

Finance Update

Ann Marie Z., Treasurer

November 2024

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period that ended 9/30/2024.

Revenues (Income)

Revenue consists mainly of literature sales and contributions. Other revenue sources include magazine sales, *Mobile App* premium subscriptions, and investment gains or losses. Literature sales for September were \$351,340. Contributions for September were \$217,028. See the table below for YTD Actuals vs. YTD Budget.

Expenses

The largest categories of expenses consist of WSO Staff salaries and associated costs (payroll taxes and benefits), technology support, Conference costs (including interpretation), and office expenses (postage, telephone, stationery, supplies, printing, Canadian office). Expenses for September were \$540,253. See the table below for YTD Actuals vs. YTD Budget. We continue to monitor all expenses and reduce them wherever possible.

Net Increase/(Decrease)

The change in net assets has resulted in an operating surplus of \$657,728 which is higher than the projected budget.

Year to Date (YTD) September 2024

	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Revenue		
Literature Sales—net	\$2,294,657	\$2,200,778
Contributions	\$2,102,318	\$1,916,164
Other income	\$895,961	\$748,755
Total Revenue	\$5,292,936	\$4,865,697
Total Expenses	\$4,635,208	\$4,498,479
Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$657,728	\$367,218

Investments

Our ample reserve is contained mostly in the Reserve Fund under the careful watch of our investment manager. Market conditions in September were favorable, as the market experienced positive rates of return. We have a YTD increase of \$573,779 in the Reserve Fund. Our investment accounts continue to be sensitive to market conditions.

Reflections and Insight

Year-to-date literature sales are trending slightly above budget. An uptick in literature sales was experienced in September with the release of *Healing Within Our Alcoholic Relationships* (P-95). A holiday book bundle consisting of *Blueprint for Progress: Al-Anon's Fourth Step Inventory (Revised)* (P-91), *Reaching for Personal Freedom: Living the Legacies* (P-92), and *Paths to Recovery Workbook: A Companion for Studying Al-Anon's Steps, Traditions, and Concepts* (P-93) was released on November 1. The holiday workbook bundle will be available through January 2, 2025 for \$25, including free shipping.

Our message to the fellowship has been and continues to be one of gratitude and consistency. The WSO's role of providing services to the fellowship can only be carried out with consistent contributions, the purchase of Conference Approved Literature (CAL), and subscriptions to our *Mobile App* Premium Content and our magazines (*The Forum*, *Le lien*, and *en accion*).

The members are continuing to respond to our message, with year-to-date contributions being above budgeted expectations by \$186,154 or ten percent. This continued support has allowed us to confidently project a year-end surplus and the Finance Committee to recommend the four-percent annual transfer from the Reserve Fund, in the amount of \$169,200, be returned to the Reserve Fund and no transfers be made during the fourth quarter. The Board approved the recommendation at its October meeting.

On page 193 of *Paths to Recovery: Al-Anon's Steps, Traditions and Concepts* (B-24), it says, "We as Al-Anon members provide the sole financial support of our Al-Anon groups...With sufficient membership contributions, Al-Anon will always be there for families and friends of alcoholics." We have no outside obligations, since we do not accept outside contributions. We, the members, accept responsibility for Al-Anon's world services. The page goes on to say, "Al-Anon's independence and continued availability depends on us." This, to me, is what unity means. It is all of the members of our worldwide fellowship working together for our common goal. It is another example of how we live our Conference theme for 2024: "Our Path toward Grace, Unity, and Understanding."