

Society for Socialist Studies

Treasurer's Report to GAMM

June 18th, 2024

Our annual conference and the Journal as are our core priorities.

Several executive members have been working with Sandra Rein to reimagine the organizational structure of the Journal. While we didn't incur any costs this past fiscal year for the Journal, we budgeted for it and we want to see the Journal develop and flourish. We have included similar amounts in the 2024-2025 budget.

Our other key focus was planning the 2024 conference. Phil Henderson and the committee did great work developing the program. They arranged facilities at McGill, and then organized the shift to UQAM in May. We had been working toward a breakeven event, and we are so grateful to Eric Pineault for arranging facilities at UQAM. And our registration is higher than we'd estimated so we may have more revenue than expected from Conference in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Executive members recognize that we must review our continuing participation in the FHSS Congress. We need to assess the pros and cons of direct involvement in Congress compared to running a parallel conference on our own, within the context of ever-increasing costs and our fundraising capacity.

We learned that we cannot quite run the basic organization (that means without Congress surpluses without significantly more revenue. Congress has not provided us that additional funding since 2019. We essentially broke even on Congress in 2023 including the travel grants provided to students attending Congress.

Last year I separated travel grants from Congress in the financial statements last year because our reports to CRA over the years have considered these grants a program for emerging scholars, and this program is specifically mentioned in our CRA charitable purposes. We don't want to run afoul of CRA!!

Now – to the 2024-2025 budget!!

This budget is another status quo budget on the Expense side, but not so status quo on the Revenue side. First, it assumes a profit from Congress. However, we have budgeted for a significant increase in the number of members and donations. Most of those donations will likely come from members over and above their annual membership fee. Reaching these targets will require effort and stretch us a bit.

I recommend to the new Executive that we focus on stabilizing our revenue by creating an annual plan for asking members and supporters for donations, and on evaluating our membership fee structure.

I also suggest that we consider creating a volunteer social media/website content coordinator to increase our connections with members and supporters. We will incur additional expenses as we update our website more often or need additional design work, but increasing our online presence should be part of our push to involve more people in SSS and generate more revenue.

I will gladly answer specific questions at the General Assembly Membership Meeting.