Secular Franciscan National Database

Partial List of Issues.

# Meta Issue: Strict Hieratical permissions does not match reality:

**Existing System:** There are four levels of permissions: Admin, National, Regional and Local Fraternity. At each level an individual user can be assigned a level for single entity (e.g., St Francis Region Write which gives permission to edit Regional and all subordinate Fraternities).

**Problems:** The originally requested access flags were not used. Instead a single digit along with another flag and table were used to provide access. Errors occur for some combinations; records are dropped and user access is denied requiring reauthorization. A new set of web procedures are being developed to return to the original access method. In addition, the limitation of access only to levels of which you are a member causes a problem where there are parallel organizations that, due to the design, one does not belong to, but that access is needed. This occurs for non-established fraternities (Sponsored Fraternities) and Spiritual Assistants (Assigned Fraternities). Additional rules are needed for these cases.

## Meta Issue: Functions exist only in the GUI

**Existing System:** Currently the functions/reports performed by the GUI Remote Desktop Connection to the Server.

**Problem:** Access is limited to users who have system level access. Limited number of simultaneous RDC connections are permitted. Special training required to safely use the interface.

## Meta Issue: Inputs are awkward and not filtered.

**Existing System:** No character filtering is done on input. Fill in the blank rather than drop downs, radio buttons or check boxes.

**Problems:** Input errors frequently occur, sometimes taking down parts of the system. Users are given too many choices requiring investigation and back end fixing of the input.

## Issue: Reports are limited and tied to the user’s level of access.

**Existing System:** If a user has National access, they can generate only reports which correspond to the national council. For example, they cannot generate a Fraternity Roster.

**Problems:** Many reports exist only through the GUI which requires remote access to the serve console. Annual reports are generated using stand-alone code. New reports cannot be easily added to the web interface (e.g., not table driven). Report selection does not match multiple roles that various members have.

## Issue: Inactive Fraternities hide members

**Existing System:** If a Fraternity is flagged as inactive members in that Fraternity disappear. Currently the word ‘Deactivated’ is added at the end of the name to indicate this status. Similarly, deceased members disappear. Fraternities merge and one will become inactive.

**Problems:** Members may move back into an area where there is an active Fraternity and their information needs to be found. Deceased members may leave a bequest and we need to figure out successor entities to ensure the funds go to the current equivalent.

## Issue: Add New Member.

**Existing System:** Cannot add new member whose name matches existing member. Sometimes cannot add anything about the individual during the initial add.

**Problems:** Currently must modify new member’s name to get it into the system and then edit the name to the real name. Only way to override the duplicate name warning.   
Sometimes when a new person is added and status information is added at the same time, the record is not saved. This happens most often for setting Candidates on initial entry. *AddNewMember.asp*

## Issue: Offices

**Existing System:** For new fraternity cannot add people who are in the offices. For an existing Fraternity, if you remove the current holder the office goes away. Add new office function blocked because random offices created.

**Problem:** GUI intervention needed to add initial offices holders or restore deleted offices.

## Issue: Adding Status location and date

**Existing System:** There is a fixed list of Fraternities which must be used. Formation dates must be known exactly. The system did not originally save Profession Level, but computed it from the existence of dates and other factors. The ‘Last Status’ and ‘ProfLev’ fields were added. ‘Last Status’ is initially set to ‘Status’. Periodically the Administrator runs a program to finds the member records where status has changed. The new status is evaluated and proper changes and history records are created to log the change. ‘Last Status’ is then updated. If two or more status events occurred between checks, all but the last are lost for the purpose of recording history.

**Problem:** Every event in process of profession must occur somewhere but event may have occurred overseas or at a defunct Fraternity. Dates need to have flag to allow As Of when exact date is unknown.  
**Related**: System sometimes allows Profession to be entered without any date. No method to flag when a person is lapsed and when they are re-admitted. Status changes should be recorded directly.

## Issue: Status and History

**Existing System:** Profession level was not stored but computed from other factors including dates. Missing or extra dates confused the web version. leading to missing people and incorrect TAU information. Without any history, it was impossible to determine a person’s profession level. Profession Level was added but is still not correctly used everywhere. Current and last status were implemented so that updates could be run to find and log changes. Member History (Activity table) was added to provide a log for analysis.

## TAU-USA Mailing Address Missing Wrong

**Existing System:** Receives TAU-USA flag is set but it does not actually control whether user will receive TAU-USA. There are two possible addresses for each user. Separate program runs to extract mailing address. Inactive status, bad address and request to stop are some of the reasons to stop sending it. Mailing history was also added providing checks when copies were not received. Mail list generation had to be added as well as address correction programs when address corrections were received from the mail processor, USPS and returned mail.

**Problem:** There are two address problems that we have encountered. First, there is the need for a non-used address line for special instructions or directions. Currently a ‘$’ at the front of the address line will suppress that line in other mailing programs. Second, there are many people who have two active addresses (Snowbirds). Their address needs to be constantly changed. Currently, a second address in Notes is a help. A second address with an ‘Active” flag would be a help.