

COMMON FUND

SECULAR FRANCISCAN RULE, Article 25: *Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate and of charity, all brothers and sisters should offer a contribution according to their means. Local fraternities should contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.*

GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS, Article 30.3: *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 activities and the operations of the fraternities at higher levels, both by their financial assistance and by their contributions in other areas as well.*

USA NATIONAL STATUTES, Article 18.7: *The Local fraternity is responsible for contributing to the Regional Fraternity on a fair share basis from its common fund to underwrite the costs of that fraternity [cf. GC, Art. 30.3]. A fair share contribution is made based on the number of active or excused brothers and sisters, but not for those who are deemed lapsed.*

From WAY OF LIFE, author Richard Portasik, OFM, page 46

"The common fund consists of voluntary contributions given by individual members "according to their means" [RULE, Art. 25]. since the contributions are voluntary, the Seculars do not "pay" dues or taxes as some continue to believe. In other words, those who have more should contribute more; while those who are unable should not feel pressured to give, not should they be excluded from the fraternity..."

"Annual contributions are a vital means of support not only for the [Regional] endeavors but also for the works of the national and the international fraternity. Awareness of supporting higher fraternity councils is not an option but an obligation. As I have written in Way of Life, 'In supporting these higher [fraternities] through our contributions the local fraternity maintains an invaluable link with the whole Order'."

FAIR SHAIR contribution to the Region is made **from the fraternity's common fund** on a per capita basis. The per capita amount is determined by the Regional Fraternity Council [which includes the Regional Executive Council and all the Local Fraternity Ministers] when they meet at their annual gathering. The same is true for the National Executive Council.

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