

# REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

**Kathleen Ford**  
UCLA

What can you get for \$10 or so these days? Well, what would you like? In a year, could you use \$10 worth of a newsletter designed especially for people in your line of work? Or, would you like \$10 worth of introductions to colleagues in your area who understand what you do for a living? Or, how about \$10 worth of invitations to visit a facility or two just like the one at your school?

All of the above can be yours if you simply join the IALL Regional Group that includes your state. But why settle for \$10 worth of those good things? For just a bit extra, you will be rewarded in extraordinary ways. You will recognize the outstanding organizational talents and abilities that you possess. Your name will appear everywhere in bold face type. People within your field and within your department will begin to refer (and defer) to you as a "national leader." All this and more, for just a bit extra.

The added amount won't be found in your checkbook, though. What your regional group needs more than your money is your active participation. Maybe in the past you thought that payment of dues automatically made you a fine, upstanding member of your group. Maybe you glanced at the regional group newsletters and yawned to see the same names over and over. Maybe you attended a meeting, but kept some of your brilliant thoughts to yourself. Don't you owe yourself a brighter

and more exciting future? Now that you have a glimpse of what's in store for you, you must be anxious to get started. But remember that the rewards can be quite intoxicating; you may want to begin with small steps.

You say that your regional group already has a leader? Not to worry; your turn will be here shortly. In the meantime, as you listen to your leader at the meetings, entertain the notion of holding the attention and interest of a roomful of your colleagues. Work up to asking for a line item on the agenda so that you can polish your presentation skills. When your public clamors for your leadership, they will know you well and you will be ready to serve them well.

Does your newsletter already have an editor? Maybe you could volunteer to help affix mailing labels. While you're doing so, dream up a catchy announcement or an informative article or a tried-and-true hint that you could contribute to the next issue. (Think how impressed your employees, relatives, and neighbors will be when they see your name in bold face type.)

Do you deny yourself the experience of your regional group meetings because your school or department is without a travel budget? Start by chatting with your tax advisor about Form 2106, Employee Business Expense. Then, draw up a list of potential sites that are (1) in reasonable proximity and/or (2) hometowns of people you know who have a guest bedroom. One of

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your choices is bound to come up sooner or later, but if you grow tired of waiting, you could politely but firmly suggest one of your preferences to your group leader. When you begin to feel very brave, you can offer to be the host and bring the meeting and membership to you.

These are just a few simple suggestions to get you going on your glorious road to

fulfillment. Start slowly if you like, but keep in mind that in your regional group, as in life, you will reap rewards in proportion to what you sow. You deserve a share of those rewards, right? Put your money where your mouth is, and remember: **YOU COUNT!** Can we count on you?

(NOTE: for the regional leader nearest you, see page 2.)