

213. Building Fellowship BF - Formally- BROTHERHOOD FUND

The Brotherhood Fund (BF) is a voluntary fund used mainly to finance travel for delegates to travel to International Conventions and to visit clubs. Until 1968, the Brotherhood Fund was called the "Bishop's Fund", after similar funds used by bishops of certain religious denominations for such use as they deemed proper. Early in its history, the fund consisted of monies left over from an International Convention. Much of the money now comes from the sale of used postage stamps, saved, soaked, and sorted by Y's Men around the world and marketed through Y's Men agents to stamp dealers. Other money comes from fines levied on errant members of local clubs, all in fun of course. Some clubs, believing strongly in the program, budget contributions to BF from their regular funds. As of July, 2006 the contributions to the fund for 2005 - 2006 was US \$168,656.

Each year the International Council budgets monies for Inter-Area visitations. Some funds are used for other travel for the betterment of the Y's Men's movement.

Participants are varied. They can be a local Y's Man, a YMCA staff member, or a member of the Region, Area or International team. All must pass through a selection process. It is expected that anyone receiving a B.F. grant will spend a minimum of three weeks on travel, visiting Y's Men's clubs and YMCA's. If you should be chosen it would be expected that when you return home you would make yourself available for club visitations to share your experiences from the trip.

On occasion, block grants are awarded to an Area so that several individual Y's Men may be selected to attend an International or Area Convention.

Some of these are "partial" grants, in that the BF delegate is not required to

spend extra time on club visitations.

Here are some points you would be interested in, if you were chosen to be a BF delegate. When travelling within an Area or Region you will always be met by a fellow Y's Man and passed from one club to another. Mostly you will stay in Y's Men's homes so you can experience another culture first hand. You will be asked to speak and to tell about Y'sdom in your home club. The exchange of small gifts is customary, so it's a good idea to obtain small, easy-to-carry gifts for the people who host you, and a supply of visitation banners from your club and/or Region. Brotherhood is a great experience, so when you forget your pin and pay a fine or tear a stamp from today's mail, you are helping someone, somewhere, to a new experience. Perhaps next time it will be you.

For any member who may wish to apply to be a Brotherhood Fund Delegate, refer to the sample application Form BF-2, Brotherhood Fund Delegate Application Form, located in the Appendix section.

(Updated March 2024)