Q: Do groups get their member-based dues/funding all from the chapter, or from both chapter and national?
A: Groups get their dues only from the chapter. It comes, however, in two forms—hard money from a check that the chapter treasurer issues and send to group treasurers; and soft money that shows up in each group's account at the Foundation when the chapter treasurer transfers funds from the chapter foundation account to specific group foundation accounts.

Q: Is the insurance in the budget required and provided by national, or is this additional to the insurance from national?
A: The insurance noted in the treasurer's report is insurance mandated by the national Club and, in fact, the Club arranges for the insurance, then pays for it and then collects the cost from the chapters. The annual cost for chapters is about 80 cents per member. We have no insurance beyond this required by the national club.

Q: How is the reserve fund invested, and how much interest does it draw annually?
A: At the moment the chapter reserves are held in a savings account (earning minimal interest) but we are meeting later this month with bank representatives to identify better vehicles (still insured, though) that would generate more interest income for us.

Q: Can you explain the difference between foundation money from chapter dues and TSCF money in the C4 column? How can anything TSCF be classified as c4?
A: Income and expense items presented in the soft money category do not pass through the checking account that the chapter treasurer manages, so are kept separate.

Income is deposited into our Sierra Club Foundation account by national and withdrawn by national or by chapter treasurer request. In some cases funds are simply shifted from our chapter's account to the Foundation accounts of one or more Groups. The chapter treasurer can also authorize the Foundation to pay a vendor based on an invoice or contract or reimburse volunteers for qualifying expenses. Either way, expenses are carefully controlled by the Foundation in order to ensure that they are kept separate from the taxable but unrestricted C4 funds, or hard money.

Sometimes you see TSCF appearing in the hard money column as C-4 income.

This happens when the chapter receives money from the Foundation for eligible projects/activities that were already COMPLETED. Since the projects/activities were completed and met the criteria for reimbursement with Foundation funds, those funds are released to the chapter and, once released, are essentially converted into C-4 dollars.

Q: What happens to unspent funds in a budget category such as conservation at the end of the budgetary year?
A: Authorized funds for any category that remain unspent at the end of the year revert to the chapter's reserves at year's end because the authorization for spending those funds in the manner originally intended has lapsed. Similarly, if income in a given year does not rise to the level of the approved chapter budget, we would dip into reserves to make up the difference so that authorized expenses could be covered within that budget year.