support this.
 - This is to be more self-supporting; it actually costs about \$10,000 and General Service Board/Office picks up the rest.
 - Mileage reimbursement issues:
 - The majority support keeping mileage reimbursement at to \$0.70/mi.
 - We considered cutting it to \$0.60/mi to save \$2,250 or \$0.50/mi to save \$4,500, but there were concerns about principles and practical issues (e.g., depreciation, maintenance).

Plan of action

- This is the 4th or more time for some of you hearing this; others, the first time? If in doubt, ask your DCM.
- Questions, comments?
- Prioritize services that most closely align with Area Purpose
- Options
 - Motion to approve OR
 - Motion to amend & discuss OR
 - Wait until Winter Assembly and current plan carries over

**Thank you for
your attention
and letting us be
of service!**



