



AREA 07

2026 SPENDING PLAN: INFO AND OPTIONS

Area Committee Meeting

June 21, 2025

Treasurer & Finance Committee

Outline



- Area purpose
- Spending plan: what is it and what is the process?
- Typical and recent spending of surplus
- Where we are now: time to reflect and trim
- Next steps or options for balancing the 'budget': increase revenue and/or decrease spending?
- We're starting – only Version 1 of the process – a draft

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
 - Sinking fund for Forum \$800 (down from \$3,000; used in even years)
 - General Service Conference contribution

Spending plan trends

- 2021: underspent
- 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 \$3,000 deficit despite Archives rent increase & move and the addition of Accessibility Chair
- 2026: trimming some, raising revenue & let's get to work

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 & 3 to special conferences --Linguistic/Hispanic Conference)	\$16,000 & \$2,400	Alaska PRAASA averaged about \$1,000 per person
Other: technology \$ \$3,000; GSC \$3,600; taxes, bookkeeping & accountant \$2,000	\$8,600	Routine for most areas

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

- Revenue: encourage contributions onward because of cost of living?
- Expenses...
 - Mileage cut reimbursement rate to 0.50/mi: saves \$4,500?
 - One ACM virtual not in-person; still pay translation: saves \$1,750?
 - All assemblies only two days: saves \$2,500?
 - Have additional, one-day virtual assembly in August or September?
 - Makes a two-day Mini-PRAASA/Election feasible?
 - Subtracts an ACM: saves \$2,200 (actual cost \$1,750 & translation \$450)?

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

- Expenses (cont)
 - PRAASA & special conferences
 - History: 16 PRAASA & 7 special conferences; not including Linguistic/Hispanic Conference
 - 2025: 13 PRAASA & 3 special conferences= \$16,000 actual
 - 2026: cap at 8 PRAASA (\$11,200) and 5 special conferences (\$5,000)?
 - Phase out oral translation: saves \$0 (we're not doing this)?
 - Caution could we phase out written translation to artificial intelligence: saves \$2,500?

Next steps...this is only *the beginning of the conversation!*

- Revisit July, August & September then pause draft of final plan
- Area representatives, DCMs, GSRs, Groups: review the materials and provide input
- Prioritize services that most closely align with Area Purpose
- Strive to ensure unity, accessibility and fellowship at the Area level
- GSRs – inform groups and come to Election Assembly prepared to voice group consciences regarding spending
- Continue Area Inventory to inform the process

Thank you


