

## PROPOSED BUDGET

This proposed merged budget includes expected savings from reducing duplicate costs and shows how we can put that money back into the areas that matter most. Even small investments can have a big impact—especially by giving staff more time to grow programs and initiatives. Like any nonprofit budget, this is just one roadmap for how we pursue our mission. More detailed budgets are available for anyone who wants to dive deeper.

Proposed Merged Budget	
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
Revenue	\$45,600.00
Expenses	\$26,000.00
<b>membership net</b>	<b>\$19,600.00</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	
Revenue	\$16,900.00
Expenses	\$34,000.00
<b>publications net</b>	<b>-\$17,100.00</b>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	
Revenue	\$47,000.00
Expenses	\$28,500.00
<b>programs net</b>	<b>\$18,500.00</b>
<b>FARMHOUSE</b>	
Revenue	\$30,000.00
Expenses	\$23,000.00
<b>farmhouse net</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>
<b>SHOP</b>	
Net Profit*	\$150,000.00
Expenses	\$125,000.00
<b>Shop net</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	
Revenue	\$95,000.00
Expenses	\$6,000.00
<b>fundraising net</b>	<b>\$89,000.00</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIO</b>	<b>-\$142,000.00</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Membership** dues cover the postage to members, printing costs, the membership database, and the membership coordinator role. Membership income also covers the cost of the Publications, after which any surplus supports overhead costs (insurance, accounting, etc.) The Proposed Budget anticipates consistent revenue from Membership but adds funds for staff support in this area. Switching membership databases in 2024, saved us about \$4000 annually, but also saves significant staff time and enables us to better serve the membership with timely renewal reminders and more.

The cost of **Publications** is typically offset by income from Memberships. Since FY25, we have reduced publication costs by changing the *Saunterer* printer, changing how we mail internationally, and auditing our list for erroneous addresses. We continue to seek ways to reduce the costs without sacrificing quality. The proposed budget anticipates consistent revenue from publications. Joining the Publications and Communications Committees might help find better ways to highlight and promote the content of the publications.

**Programs** is primarily Annual Gathering income and costs. The proposed budget increases staff support for both the Annual Gathering and year-round programs. It also creates two \$1,000 scholarships for the Annual Gathering, with the option to add more in the future as resources allow.

**Farmhouse** revenue here reflects a drop from current levels because the Society would no longer be a separate tenant if we merge. Adding staff and expanding hours of the farmhouse, not only expands access and use of this resource, but could boost income from Writer's Retreat and other initiatives.

The **Shop** budget would remain largely unchanged by the proposed merger. It would still be the most expensive department and continue to depend on significant administrative (overhead) support. This proposed budget presents a conservative estimate for the merged organization based on depressed Shop sales this year due to Walden construction. We look for a rebound next year. \*Net Profit = total revenue - cost of goods sold.

This **Fundraising** budget anticipates the continuing downward trend in individual giving both from global trends and an aging community. Additional grant funding would be pursued by a merged organization.

Many behind-the-scenes expenses keep our nonprofit running. These shared **Administration** costs make every program and project possible, including those supported by restricted funds. Each department—or the combined net income from Membership and Publications—contributes to these essential operating costs.

This proposed budget balances our operating expenses with our operating revenue, with a goal of not investment funds to cover our annual expenses, diminishing their long-term returns.

This budget does not include activity related to restricted funds (Thoreau Prize, TCCA Fellowship, Harding Fellowship, the Write Connection, Thoreau Farm Trail) except for the associated administrative costs. These budgets also omit special, grant-funded projects that fall outside regular operations and do not occur every year.