**Toolbox for Chapter and Volunteer Storyteller Success**

Materials developed, maintained and provided by the Spellbinders Resource Center

* Website (www.spellbinders.org) and Facebook page providing legitimacy to all Chapters with background information for prospective volunteers and teachers. A webpage for each Chapter will be ready by the end of the year.
* Online story archives and seasonal story suggestions for volunteers.
* Contact information online for prospective volunteers and teachers to contact Chapters directly.
* “Contact Us” button on website to further direct prospective volunteers and teachers to the right Chapter.
* Annual Meeting and quarterly Leadership Academies to bring leadership together to share ideas and troubleshoot.
* Monthly e-newsletters providing insight into other Chapters, storytelling in general and two stories a month. (Developed because Chapters told the SRC that it was really challenging for new tellers to find new stories.)
* Compiled statistics on the efficacy of the program along with an easy way for each Chapter to ask their teachers to participate in the survey. The survey is customizable so that each Chapter can ask unique questions.
* Ongoing facilitation — in person, on the phone and by email — of the flow of innovations and problem-solving ideas from one Chapter to another, to ease and inspire the management of all Chapters.
* The umbrella of nonprofit status and insurance for Chapters not affiliated with another organization (i.e. a library).
* Discounted bulk pricing on background checks.
* Certification of Spellbinders Trainers… the Training Manual all certified Trainers use… the Student Study Notes every volunteer receives for their initial training…
* **…and more!**

**What volunteer storytellers said when dues payments were instituted in 2016:**

“I can't think of any other organization that I belong to that doesn't require financial support. I think Spellbinders had no choice but to start a yearly payment. If I am remembering correctly, it will be $45 which is $5/month if you tell stories each month (9 ) during the school year. That seems to be a very manageable amount. If we truly respect and value an organization, we have to support it financially.”

-- Cindy Anderle, Larimer County Spellbinders

"I don’t see any problem for asking members to contribute. The educational sorority I belong to asks about the same amount. The services of the SRC are worth us paying for."

-- Kathleen Odefey, Littleton and Denver Spellbinders

“I can't commend you all enough for going ahead with the dues for membership; it's long overdue.  I'm so impressed with the idea that 1/3 of the dues go back to the chapters.  I think this creates a real selling point for the whole program.  And the Dues Bank is a great idea.”

-- Nora Heaton, Co-Founder of Larimer County Spellbinders

“All I can say is - FINALLY! I firmly believe that none of our individual chapters would be able to survive independently for very long in this day of increased scrutiny within any public school district. The fact that we are all associated with a national organization that provides very specific guiding principles and standards, certified training and the oversight of a governing structure gives us the legitimacy so necessary to gain access to our venues. That service alone is worth the price of admission! Congratulations on finally acknowledging the value of membership in Spellbinders.”

-- Mary Ann Janson, Mesa County Spellbinders

“I think that this is a great idea to have the dues due each year and I'm happy to pay them.  I have thought for some time that dues should be charged. Thank you for all that you do.”

-- Santa Gary Jones, Longmont Library Spellbinders