

Motion to Amend the Budget and Spending Guidelines [Last Revised 10/2/23]

Mike O., Panel 75 Treasurer, makes the following motion to amend the Budget and Spending Guidelines:

- a) That current Paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b) be consolidated into a single Paragraph 7(a) and revised to: i) remove the reference to Officers; ii) raise the suggested reimbursement per attendee to \$700 with a hard cap of \$3,500, and iii) clarify that funding is dependent upon the availability of funds in that year's budget;
- b) That the current NERAASA Scholarships guidelines be replaced and codified by removing Paragraph 7(c) and replacing it with a new Paragraph 7(b); and
- c) That all other subsections of Paragraph 7 be renumbered accordingly.

I. Text of Current Guidelines

- 7. Special Events Funding is available under the following guidelines:
 - a) Officers and standing committee chairs, whose usual service activity does not afford a chance for attendance at any special event are offered an opportunity to attend at least one such event in their two-year rotation. Typical events include NERAASA (even # years), NERF (odd # years) and the NYSIW (annually).
 - b) A maximum of \$500 per member per event may be available with a current area-wide cap of \$3,000 annually. (The cap may vary under each year's budget.)
 - c) Budget line of \$2000.00 for members of SENY Assembly for transportation to NERAASA. Reimbursed up to \$100.00 each with receipts, multiple people traveling in same car cannot all submit for reimbursement, first come first serve. (11/4/2018) When event is digital funds may be used for registration fees. (11/2/2020)

II. Text of Revised Guidelines

- a) *If passed, Revised Paragraph 7(a) would read:*

Standing committee chairs whose usual service activity does not afford a chance for attendance at any special event may be afforded an opportunity to attend at least one such event in their two-year rotation. Typical events include NERAASA, NERF, and the NYSIW. Subject to the availability of funds, a

suggested amount of \$700 for each attendee may be made available in each year's budget with a maximum of \$3,500 allotted annually.

b) *If passed, Paragraph 7(b) would read:*

Trusted Servants serving below the Group level [GSR, DCM, DCMC, and their Alternates] who have not previously attended NERAASA may be afforded an opportunity to attend NERAASA. Subject to the availability of funds, a suggested amount of \$700 per attendee may be made available in each year's budget with a maximum of \$4,900 allotted annually.

III. Reasons For Motion: To Put Funding for NERAASA Scholarships Within the Regular Budget Planning Process and Control Expenses

During Panels 69 and 71 the Area began to subsidize transportation to NERAASA for GSRs and other trusted servants below the Group level who do not normally attend NERAASA. During Panel 73 SENY began to subsidize full scholarships to attend NERAASA. Reception was positive, and NERAASA scholarships are here to stay.

In recent years SENY has approved over \$13,000 for NERAASA Scholarships annually after the budget was approved. This motion makes approval and funding for NERAASA Scholarships part of the normal budgeting process. It creates a hard cap of \$4,900 for funding, with a suggested maximum of \$700 per attendee. Funding is dependent on SENY finances.

Adopting this Guideline is fiscally prudent and necessary for SENY's long-term financial security. Placing scholarship financing within the normal budgeting process will add certainty and help the Area forecast and manage expenses. It will also allow more time to allot scholarships. It may also incentivize attendance at the January assembly.

The movant recognizes that SENY is hosting NERAASA in 2027, and there is a desire that it be available to as many trusted servants as possible. But Budgeting and Spending Guidelines are general rules; they cannot be drafted to meet the requirements of rare events. However, either the Committee or Assembly can, by motion, change the amounts available in a given year, and I suggest that if this motion passes the Area Committee consider a motion to raise the amount available in 2027 to \$6,500, with a maximum of \$650 per attendee, to allow for 10 scholarships. Or the Committee can simply pass this motion, with the understanding that barring unforeseen events the proposed 2027 budget will allot \$6,500 for ten (10) scholarships, to be approved by the Assembly in January 2027 as a stated variance from the Guidelines

IV. Reasons for Motion: Revising and Combining Paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b) To Raise the Amount Available for Special Events and to Remove Superfluous Language

The amount available has remained at \$500 for at least 20 years and is now inadequate. This motion raises this to a suggested amount of \$700, which can be increased or decreased depending on circumstance, subject to a hard cap of \$3,500. Funding is dependent on SENY

finances. The change also brings Special Events funding into conformance with the proposed NERAASA Scholarship Guidelines.

When the Guidelines were first drafted only the Delegate, Alt-Delegate, and Chair could be funded to attend NERASSA, NERF, or the NYSIW. Paragraph 6(c) was subsequently added to allow funding for the Treasurer, Technology Officer, and Registration Chair on the same basis as the other Officers, obviating the need to reference these positions here. The revision also amends Current Paragraph 7(a) because it only allows NERAASA attendance in even-numbered years.

Lastly, because current Paragraphs 7(a) and (b) both address Special Events Funding, combining the two will tighten the Guidelines and make clear the Area's intent. The motion also makes some minor grammatical changes consistent with combining the two former subsections and for consistency with the proposed NERAASA guideline.