

Trusted Servants in Area 8,

The following is a communication from our Treasurer. Yes, it is a one page read along with several attachments. Please do not discard it out of hand. The information is important and will become more so as the budget year progresses. We are talking here about the Area budget (Spending Plan) for next year, 2022. The process begins now and culminates when the Area votes on the final proposal at the Area Assembly in November. Traditionally that requires the final proposed Spending Plan to go before the Area Committee in July.

In the past, the area officers and standing committee chairs were asked to submit budget requests to the Treasurer and Finance Committee (FC) early in the year (like now, for the 2022 budget). Those requests included all anticipated expenses, travel, mileage, A.A. events such as PRAASA, rent, special planned events such as workshops, etc. The Treasurer and FC would then try to create an equitable budget meeting as many requests as possible to match the anticipated income the Area was expected to receive.

Some groups have expressed concern that they don't have much of a say in this process with the exception of trying to amend the final product before a vote on it at the November Budget Assembly. What you are now receiving from the Treasurer is an effort to have more A.A. group input into the budget process. The Bare Bones budget numbers you are receiving reflect the minimum amount of money needed to keep the area functioning. They are there as an **EXAMPLE ONLY - NOT A PROPOSED BUDGET**. They show funding based on 1) Doing all Area business in-person, and 2) Using a virtual platform (Zoom) to conduct Area business (committee meetings, Assemblies, etc.). One can then see how much money would be available for the Area to decide where to spend it.

Input on the budget from any entity within the Area structure will be encouraged and welcomed. The Area Committee, acting as a Steering Committee for the Assembly, will participate in and oversee the process as it moves along. The hope is that by July we will have a budget (Spending Plan) that reflects the wishes of the entire Area. As always, that Plan will be presented to the Assembly in November where the groups will be able to vote on the final product.

Blaine H.

Area 8,

I want to start by saying that I am excited by the process in place for creating the 2022 spending plan with you. I know that the barebones numbers were a bit shocking to you, but please remember, that is just a starting place for building the spending plan for next year.

I have attached a copy of the budget timeline for reference.

What I provided to you prior to last night's ACM and we discussed are only the figures that the finance committee and I consider the absolute minimum, undisputed costs of doing business as an area, not the proposed budget for 2022. I also provided you with my scratch sheet (tab titles 5-year averages) for reference. I used the 5-year averages to try and predict the funds we can expect to bring in through group contributions. The figure I determined to be prudent is the 50K figure. Using my experience from years of serving on the finance committee I knew that that number may be difficult to swallow so I provided a second number to create a reasonable range, 50-55K.

Once I determined these two sets of numbers, barebones number and budget goal, it left us with what I am calling "discretionary funds". That is the portion of the spending plan that should be determined by the fellowship as a whole using the internal general service structure. Right now, I caution you about looking at individual line items, right now that is not the question at hand. The first two things that need to be decided is:

1) Do we continue on with the budget using zoom accounts (Remember the zoom accounts are only funded for 2021)? Or do we go back to physical meetings? Please consider that the amount of discretionary funds depends upon this decision. Or a mix of the two approaches?

2) Should our goal be \$50K or \$55K?

After these two decisions are made, we can get down to the business of deciding how the discretionary funds should be appropriated. Here is what I envision happening: Officers, DCM's, Committee Chairs and Interested Parties prepare and submit (not to me only, but to the ACMList and the finance committee) the reason for increases in individual line items to be discussed at the next ACM/finance committee meetings. The vote belongs at the area level. The finance committee and I will act as advisors and historical reference not as final decision makers. Remember when preparing your input that there will be a finite amount of discretionary funds that needs to meet all of our 12 step needs. Prudence and the good of the area as a whole should be first in priority.

In the end I see line items falling in one of three categories: Barebones, funded 12 step work and unfunded 12 step work. Please see the attachment priorityExample for a visual representation. I also want to mention that with this plan of action there is no discard pile. Unfunded 12 step work is the beginning of any possible reallocation and if important enough, the reason for asking the groups for more money.

So you can tell from the time I took at last night's ACM that in order for this process to work we need to do our homework outside of the ACMs. If everyone comes to the ACM having done their portion of the work and with an open heart, we will come to a consensus that will please the area. I cannot stress enough that the finance committee

and I are available outside meeting times to answer any of your individual questions and to help you be prepared for the decisions.

Cheryl F.

Treasurer, Area 8

619-244-3650

**Please download the following documents:**

**2022 process timeline**

**priorityexample**

**2022 BareBonesspendingPlanMarch24**