

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

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There was a new item on the agenda this year at the IALL Summer Board Meeting: Regional Groups. A little more than a year ago, before IALL '89, there was only a long-standing group in New England and a fledgling group in the Los Angeles area. Today, there are nine active regions organized to foster better communication among our colleagues and to bring more frequent opportunities for participation closer to home.

A New Regional Group

Broad boundaries for each region were suggested at the IALL '89 conference, with the hope and understanding that additional groups would spin off as the need to meet regional group goals arose. Marie Sheppard, host of the IALL Summer Board Meeting at the University of Colorado, Boulder, was the first to express that need. As a result, the Rocky Mountain Regional Group was founded on July 26, 1990. Our newest group will be comprised of colleagues in Wyoming (formerly in the North West region), Utah (formerly, Southwest), Colorado (formerly, South Central), and New Mexico (formerly, South Central). Marie, who brought years of experience with the New England regional group with her when she moved to Colorado, has agreed to lead this group. For more information on group activities and/or meetings, contact Marie Sheppard, Language Technology Center, Campus Box 239, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, 80309-0239. (303) 492-2355.

Quid Pro Quo

IALL has grown in many ways as a result of the burgeoning Regional Groups; in turn, our groups depend in as many different ways on IALL as a parent organization. And so,

there was much discussion at the Summer Board Meeting of how to recognize and quantify the symbiotic nature of these relationships. It was decided that IALL would provide official sanction and a financial contribution to each group that meets the following criteria.

1. The regional group leader is a member of IALL.
2. The regional group holds at least one meeting per year.
3. The group produces at least two newsletters per year, for example, one to announce and one to report on each meeting.
4. Each newsletter is sent to all IALL Board and Council members as well as to the regional group membership.

The Rewards for IALL

In return for official and financial support of the regional groups, IALL will benefit from the exposure that is best provided by local associations. At this level, people can manage to discover colleagues in their area, meet on a regular basis, and develop presentation and leadership skills in a comfortable environment. IALL invests in its future by sustaining the regional groups.

The Rewards for the Regional Groups

Each regional group will benefit in two ways from a formal partnership with IALL. By meeting the criteria outlined above, a group will be eligible for IALL affiliation.

Kathleen Ford is Director of the Language Lab at UCLA, and Regional Group Coordinator for IALL.

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(NOTE: The IALL Board reserves the right to terminate this relationship at any time.) This sanction will enable the group to borrow the logo, power, and influence of the international organization to attract members, for example, or to invite speakers for regional meetings.

An affiliated group may also receive financial support from IALL. Each year, a group leader can apply to receive two dollars for every IALL member in the boundaries of that region. This amount would supplement the

dues that each group may elect to charge and could be spent according to the wishes of the group.

A Bright Future

Formal partnership brings opportunities for each of us. We have people to contact, groups to form, skills to develop, and money to spend. We have valuable contributions to make to a strong international association. When we all meet again at IALL '91 in Los Angeles, we will be proud to share our success stories.