

Fraternity Leadership Handbook



Troubadours of Peace Region Secular Franciscan Order

adapted from
Secular Franciscan Order
Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
of Lower Michigan and Toledo, Ohio
Spring, 2010

for use by
Troubadours of Peace Regional Fraternity
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington
Summer 2016

Table of Contents

Introduction	7
Nature of the Secular Franciscan Fraternity	8
The Local Fraternity Council	9
Duties of the Council	10
Who may Vote?	12
For the Local Minister	13
What is expected of the local Minister?	13
For the Vice Minister	14
What does the Vice Minister do?	14
For the Secretary	14
What does the Secretary do?	15
What ought to be included in the Council Meeting minutes?	16
For the Treasurer	16
What does the Treasurer do?.....	16
For Formators	18
What does the Formation Director (or Master of Formation) do?	18
For Councilors	19
What do Councilors need to know?	19
Councilors:	19
For Infirmarians	20
What does the Infirmarian do?.....	20
For Fraternity Members	21
What are the obligations of professed members?	21
Article 30.....	21
What does the Fraternity Gathering include?	23
Formation of New Members	25
The Orientation Phase:.....	25
Initial Formation Process begins	26
The Inquiry Phase:.....	26
Required Documents	27

The Candidacy Phase:.....	28
Profession.....	30
What is Temporary Profession, and when is it used?	31
Other Fraternity Questions	31
Elections	32
Requesting an election?	32
Who can be nominated for office?	33
Who should vote?	33
Role of the Council on the day of the election?	33
Why are Fraternal and Pastoral Visitations scheduled?	34
How does the fraternity prepare for a Visitation?	35
How are transfers to and from fraternities handled?	36
When a member wants to leave a fraternity:	36
When a member wants to transfer into the fraternity:..	37
How is a Council member removed if it should become necessary?.....	38
Recourse or right of Appeal?	39
What actions are taken when a member of the fraternity dies?	39
Membership Status	39
Active and Excused Status.....	40
Frequently absent members	41
Temporary Provisions.....	42
Article 56 (General Constitutions).....	42
Article 57.....	43
Lapsed Status.....	43
Definitive Provisions	44
Article 58.....	44
Article 59.....	45
Definitive Voluntary Withdrawal and Dismissal	45
What if someone in the fraternity wants to start a new fraternity?	46
How do fraternity members stay in touch between	

regular gatherings? 47
How can members promote new vocations? 47
Affiliate Members (NAFRA Statutes Art. 18 #13) 48
 Affiliation with a local fraternity 48
Appendix A Franciscan Youth/Young Adults 49
Appendix B Communications 52
 Troubadours of Peace website and email..... 52

Contents of the separate folder:

Official Transfer and Acceptance Form

Fraternal Visitor Checklist

Pre-Visitation Questionnaire Orientation

Record

Inquirer Interview Checklist

Candidate Interview Checklist

Pre-profession Interview Checklist Fraternity

Document Retention Schedule

Introduction

It started with one man's vision, one man's call to conversion; to live the Gospel, to be Christ's presence to a world in need. Soon others were drawn in to a fraternal, holy bond and the early Secular Franciscan Order began to take shape. As more brothers and sisters followed, it continued to grow, leading to the need for structure and form, eventually evolving into the Order as we now know it.

Today's Fraternity remains rooted in this vision; it is first and foremost the sacred place for growth and enrichment; it is the heart and soul that gives life to the OFS, fact to the vision. The development of necessary structure supports, sustains and serves the Order.

It supports the Order by guiding and animating the Fraternity, its members and council. It sustains the Order by providing the methods for community, shared prayer and interaction with the Church at large. It serves the Order through sources of continued formation and servant leadership development. The council's duties include administrative and procedural tasks required for the day-to-day business of the fraternity.

To this end, the Fraternity Leadership Handbook has been developed. It is a group of procedural guidelines and is the result of several years of combined effort. The intent is not to burden us with procedures and regulations. On the contrary, it is intended as an aid in navigating the procedures already in place. Our hope is that by providing the right tools, the required administrative duties of the Fraternity Council will become more efficient. This will result in more time and energy to focus on our OFS¹ mission: perpetuating the original

¹ OFS = Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (Secular Franciscan Order)

vision by guiding and animating our fraternity members while serving all of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I have done what was mine to do; may Christ teach you what you are to do. (2 Cel. 214)

Nature of the Secular Franciscan Fraternity

- The fraternity of the SFO finds its origin in the inspiration of Saint Francis of Assisi to whom the Most High revealed the essential gospel quality of life in fraternal communion
- The Secular Franciscan Order is a public association in the Church². It is divided into fraternities at various levels: local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own juridical personality within the Church.
- The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels — local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own moral personality in the Church³. These various fraternities are co-ordinated and united according to the norm of this rule and of the constitutions.
- The local fraternity is to be established canonically. It becomes the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love. This should be the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.

² See Can. 116; 301,3; 312; 313.

³ Can. 687 [309]

- To foster communion among members, the council should organize regular and frequent meetings of the community
- It should adopt appropriate means for growth in Franciscan and ecclesial life and encourage everyone to a life of fraternity
- The fraternity and its leaders should foster love for the word of the Gospel and help the brothers and sisters to know and understand it as it is proclaimed by the Church with the assistance of the Spirit.
- Participation in the service of sanctification, which the Church exercises through the liturgy, prayer, and works of penance and charity, is put into practice by the brothers and sisters above all in their own family, then in the fraternity and finally through their active presence in the local Church and in society.
- In the fraternity, the brothers and sisters should promote mutual understanding and they should see to it that the atmosphere of their meetings is welcoming and that it reflects joy. They should encourage one another for the good.

The Local Fraternity Council

The Fraternity Council is a group of professed members elected by professed members to serve as officers for the fraternity.

Article 49

1. The council of the local fraternity is composed of the following offices: minister, vice-minister, secretary, treasurer, and master of formation. Other offices may be added according to the needs of each fraternity. The spiritual

assistant of the fraternity forms part of the council by right (OFS General Constitutions (GGCC) Article 49:1) .

Other Council positions may include a Councilors, Infirmarian and a Youth advisor.

The Spiritual Assistant of the fraternity attends the meetings as a spiritual advisor. Council meetings should be attended by all Councilors unless excused by the Fraternity Minister.

The Council is the decision making body of the fraternity and has the following duties:

Duties of the Council

1. It is the duty of the council of the local fraternity:

-- to promote the initiatives necessary for fostering fraternal life, for improving the human, Christian, and Franciscan formation of its members and for sustaining their witness and commitment in the world;

-- to make concrete and courageous choices, appropriate for the situation of the fraternity, from among the numerous activities possible in the field of the apostolate.

2. The duties of the council are also:

a. to decide on the acceptance and admission to profession of new brothers and sisters;

b. to establish a fraternal dialogue with members in particular difficulties and to adopt consequent measures;

c. to receive the request for withdrawal and to decide on the suspension of a member from the fraternity;

d. to decide on the establishment of sections or groups in conformity with the Constitutions and the statutes;

e. to decide on the destination of available funds and, in general, to deliberate on matters concerning financial

- management and economic affairs of the fraternity;
- f. to assign duties to the councilors and to the other professed members;
 - g. to request from the competent superiors of the First Order and the TOR suitable and prepared religious assistants;
 - h. to perform such other duties as are required by these Constitutions or which are necessary to carry out its proper purposes. (GGCC Art 50:1-2)

Other council tasks:

- To set goals for the fraternity and Council. Short-term goals of one year and long-term goals of 5 years are appropriate. These goals should be reviewed annually.
- To determine the needs of the fraternity and assist the Formation Director in developing an appropriate formation plan.
- To assign two (2) members to audit the fraternity financial records annually.
- To maintain contact and a familial relationship with the Regional Fraternity and with the larger Franciscan family.
- To fulfill all reporting and financial responsibilities required as a member of the Regional and National Fraternities.

How is a Council Meeting conducted?

The Council should meet on a regular schedule at a time and place that facilitates the attendance of the highest number of Council members. Meetings should begin and end with the Opening and Closing Prayers for the Council Meetings from the Ritual.

Items of discussion for the meeting may include:

- Approval of minutes – Last meeting
- Treasurer’s Report
- Old business/New Business
- Ongoing Formation/Formation Report
- Minister’s Comments
- Requests for Dispensation/Approval
- Requests for Admission/Approval
- Approval of Expenditures
- Official matters relating to Fraternal or Regional business
- All other fraternity/member concerns

All discussions and approvals are recorded in the Secretary’s minutes, are a permanent record of Council meetings and are maintained in the fraternity archives.

Who may Vote?

- All elected members of the Council may vote on all matters.
- Spiritual Assistants may vote on all issues except matters of finance and the election of the fraternity council.
 - If the Formation Director has been appointed from within the elected Council (due to an unforeseen vacancy), he or she may continue to vote as an elected member of the Council.

For the Local Minister

What is expected of the local Minister?

1. While firmly upholding the co-responsibility of the council to animate and guide the fraternity, the minister, as the primary person responsible for the fraternity, is expected to make sure that the directions and the decisions of the council are put into practice and will keep the council informed about what he or she is doing.

- To conduct the monthly Council meetings in a peaceful, friendly, and efficient manner.
- To ensure that fraternity gatherings are conducted in a spirit of community, cooperation and filial love so as to encourage participation and growth by all members.
- To delegate fraternity responsibilities to members so as to involve as many as possible in the life and function of the fraternity.
- To represent the fraternity before the ecclesial and civil community and within the Secular Franciscan Order.
- To promote participation by fraternity members in events held by surrounding fraternities and in the meetings of the Regional Fraternity.
- To facilitate the reception of Council-approved inquirers into the fraternity using the OFS Ritual for Reception.
- To be present at the reception of Candidates approved by the Council into the fraternity according to the Profession Ritual.
- To provide an annual written report to the Regional Fraternity incorporating an accurate overview of the entire fraternity according to information received from the Council members.
- To notify members of Council determinations regarding

admission, dispensation requests, and other pertinent fraternity decisions.

- To appoint a Nomination Committee of professed members 3 months prior to elections.
- To request in writing to the Regional Executive Council, the election of fraternity officers. These elections should be held every three years.
- To request in writing the Pastoral and Fraternal Visitations upon Council approval, usually every three years. (GGCC Art 51.1-2)

For the Vice Minister

What does the Vice Minister do?

The Vice Minister acts as an informed assistant to the Fraternity Minister, ready to handle any and all fraternity operations should the Fraternity Minister be unable, whether on a temporary or prolonged basis. The responsibilities are:

- to collaborate in a fraternal spirit and to support the minister in carrying out his or her specific duties;
- to exercise the functions entrusted by the council and/or by the assembly or chapter
- To assist the Minister in all administrative functions required within the fraternity as requested by the Minister.
- To represent the fraternity when so delegated by the Minister. (GGCC Art 52.1)

For the Secretary

What does the Secretary do?

The Fraternity Secretary keeps an accurate and neat account of the minutes of both the Council and fraternity meetings and maintains such records in the fraternity archives.

All communication with the fraternity on behalf of the Council is ordinarily carried out by the Secretary under the direction of the Minister and Council. No official correspondence should be sent out without the prior approval of the Fraternity Minister. (GGCC Art 52.2)

The duties include:

- To provide a draft copy of the minutes prior to the next Council meeting.
- To document corrections and approvals of previous meeting minutes.
- To record actions, discussions and approvals at fraternity meetings.
- To maintain all fraternity records in a safe storage location.
- To update archived records and contact information for any fraternity storage.
- To update active member lists and provide them to the Minister, Council members and other fraternity members as required.
- To maintain attendance records for Council meetings and regular fraternity gatherings.
- To prepare correspondence for the Minister's signature and initiate or respond to other necessary communication.
- To maintain the fraternity's official registry, insuring proper updating and preservation of the records and the registers,

noting admissions (candidacy), professions, deaths, withdrawals, suspensions or dismissals and transfers (both into and out of) the fraternity

- To prepare, together with the other members of the Council, the annual report to the Regional Fraternity after consulting with all fraternity members.
- To collect and maintain all election documentation signed by the Presider, the Friar Witness or delegate, and the Election Secretary and Tellers.

What ought to be included in the Council Meeting minutes?

- Names of the Council members, present or absent.
- A summary of reports given, motions presented with detail of content, who offered and supported the motion and the Council's decision.
- Communications received and acted upon.
- Treasurer's report information.
- A listing of inquirers and candidates in the initial formation process including secret ballot action taken to approve or reject inquirer for admittance into candidacy.
- record the results of council balloting to approve or reject a candidate for profession in the Secular Franciscan Order.
- insure personal actions and membership status is annotated in the fraternity register.
- Pending matters presented and follow-up, such as caution letters.
- Listing of upcoming events discussed at Council meeting.

For the Treasurer

What does the Treasurer do?

The Fraternity Treasurer is responsible for the supervision and protection of all money, bonds, notes and other convertible funds which make up the common fund of the Fraternity.

All Fraternity disbursements should be by check, and no disbursements should be made without an order from the Minister or Council.

Under no circumstances should the Treasurer enter the financial properties of the fraternity into the personal accounts of the Treasurer or any other member of the Fraternity.

The Treasurer is required:

- To maintain a separate banking account for the fraternity in the fraternity's name and using the fraternity's Employer Identification Number.
- To request a new or replacement EIN number from the IRS when required, using Form SS-4 or inquire at www.irs.gov. Secular Franciscan Fraternities in the United States are 501(c) non – profit organizations and are exempt from taxation. For more information con- tact the Treasurer of the Regional Fraternity.
- To keep an accurate record of all income received, money disbursed, cash deposits, stocks/bonds and all other financial assets of the Fraternity held by banks, brokerage firms and any other financial institutions.
- To make a monthly report to the Council of receipts and disbursements and of the financial standing of the fraternity. A brief financial statement is to be provided for the information of fraternity members.
- To provide a record of finances to the Regional Fraternal visitor at the time of the Fraternity Visitation.
- To include an annual financial statement to the Regional

Fraternity in the Annual Fraternity Report.

- To deposit all funds collected for the good of the Fraternity and its works of charity as soon as possible so that no alms are lost or misplaced.
- To provide access to all financial information of the Fraternity annually for audit to the two professed members designated by the Fraternity Council.

(GGCC Art 52.4)

For Formators

What does the Formation Director (or Master of Formation) do?

The Formation Director has the immediate care of those in formation and is usually assisted by others so that a team approach to formation provides for a fullness of instruction prior to Profession.

The Formation Director (master of formation) has the following duties:

- a. to co-ordinate, with the help of the other members of the council, the formative activities of the fraternity;
- b. to instruct and enliven the inquirers during the time of initiation, the candidates during the period of initiation formation, and the newly professed;
- c. to inform the council of the fraternity prior to profession, concerning the suitability of the candidate for a commitment to live according to the Rule. (GGCC Art 52.3)

Other areas:

- To be familiar with the Rule, Constitutions and Statutes of the OFS.

- To ensure formation of new members is conducted within the guidelines of both the National and Regional Fraternities.
- To maintain attendance records of Inquirers and Candidates.
- To direct and lead members of the Formation team.
- To request and maintain all required Candidate documents examples include:
 - sacrament documents
 - decrees of nulity if needed
 - applications
 - recommendation forms
 - others as required by the National or Regional Fraternity
- To provide the Council with a summary report with recommendations on each Candidate two months prior to the proposed Profession date. (Gen Const Art 52.3)

For Councilors

What do Councilors need to know?

Councilors are elected by the fraternity to serve the needs of the fraternity in an advisory position. They may hold other offices, e.g. Editor of the Newsletter, Infirmarian, Youth advocate, etc.

Councilors:

- Make and receive motions on fraternity business.
- Participate in peaceful Council meetings, avoiding verbal conflicts and an argumentative atmosphere.
- Approve the Reception of Inquirers and Profession of Candidates by the required vote by secret ballot.

- In addition to their regular duties, may be chosen to fill such special functions as Corresponding, Financial or Membership Secretary, etc. (Gen Const Art 50.1-2)

Other roles or functions for either an elected councilor or any appointed member of the fraternity:

All fraternity councils are to insure that members who are unable to attend the regular gatherings for illness, infirmity, age, etc are visited by representatives of the fraternity for comfort, support, prayer and keeping them tied into the fraternity. These functions are based on the specific needs of the fraternity.

For Infirmarians

What does the Infirmarian do?

The Infirmarian is a professed member of the fraternity with these duties:

- To maintain contact with the afflicted, hospitalized, aged and confined members of the fraternity,
- To let them know that they are remembered in prayer and that they are in the hearts of their fraternity brothers and sisters.
- This can be accomplished by:
 - sending a get well card with a note,
 - remembrance greeting card,
 - phone contact, or
 - personal visit to the ailing member if member agrees to a visit.
- The Infirmarian should be supplied with an up-to-date, active member list by the Fraternal Secretary.

Similarly if there is an opportunity for a fraternity to minister to or incorporate into fraternity life, Franciscan oriented Youth and/or Young Adults, then it might be appropriate for the fraternity to have a Youth Coordinator.

See Appendix A Franciscan Youth

For Fraternity Members

What are the obligations of professed members?

Article 30 of the General Constitutions lists the requirements of professed fraternity members. Volunteering whenever possible and sharing not only their prayers but their skills and talents with the fraternity are required.

Article 30

1. The brothers and sisters are co-responsible for the life of the fraternity to which they belong and for the SFO as the organic union of all fraternities throughout the world.
2. The sense of co-responsibility of the members requires personal presence, witness, prayer, and active collaboration, in accordance with each one's situation and possible obligations for the animation of the fraternity.
3. *Rule 25* In a family spirit, each brother and sister should make a contribution to the fraternity fund, according to each one's means, to provide the financial means needed for the life of the fraternity and for its religious, apostolic, and charitable works. The brothers and sisters ought to provide the means necessary for supporting the activities and the

operations of the fraternities at higher levels, both by their financial assistance and by their contributions in other areas as well.

Each member should be prepared to explain the Secular Franciscan Order to anyone who asks questions about the Order or about the Tau cross. According to article 19 of the Rule: “Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.”

All Fraternity members (all Secular Franciscans) are obliged to:

- follow the example and the teachings of Christ, (GC Art 9:2)
- personally and assiduously study the Gospel and Sacred Scripture, (GC Art 9:2)
- commit themselves by their profession to live the Gospel according to Franciscan spirituality in their secular condition, (GC Art 8:1)
- Join actively in the life and spirit of St. Francis in the local fraternity.
- Be present and participate in the monthly fraternity gathering.
- Wear the outward symbol of the Order, the Tau Cross in the United States.(NAFRA Statutes 16.4)
- Contribute to the fraternity Common Fund.
- Participate in fraternity On-Going Formation by reading pertinent articles and sharing their learning with fraternity members.

- Welcome visitors and new inquirers visiting the fraternity.
- Be pliable enough to make necessary changes in life, seeking and cooperating with the grace of God.
- commit themselves to lives of prayer to keep the mysteries of Jesus Christ always before them:
 1. From The Ritual Part 3, Liturgical Prayer for Secular Franciscans. These prayers may be:
 - a. Morning and evening prayer from The Liturgy of the Hours, either in common or in private. These celebrations are to be preferred at the fraternity gathering.
 - b. A shortened form of The Liturgy of the Hours according to forms adapted to the local Churches.
 - c. The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 - d. The office of the Passion written by St. Francis of Assisi
 - e. The office of the twelve Our Fathers in one of its many versions that have been enriched with short biblical readings and also adapted to the structure of The Liturgy of the Hours, especially since this form of prayer still thrives in many parts of the world and is a useful way of praying in everyday circumstances.

What does the Fraternity Gathering include?

Fraternity members meet on a regular basis as set by the Council. Notes may be taken for the fraternity records. The gathering generally includes the following:

- Opening and Closing Prayers from the Ritual.
- Daily office see previous section for options " The Ritual Part 3, Liturgical Prayer for Secular Franciscans".
- Prayer tailored to celebration of a season (Advent, Christmas, Lent Easter etc, or even a specific feast. Be creative and keep your prayer inviting and alive.
- Gospel reading and/or Franciscan reading for reflective contemplation and then sharing.
- Ongoing Franciscan Formation.
- Fraternity news/announcements.
- Input from the Spiritual Assistant.
- Community/Sharing/Social time.
- The Eucharist on special occasions such as professions, etc.

The purpose of the continual Ongoing Formation is to support the professed members' commitment and to strengthen their Franciscan vocations so that the ongoing conversion process will continue as a life-style.

Monthly fraternity gatherings are the ordinary place for ongoing formation and should be experienced as part of every fraternity Council meeting and fraternity gathering. Other opportunities are:

- Retreats
- Days of Renewal
- Workshops and seminars
- Community celebrations
- Interaction between fraternities
- Interaction with the Friars, the Poor Clares, the Third Order

Religious

- Attendance at Regional and National gatherings.

Anyone having difficulty regarding these requirements should consult with a member of the fraternity Council.

Formation of New Members

The stages in the formation of new Fraternity members include:

The Orientation Phase:

This is a time for discerning whether the prospective member has the basic dispositions that are essential for entering into mature committed relationships. Orientation is a series of 3 or 4 meetings to introduce anyone who may be interested in the Secular Franciscan Order.

Following the Orientation Phase, the Formation Director, the Spiritual Assistant and Fraternity Minister, or another member of the Fraternity council or the Formation Team conducts a face-to-face meeting with each individual separately . It is essentially a dialogue between persons to share ideas, ask questions, give information and clarify certain points. It is important to remember that the interview is not an interrogation or counseling session.

The purposes of the interview for the Secular Franciscan Order are to welcome the prospective member and to explain briefly the purpose of the Secular Franciscan Order and the life-long commitment involved.

Orientation

- a. Orientation is a time for determining a person's interest, eligibility and disposition to enter into the initial formation process [cf. *Guidelines for Initial Formation in the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States* (hereafter *Guidelines for Initial Formation*), page 25].
- b. The period of orientation shall consist of not less than three (3) months. NS Art 19.1.a-b

Initial Formation Process begins

The Inquiry Phase:

This is the first phase of initial formation and is a time of discernment and reinforcement of the individual's choice of the Franciscan life. During this time the Inquirer participates in the life of the fraternity and comes to understand the Franciscan Way of Life.

At the same time the fraternity comes to know the Inquirer better so that it can assist in the discernment of the Inquirer's Franciscan vocation.

Initial Formation

- a. Inquiry – The period of Inquiry, which begins with the Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming [cf. *Ritual*, page 9], shall consist of not less than six (6) months. NS Art 19.2.a

The Inquiry Phase begins with the Rite of Welcoming found in the Ritual. The time required is not to be less than six (6) months and six lessons.

A second interview should be conducted at the end of the Inquiry Phase. The purpose of this interview is to ascertain if the Inquirer wishes to continue on to the Candidacy Phase and to answer any specific questions the Inquirer may have regarding the content studied or to be studied in the next phase.

It is the responsibility of the Council to determine if there are clear signs of a Franciscan Vocation and approve moving the Inquirer forward to the next phase of formation.

Required Documents

What documents are required for admission to the Secular Franciscan Order? *These documents must be submitted before a person is admitted into Candidacy.*

- Two Letters of Recommendation,
 - one from the Pastor or parish priest of the parish in which the Candidate is registered. The purpose served by this is to establish that the inquirer is a practicing Catholic, whose public life gives a clear witness to God's moral law.
 - The other letter can be from a friend who knows the person well.

- A certified baptismal certificate with notations showing reception of Eucharist and confirmation (person must be fully initiated into the Catholic Church)
- marriage certificate (if applicable). The original certificate will be returned to the owner after information is properly noted in the person's file. It is the responsibility of the Candidate and not the local fraternity or the Spiritual Assistant to obtain such document because of privacy restrictions.

- In case of an invalid marriage the candidate cannot be professed until the situation is rectified and a notation has been made on the baptismal certificate for future reference.
- A copy of an annulment (Decree of Nulity), if required. The original is returned to the owner after it is properly noted in the Candidate's file. This, too, is the responsibility of the Candidate.

The Candidacy Phase:

This is the most important stage in formation since its purpose is to prepare the Candidate for life-long commitment to the OFS Rule of Life – a mature and enduring decision to participate as fully as possible in the Church's life and mission, according to the manner of St. Francis.

- b. Candidacy – The period of Candidacy, which begins with the Rite of Admission [cf. *Ritual*, page 11], shall consist of not less than eighteen (18) months and not more than thirty-six (36) months. NS Art 19.2.b
- c. All persons in initial formation, in addition to attending their formation sessions, must participate in the meetings of the Local Fraternity as this is an indispensable presupposition for initiation into community prayer and into fraternity life [cf. *General Constitutions*, article #40.3]. NS Art 19.2.c
- d. To be admitted to the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) in the United States, a person must be a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church (i.e., having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation/Confirmation and Holy Eucharist) in addition to being an actively practicing Catholic. NS Art 19.2.d

During Candidacy the entire fraternity participates in and nurtures the growth and development of the Candidate's evangelical living out of the Rule.

This period of formation begins with the Rite of Admission into the Secular Franciscan Order from the Ritual. It is the public acceptance of the Candidate's request and intention to live the Gospel life in the manner of St. Francis, as contained in the OFS Rule approved by the Church.

The number of lessons and months of study for Candidates prescribed by the National Fraternity now exceeds the year and one day required by Canon Law. NAFRA has laid out an 18+ month plan for Candidacy which the Regional Fraternity requires. As cited in the text above, the Statutes of the National Fraternity require a minimum of a 6-month Inquiry and a Candidacy of not less than 18 months or more than 36 months.

The purpose of the interview at the end of the Candidacy Phase is:

- To ascertain whether the Candidate wishes to be professed,
- To discuss openly and honestly the Candidate's decision to profess or withdraw,
- To impress upon the Candidate once again the seriousness of Permanent Profession in the Secular Franciscan Order,
- To help the Candidate better internalize the decision and
- To assure the Formation Team that the candidate's decision to become professed is based upon sound judgment and spiritual motivation.

Upon completion of the Candidacy phase, the candidate submits to the Fraternity Minister a written request to make

his or her profession. The Fraternity Council then decides by secret ballot on the admission to profession (GC:41)

The situation may arise when the Fraternity Council and Formation Minister discern that a particular Candidate is not ready for profession.

The Candidate might also discern that he or she is not yet ready for profession. The interview would be the appropriate place to discuss this matter with the Candidate.

[Note: The necessary forms and checklists are available in the accompanying folder.]

Profession

“Profession is the solemn ecclesial act by which the candidate, remembering the call received from Christ, *renews the baptismal promises* and publicly affirms his or her personal commitment to live the Gospel in the world according to the example of Francis and following the Rule of the SFO”. GC42.1

Since by its very nature Permanent Profession is a public and ecclesial act, it should be celebrated in the presence of the whole fraternity, “a visible sign of the Church, the community of love.” (Rule Article 22.)

It is fitting that the profession be made during the celebration of the Eucharist since profession continues both the deepening of the Baptismal promise, but it is also a true consecration of the person profession. In extreme emergencies, it may take place within an appropriate celebration of the Liturgy of the Word.

Profession is a promise to God, not binding under pain of

sin, but serious in that it is a promise made to God in an official profession ceremony. (See obligations as stated in the General Constitutions Article 30.)

A Candidate who is in danger of death is permitted to anticipate his or her Profession and to be Professed by the Fraternity Minister and witnessed by the Spiritual Assistant or a delegate. Such profession, however, must not be entered in the book of professions unless the person dies.

In case of recovery the Candidate must renew his or her Profession at the proper time when it will be entered into the records.

What is Temporary Profession, and when is it used?

The minimum age for Temporary Profession as a Secular Franciscan in the United States is eighteen (18) years. Temporary profession is appropriate for members until they reach the age of 21 at which time they may be Permanently Professed. Temporary profession is renewed annually for a maximum of three years.

If the Candidate wants to be Permanently Professed, he or she should be directed to write a letter to the Fraternity Council asking to be admitted to the Secular Franciscan Order.

Other Fraternity Questions

What services are provided by the Regional Fraternity?

The Regional Fraternity will organize and facilitate regular gatherings around the area so that members of local fraternities and their Councils can come together to pray together and get to know one another better.

The Regional Executive Council will help local fraternities arrange for fraternity elections and will conduct Chapters of Elections. In addition to Chapters of Elections, the Regional Executive Council is responsible for conducting both fraternal and pastoral visitations to assist both the local council and the local fraternity.

The Secretary of the Executive Council will provide local Ministers with a complete roster of all fraternities in the Region with contact information for each local fraternity.

The Regional Fraternity can assist the local fraternity with extraordinary circumstances that occur. Do not hesitate to contact any member of the Executive Council with questions and concerns. Dealing with small issues early can often prevent them from becoming larger ones.

Elections

Requesting an election?

The fraternity Council should contact the Regional Fraternity at least six months before the proposed next election date, though in this region, the Chapters of Visitation and the Chapter of Elections is maintained by the Regional Executive Council.

To prepare for an upcoming election the local Fraternity Minister, together with the Fraternity Councilors, should appoint a Nominating Committee at least three months prior to a fraternity election of officers.

Council members approve the nominees after a review of their qualifications for office. The Nominating Committee should consist of at least three people. It is recommended that

there be two candidates for each office whenever possible.

At least three (3) months prior to the election, the Chairperson of Nominations will announce to the fraternity members that there will be an election, giving the date and location of the election. This date will already have been cleared with the Regional Fraternity.

One month prior to the election, all professed members are informed of the names of the nominees and the offices in which they have agreed to serve. On the day of the election a sheet showing all persons in nomination and the office for which they have been nominated should be provided to each professed member.

Who can be nominated for office?

In the local fraternity the perpetually professed of the same fraternity have active voice, that is can elect, and passive voice, that is can be elected. The temporarily professed have only active voice. GC Art 77:1

Who should vote?

Any person who is a permanently or temporarily professed member of the local fraternity has an active voice and may vote.

Role of the Council on the day of the election?

Representatives from the Regional Fraternity will conduct the election and bring all necessary paperwork with them.

The Council ensures that all of the professed members of the fraternity are aware of the election and that as many as possible are present.

After the election of a new Council, a meeting of the old and new Council Members should be held as soon as possible. All records of the former Council should be turned over to members of the new Council. This not only includes the officer binders but the transition to the new council should be a detailed briefing from the outgoing members so the new council to promote some continuity during the process.

How is a Spiritual Assistant assigned to a fraternity?

According to the Constitutions fraternity Councils “should make this request to the superiors of the . . . religious Franciscan family to whom the Secular Fraternity has been united for centuries.” (Statutes for Spiritual Assistants I.1)

The Council’s first step should be to contact the Regional Spiritual Assistant (RSA) or if there is none, the Provincial Spiritual Assistant (PSA) whose name is found on the Regional Executive Council page of the Regional Directory. They may also contact the Regional Fraternity for help in this matter.

The Spiritual Assistant is a member of the Council of the fraternity to which he or she gives assistance and collaborates with it in all its activities. It is the particular task of the Assistant to cooperate in the initial and continuing/ongoing formation of the brothers and sisters. (GC 89.4)

Why are Fraternal and Pastoral Visitations scheduled?

Fraternal and Pastoral Visitations are not made to catch mistakes or even to criticize.

The purpose of Visitations is:

- To revive the Franciscan spirit, to assure fidelity to the charism of St. Francis and to the Rule,
- To offer help to the fraternity life
- To reinforce the bond of the unity within the Order.

If there is a mistake or something needs to be changed or brought up-to date, the Visitor will point it out and show the proper procedure to carry it out. He or she will offer additional help if needed and or a follow up visit depending on the circumstances.

How does the fraternity prepare for a Visitation?

If there are any documents or forms which need to be prepared ahead of a Visitation, they will be supplied by the Visitor(s).

[Note: The Fraternal Visitation preparation forms are available in the accompanying folder.]

Before a formal Visitation the Secretary with the assistance of the Council prepares the following documents in case the Visitor wants to see them:

- Minutes of Council meetings and fraternity gatherings
- Records of the Elections
- The Fraternity Register
- Newsletters (Fraternity bulletins)/Archives/Scrapbook of activities and events

The Treasurer will provide financial records to the Regional Fraternal Visitor at the time of the Fraternity Visitation.

These include:

- Bank statements

- The ledger of all expenses/receipts in detail
- All documents pertaining to the property belonging to the fraternity

Out of courtesy and justice the local fraternity Council should offer a stipend for both the Fraternal and Pastoral Visitors. The customary amount of the stipend is set by the Executive Council, and the local Council may contact the Treasurer of the Regional Fraternity for more information and guidance.

How are transfers to and from fraternities handled?

Professed fraternity members who move to another location are urged to transfer to a fraternity accessible to them in that new location. Membership can be retained in their current fraternity at the discretion of the Fraternity Council if there is a valid reason for doing so such as age, health condition or lack of transportation.

The request may be made to the local fraternity Council by letter or in person. (GGCC Art 55)

When a member wants to leave a fraternity:

The Fraternity Council of Origin does not vote on the transfer. Rather they vote on whether to release membership information to the new fraternity to which the member wishes to transfer.

Original records are maintained in the fraternity files; only copies are sent. After the original fraternity receives a copy of the completed transfer form, the Council will enter into their

Register the transfer data of the individual and will then remove the name from the official fraternity active member roster.

When a member wants to transfer into the fraternity:

The Council of the new fraternity to which a member wishes to transfer will, after a short period of probation, vote in Council to accept or reject the transfer requested. This interval will help the fraternity to become acquainted with the prospective transferee and to assure themselves that the person intends to be an active member in the fraternity.

If the request for transfer must be refused, the reasons for rejection should be stated simply, and the person remains a member of the original fraternity.

If the transfer is accepted, the individual is placed on the records of the new fraternity and entered into the Official Register of the Fraternity including all data such as Reception and Profession dates, information on previous transfers and other information for the complete record of the new fraternity member.

The Secretary of the Receiving Fraternity will send a copy of the completed transfer form to the former fraternity informing them of the Council's decision to accept or reject the transferee.

[Note: The necessary form, Official Transfer and Acceptance Form, is available in the accompanying folder.]

What happens if a Council member dies, moves away or is unable to continue in office?

Minister: Should the local Minister resign, that resignation must be presented to the local Council. If the resignation is accepted, it must be confirmed by the Minister of Regional Fraternity. The Vice Minister assumes the function of Minister and continues to do so until the time of the next regular election. Meanwhile one of the elected Councilors is elected to the office of Vice Minister by the fraternity Council. (GGCC Art 81.1 and Art 83.1)

Vice Minister: No matter when the vacancy occurs, the office of Vice Minister is filled by an election held among the Council members themselves. (GGCC Art 81.1)

Councilor: The fraternity Council by vote or consensus will proceed to fill the vacancy by seeking out qualified professed fraternity member(s). (GGCC Art 81.2 and Art 83.2) Note; however, this member is appointed and serves without a vote on the council, until the next Chapter of Elections.

How is a Council member removed if it should become necessary?

Minister: When there is a serious failure to fulfill the duties of the office of Minister and when this serious failure is both public and proven, the Minister may be removed from office (GGCC Art 84.1-2). Contact the Regional Fraternity for help in this matter.

All other members of the Council: When there is a serious reason to remove someone other than the Minister from the Council, the act of removal is carried out by the Minister of that Council (GGCC Art 84.3). In this procedure after the Minister has carefully examined

the facts, and when he or she is convinced of the need for removal, the Minister with the consent expressed by secret vote of the Council, and after conducting fraternal dialogue will declare the decision of the council. A written notice of dismissal with an effective date can be given at this time. (GGCC Art 84.3)

All of the records in the case, especially the minutes of the discussion, voting and action taken by the Minister and Council, as well as a copy of the decree of removal, must be kept on file and recorded in the Council Minutes. These will be needed in the event recourse is taken against it.

Recourse or right of Appeal?

In the decree of removal the local Minister must mention that there is a right of recourse or appeal against this action.

This recourse needs to be taken within an effective period of thirty days and is presented directly to the council of the next higher level of fraternity. (Gen Const Art 84.4).

Contact the Regional Fraternity for help in this matter.

What actions are taken when a member of the fraternity dies?

Enter the date of death in the permanent record book.

Funeral home visitation and/or arrangements for a Mass for the deceased are encouraged.

Some type of prayer service should be provided for the repose of the soul of the deceased fraternity brother or sister and for the comfort and consolation of the member's family. Where possible contact should be made with a family member for arrangements for the time of the fraternity prayer service.

Membership Status

Professed Members

- a. Active
- b. Excused (see General Constitutions Art. 53.3)
- c. Lapsed or Suspended
- d. Voluntary definitive withdrawal or Dismissed

Active and Excused Status

- Active Members are members who participates both by attending fraternity meetings and by providing financial support to the community, or ;
- Excused (see General Constitutions (hereafter GC) Art. 53.3) Some reasons for excused status are:

Troubadours of Peace Guidelines - Excused Active (see General Constitutions (hereafter GC) Art. 53.3)

- i. one who has been excused from attending fraternity meetings, either on a temporary or permanent basis, but does provide financial support to the community, or;
- ii. one who neither attends meetings nor supports the community financially, but who the fraternity has excused from such obligations.
- iii. Excused members are professed members of a fraternity who, for good reason have been excused from one or more of the obligations of Secular Franciscans.
- iv. A Professed member may be excused from attendance at the monthly meeting because of extenuating family obligations, work obligation, poor health or distance.

- v. An excused member is not freed from other obligations such as praying some daily office, wearing the external sign of the Order (the Tau) [NAFRA Statutes, Art. 16.4.], and contributing to the fraternity common fund.
- vi. Under special circumstances, if a member's income is extremely meager s/he may be excused from contributing to the common fund.
- vii. Excused status should be reviewed and renewed annually.
- viii. Excused members are part of the fraternity membership and are reported on the Region's annual report.

Frequently absent members

What should the fraternity do when members do not attend monthly gatherings or fail to stay in touch?

There is no doubt that community, the “basic unit of the whole Order” (Rule, Article 22), is at the heart of the call to Franciscan living. The Rule of 1978 makes this clear.

Members who repeatedly absent themselves from the life of the community should be approached by the Council to discuss the reasons for their inaction.

Valid reasons for such absence would be: ill health, family commitments, conflict of work schedules, and prohibitive distance or transportation problems.

Given that each member is responsible for his or her own vocation, the fraternity should take a first step in trying to draw the non-attending member back into the life of the community. Every attempt to contact absent members should be

documented in the Council minutes. (GGCC Art 56.1-3)

Options for the absent member include:

Resume activity with the fraternity.

Request for Excused Status from the fraternity for a period of 3-12 months. Voluntary

Temporary Provisions

Article 56 (General Constitutions)

- 1. *Rule 23*** Members who find themselves in difficulty may ask, with a formal act, temporary withdrawal from the fraternity. The council will evaluate the request with love and prudence, after a fraternal dialogue between the minister and the assistant with the person concerned. If the reasons appear to be well founded, after the brother or sister in difficulty has been given time to reconsider, the council agrees to the request.
- 2.** The repeated and prolonged default in the obligations of the life of the fraternity and other conduct in serious opposition to the Rule have to be discussed by the council in dialogue with the person at fault. Only in the case of obstinacy or relapse may the council decide, with a secret vote, to suspend someone. It communicates its decision in writing to the person concerned.
- 3.** Voluntary withdrawal or the provision for suspension must be noted in the registers of the fraternity. It involves exclusion from the meetings and activities of the fraternity, including the right of active and passive voice, but membership in the Order itself is not affected.

Article 57

1. In the case of voluntary withdrawal or of suspension from the fraternity, the secular Franciscan may ask to be readmitted by addressing an appropriate written request to the minister.

2. After examining the reasons offered by the person involved, the council evaluates whether the causes which led to the withdrawal or suspension can be considered as overcome. If the conclusion is affirmative, it readmits him or her and the decision is recorded in the proceedings of the fraternity.

Lapsed Status

Request Lapsed status, voluntary temporary withdrawal

Temporary Provisions (GC article 56 and 57) only affects status in the Local Fraternity

(example; Fair Share is not required in the case of “Lapsed”), but membership in the Order is not affected. Temporary Provisions involve exclusion from the meetings and activities of the fraternity, including the right of active and passive voice, and other obligations approved by the local Fraternity council)

Lapsed Members (Temporary Voluntary Withdrawal -- GC Art 56)

- Professed Secular Franciscans, who do not attend meetings, nor support the community financially, and who, after personal invitations to return to fraternity, reject or ignore the invitation, will be termed lapsed and will not be carried on the fraternity's membership rolls

nor be reported as members of NAFRA. (cf. – GC 56.1 and 56.3)

Temporary Suspension -- GC Art 56.2 and 57)

- Temporary Punitive action (suspension cf. – GC 56.2)
- Reinstatement (cf. GC 57.1 and 57.2)

Definitive Provisions

Article 58

1. The brother or sister who intends to withdraw definitively from the Order, communicates so in writing to the minister of the fraternity. The minister and the assistant of the local fraternity, with charity and prudence, discuss the matter with the person concerned and keep the Council informed. If the brother or sister confirms the decision in writing, the Council takes notice and communicates it in writing to the person concerned. The definitive withdrawal is recorded in the register of the fraternity and communicated to the council of the higher level.

2. In case of serious causes, provided that they are external, imputable, and juridically proven, the minister and the assistant of the local fraternity, with charity and prudence, discuss the matter with the brother or sister concerned and keep the council informed. The brother or sister is given time to reflect and to discern, possibly with the help of an external and competent expert. If the time set aside for reflection passes without any result, the council of the fraternity request the council of the higher level to dismiss the brother or sister from the Order. The request must be accompanied by all the documentation relative to the case.

The council of the higher level will issue the decree of dismissal after having collegially examined the request with the relative documentation and having verified observance of the directives of the Law and of the Constitutions.

3. The brother or sister who publicly rejects the faith, or defects from ecclesiastical communion, or upon whom an excommunication is imposed or declared, by the fact itself ceases to be a member of the Order. This does not exonerate the council of the local fraternity from discussing the matter with the person concerned and offering fraternal help. The council of a higher level, upon request of the council of the local fraternity, collects the proofs and officially declares that the person has ceased to be a member of the Order.

4. The decree of dismissal or the declaration that the person has ceased to be a member of the Order, in order to become effective, must be confirmed by the national council to whom all the documentation will be sent.

Article 59

If anyone is convinced that he or she has been wronged by a measure adopted, that person may appeal within three months to the council above the one that adopted the decision in question and, in successive cases, to further levels all the way up to the Presidency of the International Council of the SFO and, in the final instance, to the Holy See.

Definitive Voluntary Withdrawal and Dismissal

Definitive Provisions (GC Art 58) constitute withdrawal and/or removal from the Secular Franciscan Order

Request voluntary definitive withdrawal from the Order

- i. Voluntary Definitive Withdrawal (GC Art 58.1) This action is initiated by the member themselves. It can be approved by the local council, but it is also reported to the Region.

Dismissal is requested by the fraternity council but is acted upon for a decision and if warranted, a Decree of Dismissal by the council of the next higher fraternity level. example, Dismissal can be requested by a local council, but the decision is an action of the Region.

- ii. Decree of Dismissal (GC Art 58.2,3,4 cited above) for serious causes, illicit or scandalous actions, rejection of the Faith and/or defection from ecclesial communion.
- iii. Decree of Dismissal contains the inherent right of Appeal to the Fraternity above the council who issues the decree. (GC Art 59)

Definitive Provisions, such as Voluntary Definitive Withdrawal and/or Dismissal from the Order should be very rare, still the General Constitutions do provide for these actions. This request must be taken very seriously. If the Council believes that this step is necessary, the Minister should contact the Regional Fraternity for more assistance. (Gen Const 58. 1)

What if someone in the fraternity wants to start a new fraternity?

Contact the Regional Fraternity for more information.

How do fraternity members stay in touch between regular gatherings?

No matter how small the fraternity may be, a newsletter is a wonderful way of sharing and keeping everyone informed as to what is happening within the fraternity. The newsletter should also be shared with the ministers of the fraternities within Troubadours of Peace Regional Fraternity.

E-mail communications to as many members in fraternity as possible is a good way to share current information as well as keep informed as to the happenings within the Church and the Franciscan Order.

See appendix B, for email servers operated by Troubadours of Peace Region and for their purposes.

A well-maintained website can help members stay in touch with the Council and with one another and may provide contact information for people outside the fraternity and the Order.

How can members promote new vocations?

Every member of the fraternity should keep a watchful eye out in the parish and where they work for individuals who are practicing Catholics and live out their faith in their everyday life experiences. An invitation should be extended to those individuals to come and see what the Secular Franciscan Order and the fraternity have to offer them.

Pamphlets with the name and phone number of a contact person, explaining what the Secular Franciscan Order is can be given to family and friends and other people who might have a Franciscan Charism.

Keep the parish and general public informed as to the fraternity's activities. Such articles can be published in the parish bulletin, the local and diocesan newspapers. (Gen Const Art 45.1-2)

Affiliate Members (NAFRA Statutes Art. 18 #13)

Affiliation with a local fraternity

- a. Those who, without belonging to the OFS, wish to participate in its life and activities (*see GC Art. 53.5 and 103.1*) according to Franciscan principles and teachings, may be welcomed by the local fraternity, so as to make their communion living and effective. Individuals wishing to become affiliates should make their desire known by a written request to the local fraternity council, which makes a decision regarding the request.
- b. These affiliate brothers and sisters will have no juridical bond with the Secular Franciscan Order and are, therefore persons welcomed to love and be loved "as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ" (*OFS Rule Art. 13*). They may share the experiences and activities of the fraternity, without the right to vote.
- c. In order that the identity of the fraternity not be altered, the number of affiliates may not exceed 40% of the number of active professed members of a fraternity.
- d. Regional councils have the right to establish their own guidelines for the acceptance of affiliates.

Appendix A Franciscan Youth/Young Adults

Now called SHINE by NAFRA, though this is currently being re-evaluated by NAFRA .

The Franciscan Youth/Young Adults (FYYA) are comprised of young people who feel called by the Holy Spirit:

- To deepen their own vocation
- To share the experience of the Christian life in fraternity in the light of the message of St. Francis of Assisi,
- To deepen their own vocation within the context of the Secular Franciscan Order.

SHINE will include youth under 18 and young adults 18-34. The new term SHINE will encompass our three key focus areas for Young Catholics under 35:

1. Y.E.S. – Stand-alone events that may be held once or may be recurring. Y.E.S. is “Youth Exploring Spirituality”; activities are conducted at the local, regional or national level in the United States (see the most recent Tau for suggested Y.E.S. activities)
2. YouFra Groups – Emerging and existing groups that have been recognized by the United States SHINE/Youth & Young Adults commission and that hold regular gatherings under the CIOFS YouFra Guidelines
3. Young Franciscans – Those younger than 35 who have made the one-year Franciscan promise

Vocational Journey in Formation

The FYYA deepen their personal vocation in the light of the message of Saint Francis by an itinerary of progressive formation. The whole itinerary will be focusing on vocational discernment. This vocational journey will normally consist of the following periods:

Initiation – This is a period of seeking, of making contact, of approaching, of welcome, which ends with the decision to begin the period of formation for the pledge in the FYYA. The length of this period depends on the personal situation of each candidate and on the FYYA fraternity, usually between three to six months. The age may vary, but the minimum age to enter the Franciscan Youth is 14, and the minimum age to enter the Franciscan Young Adults is 18. The Celebration of Initiation is celebrated prior to the beginning of the next period of formation.

Formation for the promise in the FYYA – This is a period of formation and full integration of the candidates into the life of the FYYA fraternity. At the end of this period, they confirm this option with a personal promise before God and in the presence of the brothers and sisters, most appropriately during a Eucharistic Celebration. The minimum length of this period is one year. It belongs to the local Council of the FYYA to admit the candidates to the pledge.

Please contact the Regional Executive Council through your fraternity liaison or the Regional Minister for more information if you seek to establish/sponsor an FYYA Fraternity in conjunction with your own OFS Fraternity.

The Pledge, also known as the Feast of Yes, is celebrated at the conclusion of this formation.

Deepening one's vocation – This is a period of verification of the vocation, in which the young person grasps and deepens the values composing Franciscan spirituality and its mission in the Church and in society. This period comes to a conclusion at the age of 26.

Passing over to the OFS – The vocational journey of the FYYA may lead to the OFS. The members of the FYYA who wish to make profession in the OFS shall satisfy the requirements of the Rule, the Constitutions and the Ritual of the OFS. (Con 96, 4.)

Appendix B Communications Troubadours of Peace website and email

Troubadours of Peace Region currently operates 3 email list servers for various types of News and business:

- TOPR-L is the general regional news and sharing site set up for cross communications among all fraternities, members and councils, and new groups throughout the region
- TOPMIN is set up for business needs and communications among members of the Region Council, which may include electronic voting on special needs and issues affecting the Region.
- TOPREC is set up for the needs of the Regional Executive Council, such as coordinating Visitations, Elections, and the general ordinary day to day business of the Region.

Troubadours of Peace Website

<http://www.troubadoursofpeace.org/>

On the website you can find info on our Fraternities, REC, forms and documents, formation materials and other information that is helpful for our fraternities.

Additionally there are links to our National Fraternity (NAFRA) and to our International Fraternity (CIOFS)

NAFRA: <http://www.nafra-sfo.org/>

CIOFS: <http://www.ciofs.org/>