

Motion: The Newsletter Committee requests to increase its 2024 budget from **\$1,025** to **\$3,511** to accommodate expenses associated with travel costs for its chair, as well as costs to produce and print the recently revived MGS newsletter, *Our Common Welfare*.

Background: The MGS Newsletter Committee has been inactive since 2018, and its 2024 budget of \$1,025 (including \$625 for NERAASA) served as a placeholder, as the committee resumed activity in January.

From 2015 to 2017, the annual MGS budget for printing the quarterly newsletter, *Margenser*, was **\$3,950**. An additional \$650 to \$850 was budgeted to the newsletter committee for the chair's travel expenses and NERAASA.

In total, the *Margenser*/ Newsletter Committee budget during those years (2015 to 2017) was around: **\$4750**.

Some points of importance:

- The proposed new 2024 budget of \$3,511 includes a projected \$1,770 for travel costs (including NERAASA), which is significantly higher than was previously budgeted (\$925).
- The new newsletter chair lives in Frostburg, Md., which is 159 miles from Severna Park, where a majority of Area 29 service meetings take place.
- For the first edition of *Our Common Welfare* (spring of 2024), we printed 200 copies, full color, for a cost of **\$481.48**. This was the lowest quote we received, after sending queries to more than a dozen printing companies in Maryland and beyond.
- The Committee considered this to be a starting place for discussion of how we want to use the newsletter, as well as what kind of adjustments we might make to keep costs in line with the value of the 12th-step work and promotion of Area service that the newsletter might accomplish.
- The proposed new budget of \$3,511 includes around \$1,500 to print up to 500 copies of three editions of *Our Common Welfare*, with a color cover and B&W inside pages. We will adjust this, as needed, per printing costs, and as we see how effective the Fellowship feels that the newsletter is.
- **Note:** That the 2025 newsletter budget would include an additional edition of OCW in January 2025.
- Other nearby Area newsletter budgets for comparison:

Area 60 Western Pennsylvania Quarterly newsletter; 8-10 pages; Printing costs: \$2,950; Travel (including NERAASA): \$1,450; **Total Newsletter budget: \$4,400**

Area 48 Northeast New York Monthly newsletter; Printing and mailing costs: \$2,800; Travel (including NERAASA): \$1,200; Supplies/ expenses: \$500; **Total Newsletter budget: \$4,500**

Area 28 Maine Quarterly newsletter; Printing costs: \$2,100; Travel expenses: \$1,200; Four reporters: \$1,000; NERAASA: \$700; **Total Newsletter budget: \$5,000**

See attached for itemized newsletter budget.

Newsletter budget – January 2024 to December 2024

Assembly/ Committee Travel

Feb. 17 Committee

Frostburg to St. Leonard	200 miles (400 round trip)	\$200.00
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Feb. 22-25 NERAASA

Frostburg to Hershey	165 miles (330 round trip)	\$165.00
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Hotel	\$464.52	\$464.52
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March 16 Assembly

Frostburg to Severna Park	159 miles (318 round trip)	\$159.00
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April 6 Mini-Conference

Frostburg to Severna Park	159 miles (318 round trip)	\$159.00
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May 18 delegate report-back (attended via Zoom)

\$0

July 13 Committee

Frostburg to Parkville	155 miles (310 round trip)	\$155.00
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Aug. 17 Assembly

Frostburg to Severna Park	159 miles (318 round trip)	\$159.00
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Oct. 19 Assembly

Frostburg to Severna Park	159 miles (318 round trip)	\$159.00
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Nov. 16 Committee

Frostburg to ?	est. 150 miles	\$150.00
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Dec. 14 Assembly

\$159.00

Total

\$1,929.52

Newsletter printing costs

Spring 200 copies full-color, 16-page newsletter

\$481.48

Summer 300 to 500 copies color front/B&W inside

16-page newsletter	est.	\$500.00
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Fall 300 to 500 copies color front/B&W inside

16-page newsletter	est.	\$500.00
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Total

\$1,481.48

Supplies (paper, ink, etc.)

\$100.00

Total Newsletter Budget

\$3,511.00

