

REGIONAL WORK COMMISSION CHAIR JOB DESCRIPTION

It's always a good idea to know what's expected of you. If your region has not developed job descriptions for commission chairs, this one can give guidance for the position of Regional Work Commission Chair from the National Work Commission perspective. Regions should develop their own descriptions for the responsibilities they expect of the chairs for each commission in their area. This is not meant to be a blueprint of exactly what you need to do. In each region the needs are different. Please work with the regional council members to fit this to your particular region.

In some regions the chair positions for the different commissions are elected positions. In other regions they are appointed positions. At the present time it is up to each region to determine their procedure for this. If the commission chair positions are elected then they should have voting rights on the regional council.

Regional Work Commission Chair period of service: 3 years with possible second 3 year term.

Suggested duties of the Work Commission Chair are:

- a. to communicate with the National Chairperson(s) of the Work Commission;
- b. to communicate with the Work Commission Chair for each fraternity regarding her/his responsibilities, offering resources and suggestions;
- c. to distribute information from the local fraternities to the national and to distribute information from the national to the local fraternities;
- d. to keep the Regional Council apprised of any and all Work activities within the region;
- e. to enter into dialogue about the Franciscan spirituality of work with other interested persons or groups;
- f. to attend meetings and workshops as needed;
- g. to work with the Regional Minister of Formation on formation programs within the region;
- h. to publish an article on Work and Franciscanism in each edition of the regional newsletter, if your region has one. If not, compose an article with discussion questions you can send to the fraternities quarterly.
- i. To notify the Regional Minister in advance if unable to attend a meeting and assist in arranging for someone to take your place.

SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

(These random ideas are for purposes of inspiration only and are not mandatory in any way.)

1. Invite members of the regional or local fraternity to share in writing how they encounter God in their work. Be sure to emphasize that work is not only work for pay but all purposeful activity done because we are God's hands here on earth including volunteer efforts, homemaking, childrearing, caring for elderly family members or friends, etc.
2. Encourage SFOs to work with their parishes to have a special Eucharist for Labor Day. At parishes throughout the country, this special mass is a time when members of various professions bring the tools of their trade to the altar at the offertory. If your diocese isn't doing something like this yet, you may want to contact the chancery and take the initiative.
3. Encourage all SFOs to recognize the dignity of work by thanking those who serve them. One good example is at the checkout line in a supermarket. All the checkout people wear nametags but hardly anyone ever calls them by name. When your service is complete say, "Thanks, Cindy, for a job well done" and watch a smile light up a weary face.
4. Take the initiative to bring together people in the same profession (law enforcement personnel, mothers, fathers, grandparents, teachers, lawyers, etc.) to dialogue about where they find God's presence in their professions.
5. Encourage fraternities to spend some time having each member speak about the charitable volunteer activities they are engaged in. This exercise can be pretty amazing as you marvel at the good works that are being done.
6. Participate in letter writing campaigns for improved working conditions for those in Third World countries and for an end to sweatshops. These have worked and major corporations have changed their ways. Each person *can* make a difference!

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