

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

Don H, Treasurer & Finance Committee

Summary for Election Assembly
from Feedback ACMs, Workshops, Surveys, Emails and Calls
2025-11

Summary of key issues:

1. 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 and other 88% spent of what is planned. We are a little better estimating and have tightened up the spending plan over the last few years, though.

-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.

2. We have put contributions at \$66,000.

-There is much more support for raising contributions from \$64,000 current to \$66,000 and less support for \$68,000 instead.

-\$66,000 is more incremental and may be more prudent.

3. There appears to be good support for moving 2 ACMs to virtual (in total/year).

-We kept that in the calculations (savings of \$3,500).

-In the future, if we change an assembly and replace an ACM, suggest a maximum of 2 virtual/year for now and re-evaluate.

4. The majority support for 8 PRAASA and 4 special conferences this year only – due to travel to Hawaii.

-Special conferences: we suggest the 4 chairs attend these. They are *Bridge the Gap*, *Grapevine/La Vina*, *Archives (only the Alternate Chair attends)*, *National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW)*. Some suggested these chairs pick the conference or PRAASA, but as General Service Board/Office was compelled to do them based on need.

-PRAASA: this costs \$11,200 at \$1,400/person; last year we spent \$15,200 as 13 of 16 who went.

-2025 Alaska & 2026 Hawaii are more expensive than usual.

-Some suggest all go, as this is how many learn their role and a key part of training.

-We suggest sending 7 officers and pick 1 chair out of the hat. There are other ways to decide who goes.

-That leaves the Archives, Accessibility, Literature, Written Translation (Oral Translation not filled) and AV Tech not attending any conference; it does not seem fair to some.

-If an officer cannot go, could pick another chair out of the hat?

-Note: the Northern California Council of Alcoholic Anonymous (NCCAA) (delegate), Pacific Regional Forum (delegate or other) and Hispanic Conference (liaison & conference support) are in the spending plan and not part of this discussion.

5. Compared to last year, we increased the GSC contribution from \$3,600 to \$5,000.

-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.

6. 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).

- Unrelated, since last month, we reduced cost of mileage in two ways:
- 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.
- Compared to last year, we increased mileage reimbursement for GSC workshops and for mileage unreimbursed other district mileage to \$1,200 and \$1,200. (We think it has been under-reported...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.)

Other things FYI

Assembly Ad Hoc Committee is considering

- All assemblies two days = \$2,500 less (2027?).
- Comment: *move to two-day Election/Mini-PRAASA (maybe have a one-day virtual one for the 'work')*
- 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 less (2027?).
- Note: *if a virtual assembly would be August (as GSC agenda items due mid-September).*
- One day Post-Conference Assembly \$1,000 less (2027?).

Area still is reflecting on whether to

- Keep or phase out Oral Translation (not filled).
- Keep Written Translation (theoretically could move to artificial intelligence which would be \$2,000 less), or
- Combine them for Oral, Written & Liaison to Hispanic groups.

Plan of action

- 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.