

Financial items to consider at the 2024 Fall Assembly:

The budget as of September 30, 2024 includes all activity as of that date. Most of the expenses occur in the fall, including the Equalized Expense (Our Fair Share) to send our Delegate to the World Service Conference in April 2025, the annual contribution to the World Service Office, and the Fall Assembly expenses. The Equalized Expense and the WSO Contribution are included in this report; the fall assembly expenses, which are costs to send our Area World Service members (Officers and Coordinators) to the assembly, will be paid at the end of October or in November, depending on when the Treasurer receives a request for reimbursement.

You may notice that this report includes a contribution from the Convention Committee in the amount of \$4,000, which is due to great leadership and an enthusiastic Convention committee, whose service we all greatly appreciate.

As a result of the contribution from the Convention Committee after two successful conventions, and the continued support of groups, districts and individuals, there are excess funds beyond the Ample Reserve, which must be considered. This amount might exceed \$7,000.

We want to continue to encourage groups, district and individuals to make donations, in observance of the Seventh Tradition of self-support, but we need, as an Area, to decide how to best spend these excess funds.

Some options are:

1. Make a larger donation to AFG, Inc. (World Service Office) with the idea that WSO has many Public Outreach and Membership Outreach projects which would benefit from additional funding.
2. Update/improve the Area's technology. Currently, we are using personal laptops and have yet to find an individual willing and able to handle technology at our various Area meetings. Perhaps we need to hire outside help.
3. The Maine AFG Visibility Project (my name for the facebook project lead by Public Outreach) perhaps requires some professional expertise to implement. We, as an Area, might be well served to hire a professional for this project to succeed.
4. The Area could reduce the cost of Assemblies for all by making a larger payment to the facility. It would be counter to the Seventh Tradition to offer funds to individual groups to offset the cost of Assembly attendance.

These are just some ideas. There may be others. There may be those who are afraid that our Ample Reserve is not sufficient and groups will stop making contributions to the Area. I recommend we have the discussion at the Fall Assembly and see where the discussion leads us!