



Membership in the Northeast Region

By Susan Babb and Lucie Gallagher

Information about membership can be found at <http://www.nmrls.org/membership/index.shtml> Information about specific resources for library teachers can be found at <http://www.nmrls.org/youth/libraryteacher/>

How do I join the region?

It's really very simple! When you visit our membership page, you will see you can download some documents. What we are looking for in a returned membership packet is:

- The Certificate of Eligibility, and Membership Agreement – signed by you and your principal
- A completed data form for our records
- A hard copy of your Certification [if you are a public school librarian]

The forms are received by Lucie Gallagher, NMRLS Operations Coordinator, and quickly processed. If she has any questions, she contacts you. The Library is the member of the region, not the Library Teacher; but a requirement of membership is to have a certified Library Teacher managing the program and library.

Sometimes the biggest challenge to completing this paperwork is coordinating with your principal. Look at it as an opportunity to educate him or her about the region and what the membership gives the school.

So what does membership give my school? What's in it for me?

As Lucie Gallagher says, "Let me count the ways!"

Here a few ways:

- Advocacy – by completing a long range plan you are documenting the need and relevance of a library in a school
- Electronic Databases – available from the Region as well as the State
- Continuing Education – we offer a responsive slate of workshops to the needs of library teachers along with PDPs
- Purchasing coop – you can get considerable discounts for your purchases of books and supplies
- Networking – you can get linked to your school colleagues as well as your colleagues in other types of libraries
- Communication – be in the hub of things and join the discussion list and read the online newsletter
- Grant opportunities – eligibility for LSTA grants by having a long range plan in place
- Consulting – NMRLS staff are available for all types of consulting from facilities to collections
- Summer Reading Program – working with your public library colleagues on this adds tremendous value to what you offer your community