



AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY

2008 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

**American Montessori Society
281 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10010**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Overview Summary of Survey	1
Demographics	3
AMS Newsletter	5
<i>Montessori Life</i> Magazine	6
Email	7
Website	8
Conferences	9
Touring Symposia	12
Peace Retreat	13
Other Professional Development	14
Individual Members	15
Development	16
Overall Satisfaction	17
Heads of Schools	18
Teacher Education Program Directors	23
Notes	25

2008 Membership Survey

AMS thanks those individuals who participated in this survey. Our hope is to incorporate the recommendations of this survey in order to better serve our members and our community at large.

Participation

Members were invited to complete this online survey in January 2008. In order to increase participation, surveys were distributed and collected during the 2008 Annual Conference in Washington, DC, in March 2008. These results were then input by AMS staff. In total, AMS received 757 completed surveys from 914 respondents. Carla Hofland, Director of Member Services, along with Marie Conti, Senior Director of School Accreditation and Member Programs, and Doris Sommer, Senior Director of Teacher Education, analyzed the results which you see below.

It should be noted that no verification was made that all respondents were current AMS members since the survey could be completed anonymously.

Overview Summary of Survey

Demographics. The survey was completed by members from all constituent groups and from all geographic regions represented by our membership in the United States as well as 30 international respondents from 16 different countries. Of the respondents, 68% were teacher members, student teacher members or general members; 25% heads of schools; 5% heads of schools and teacher education program directors; and 2% teacher education program directors. An almost equal number of novice (members for fewer than 5 years) AMS member respondents and seasoned (members for more than 10 years) AMS members responded.

The main reasons why members join AMS: Professional development opportunities, promotion of quality Montessori education, to receive our publications and information.

Communications: Online newsletter, Montessori Life, AMS emails, Website: the newsletter and *Montessori Life* are read by a majority of the respondents and there was satisfaction with the newsletter and *Montessori Life*. There is minimal interest in the idea of an online version of *Montessori Life*. The majority of respondents read and were satisfied with the content and frequency of AMS emails. The website is used regularly with the employment opportunities, conference information and registration, and school directory being the most visited areas of the website. There was about 60% interest in accessing an online bibliography of Montessori resources. Access to Montessori-related research and suggestions for teachers through blog, or postings of lesson plans were significant comments for additions/improvements to the website.

Professional Development Opportunities: Conferences: A majority of respondents expressed interest in attending the annual conference. Many respondents (57%) had attended 1-5 annual conferences in the past. Limiting factors in conference attendance at both annual and fall conferences were cost of hotel and registration and distance. **Program Book:** Of the respondents, 68% read AMS email about conferences and 74% read the printed program book. 43% would be satisfied receiving the conference program information electronically rather than printed and 37% would not, with 20% feeling neutral. **Touring Symposia:** 60% of respondents had never attended touring symposia. A significant percentage of respondents indicated they would have interest in attending one in the future. **Peace Retreats:** 91% had never attended peace retreats, although 87% indicated they would have interest in attending one in the future. Most respondents indicated a significant interest in a **Speakers Bureau**.

Employment Opportunities: Are viewed positively through all venues: website, at conferences and in *Montessori Life*.

Member Benefits: *Montessori Life*, discounts at conferences, and discounts on publications were the most highly rated member benefits. The salary survey was rated as the next most important benefit.

Dues: 82% of members feel AMS member dues are fair with 17% indicating dues as too high.

Donations to AMS: main motivator for donations to AMS is that AMS embodies the donor's passions and they believe their money will be used wisely. Fifty-seven percent of those who do not contribute to AMS cite not be able to afford to give as the main reason.

Overall Satisfaction with AMS: 57% of respondents are satisfied with AMS; 24% very satisfied and 15% neutral. The three main areas of improvement suggested were: Access to Montessori resources, discounts on products/services and access to a Speakers Bureau.

School Comments: Most noted challenge of schools is hiring qualified teachers. Discounts on publications and brochures and online job postings were the most favored AMS school member benefits.

School Accreditation: Specific highlights of school accreditation questions noted a desire for the process to be more streamlined and less expensive. Those who have participated in school accreditation noted its benefits including: increased marketability of schools; increased recognition in the general public and educational communities; increased credibility; staff cohesion; continual school improvement; attraction of highly qualified teachers; affirmation to staff, faculty, and parents; licensing exemptions in some states.

Teacher Education: Many specifics of the teacher education affiliation process evaluation are noted within the report.

Demographics

1. Which of these AMS membership groups describes you? More than one may apply.

Membership Group	No. of Responses	Percent
Teacher	611	67
Head of School	266	29
Lifetime Member	118	13
General Member	91	10
Student Teacher	56	6

2. How long have you been a member of AMS?

Years of Membership	No. of Responses	Percent
Up to 5 Years	357	39
6-10 Years	162	18
More than 10 Years	351	39
Not Applicable	41	4
Total	911	100

3. Regions of the United States represented by the survey respondents

	No. of Responses
Northeast	215
South	243
Midwest	176
Plains	119
West	107

4. Countries (other than the United States) represented by the survey respondents

	No. of Responses
Brazil	2
Canada	16
China	1
Dominican Republic	1
Honduras	2
Hong Kong	1
India	1
Korea	1
Mexico	3
Philippines	1
South Africa	1
South Korea	2
St. Maarten	1
Switzerland	2
Thailand	1
United Arab Emirates	1

5. Why did you become a member of AMS? More than one may apply.

	No. of Responses	Percent
Professional development	687	75
Promotion of quality Montessori education	603	66
Receipt of information and publications	600	66
Conference/professional development discounts	464	51
Networking opportunities	428	47
Membership is required by school or TEP	267	29
Membership is sponsored by school or TEP	207	23
AMS on-line job opportunities	122	13
Ability to advertise in ML	54	6

AMS Newsletter

6. How often do you read the AMS Newsletter?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Always	445	50
Sometimes	367	41
Never	86	9
Total	898	100

7. If never, why not?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
I have e-mail, but don't receive the newsletter	88	73
I choose not to read it	28	23
I don't have e-mail	4	4
Total	120	100

8. How satisfied are you with the newsletter?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Satisfied	474	54
Neutral	314	36
Dissatisfied	11	1
Do not receive it	80	9
Total	879	100

9. Suggestions for improving the newsletter

Most common responses

	No. of Responses
Curriculum ideas	12
New materials ideas	7
Total responses	131

Montessori Life Magazine

10. How satisfied are you with *Montessori Life*?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Satisfied	694	79
Neutral	161	18
Dissatisfied	20	2
Do not receive it because I am an International Member	12	1
Total	887	100

11. If *Montessori Life* were available online:

	No. of Respondents	Percent
I would read it as a back-up to the hard copy	368	42
I would not read it online	329	37
I would prefer that to a hard copy	190	21
Total	887	100

12. Montessori Life Suggestions

Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
More research	18
Classroom Improvement Practices	17
More age-specific articles (especially Infant-Toddler)	15
Parent-friendly content	13
Articles by educators outside Montessori community	11
Curriculum and lessons	11
Total responses received	209

E-mail

13. How often do you read AMS e-mail regarding upcoming events and important updates?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Always	571	65
Sometimes	244	28
Never	56	6
I do not have e-mail	9	1
Total	880	100

14. If not, why not?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
I have e-mail, but don't receive AMS e-mail	56	77
I choose not to read it	14	19
I don't have e-mail	3	4
Total	73	100

15. What do you think about the number of e-mails AMS sends?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Just Right	690	79
Too many	83	9
Too few	45	5
I don't receive AMS e-mail	62	7
Total	880	100

16. How satisfied are you with the content of the AMS e-mails?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Satisfied	535	61
Neutral	274	31
Dissatisfied	9	1
I don't receive AMS e-mail	62	7
Total	880	100

Website

17. How often do you visit the AMS website?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
A few times a year	382	44
Monthly	230	26
Several times a month	161	19
Once a year	45	5
Never	54	6
Total	871	100

18. Which aspects of the AMS website are most useful to you?

Most common responses

	No. of Respondents
Employment Opportunities	154
Conference Information/Registration	145
School Directory	120
Events	73
Teacher Education	46
Total responses received	457

19. How satisfied are you with the AMS website?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Satisfied	529	61
Neutral	266	30
Dissatisfied	26	3
I don't visit the website	51	6
Total	871	100

20. Would you pay an additional fee to access an online bibliography of Montessori resources?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
No	447	51
Possibly	318	37
Yes	107	12
Total	871	100

21. Suggestions for improvements to the website

Most common responses:

	No. of Respondents
Access to Montessori-related research	19
Easier access to information	16
No additional fee for online bibliography	16
Teacher suggestions through blog or posting of lesson plan	16
More photos	10
Online bibliography	10
Better search function	9
Total responses received	217

22. What other educational organization's websites do you visit?

Most common responses

	No. of Respondents
NAMTA	90
NAEYC	73
AMI	58
ASCD	45
NAIS	43
IMC	20

Conferences

23. Which of these professional development events would you be likely to attend?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
The Annual Conference	583	68
The Fall Conference on the west coast	81	9
Both	132	14
Neither	88	9
Total	856	100

24. How many AMS Annual Conferences (spring of each year) have you attended?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
0	127	15
1-5	487	57
6-10	145	17
11-20	70	8
More than 20	28	3
Total	856	100

25. If you have never attended an AMS Annual Conference, why not? Check all that apply.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Cost (hotel)	108	58
Cost (registration)	101	55
Distance	101	55
Time of year	62	34
Not aware of them	9	5
Not interested	2	1
Other	59	32

26. If you have attended fewer AMS Annual Conferences than you would have liked, why is that? Check all that apply.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Cost (hotel)	378	64
Cost (registration)	327	55
Distance	372	63
Time of year	155	26
Other	96	16

27. Did you attend the 2007 AMS Fall Conference in Irvine, CA?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
No	762	89
Yes	95	11
Total	856	100

28. If no, why not? Check all that apply.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Distance	463	71
Cost (hotel)	372	57
Cost (registration)	333	51
Time of Year	291	45
Not aware of it	36	6
Not interested	28	4

29. Does your school/teacher education program contribute to your conference payment?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	576	67
No	233	27
Not applicable	48	6
Total	856	100

30. Do you read AMS e-mail providing information about upcoming conferences?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Always	580	68
Sometimes	220	26
Never (I choose not to)	7	>1
I don't receive AMS e-mail	50	6
Total	856	100

31. Do you read the printed program book before a conference?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Always	630	74
Only for some conferences	186	22
Never	41	4
Total	856	100

32. If never, why not?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
I don't receive a copy of the program	31	50
I read the program online	21	34
I'm not interested	10	16
Total	62	100

33. Would you feel satisfied receiving conference program information electronically prior to the conference instead of in printed form?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	368	43
No	314	37
Neutral	175	20
Total	856	100

34. Suggestions for improving conferences:
Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Less expensive	25
Have conferences in more geographic locations	15
Continue hard copies of program book	13
Longer lunch breaks	12
Box lunches	7
Presenters are recycled year after year	7
Total responses received	265

Touring Symposia

35. How many Touring Symposia have you attended?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
0	507	60
1-5	309	37
6-10	25	3
More than 10	7	<1
Total	848	100

36. If you have never attended a Touring Symposium, why not? Check all that apply.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Not aware of them	214	41
Distance	185	35
Cost (registration)	145	28
Cost (hotel)	124	24
Time of year	122	23
Not interested	45	9
Other	61	12

37. Would you be interested in attending Touring Symposia in the future?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	423	50
Possibly	392	46
No	33	4
Total	848	100

38. Comments on Touring Symposia
Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Location is very important	14
They are cost effective	8
Would depend on topic and time of year	7
Can cover one topic in depth	4
More publicity needed	4
They are great	4
Total responses received	149

Peace Retreat

39. How many AMS Peace Retreats have you attended?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
0	769	91
1-5	72	9
6-10	2	<1
More than 10	1	<1
Total	844	100

40. If you have never attended a Peace Retreat, why not? Check all that apply.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Not aware of them	315	42
Distance	224	30
Cost (registration)	221	29
Cost (hotel)	218	29
Time of year	175	23
Not interested	92	12
Other	91	12

41. Would you be interested in attending a Peace Retreat in the future?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	308	37
Possibly	423	50
No	113	13
Total	844	100

Other Professional Development

42. Would you be interested in participating in webinars (online conferences/seminars)?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	246	29
Possibly	407	48
No	189	23
Total	842	100

43. Would you be interested in accessing information from a speakers bureau about speakers who could present in your school or region on various topics?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	517	61
Possibly	254	30
No	71	9
Total	842	100

44. If you were interested in webinars and/or speakers bureau, please rate the following topics:

Topic	Useful	Neutral	Not Useful	No. of Respondents
Classroom Management	630 (85%)	97 (13%)	19 (2%)	746
Parent Issues	630 (85%)	106 (14%)	6 (1%)	742
Curriculum	621 (84%)	101 (14%)	16 (2%)	738
Learning Differences	630 (84%)	106 (14%)	11 (2%)	747
Research Studies	523 (73%)	175 (24%)	23 (3%)	721
Philosophy/Theory	520 (72%)	183 (25%)	17 (3%)	720
Peace Education	522 (72%)	186 (26%)	21 (3%)	729
Diversity	436 (61%)	247 (35%)	27 (4%)	710
Administrative Issues	393 (56%)	244 (35%)	67 (9%)	704
Public Policy Issues	323 (48%)	301 (44%)	59 (8%)	692

45. Suggestions for Speaker Topics:

Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Parental involvement	14
Public school initiatives	10
Learning differences	9
Technology in the classroom	9
Classroom management	8
Total responses	156

46. Suggestions for Speakers:

Most common response: Jonathan Wolff – 6 responses received

Total responses received: 92

47. Where do you consult AMS employment opportunity listings? Check all that apply.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
AMS Website	449	53
Bulletin boards at AMS conferences	154	18
<i>Montessori Life</i> magazine	304	36
I don't consult listings	303	36
Total	841	

48. Have you found employment through AMS employment listings?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	84	10
No, I tried but was not successful	154	18
I never tried	603	72
Total	841	100

Individual Members

49. Please rate the following individual member benefits:

Benefit	Useful	Neutral	Not Useful	No. of Respondents
Subscription to <i>Montessori Life</i>	751 (90%)	78 (9%)	6 (1%)	835
Discounted conference registration fees	739 (89%)	87 (10%)	9 (1%)	835
Discounts on AMS brochures/publications	521 (63%)	273 (33%)	41 (4%)	835
Salary survey	505 (61%)	265 (32%)	65 (7%)	835
Voting rights in AMS elections	345 (41%)	419 (50%)	71 (9%)	835
\$5 discount on purchases from Nienhuis Montessori USA	329 (40%)	335 (40%)	171 (21%)	835
Comprehensive health insurance	176 (21%)	363 (44%)	296 (35%)	835
Discounted GEICO auto insurance	156 (19%)	344 (41%)	335 (40%)	835
Bank of America credit card	81 (9%)	338 (41%)	416 (50%)	835

50. Please rate our membership fees:

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Too low	6	1
Fair	687	82
Too high	142	17
Total	835	100

Development

51. If you donate money to AMS, what motivates you to give? Check all that apply.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
AMS embodies my passions	187	50
I believe my money will be used wisely	176	47
I am impressed with where the organization has been and where it is going	143	38
I want to support the Living Legacy honoree	112	30
Other	57	15

52. If you are not a regular contributor to AMS, why not? Check all that apply.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
I cannot afford to contribute	324	57
I contribute to other organizations	178	31
I don't know how my contributions would be used	97	17
I choose not to contribute	55	10
Other	70	12

53. Would you be inclined to donate more to AMS if you could make a pledge payable throughout the year instead of a lump sum payment?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	43	5
Possibly	317	38
No	475	57
Total	835	100

Overall Satisfaction

54. Please rate your general level of satisfaction with AMS:

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Very satisfied	196	24
Satisfied	468	57
Neutral	119	15
Dissatisfied	30	4
Very dissatisfied	3	<1
Total	815	100

55. If we could improve in three areas, which should we focus on? Select a maximum of three.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Access to Montessori resources	531	65
Discounts on products/services	391	48
Create a speakers bureau	360	44
Annual conference	324	40
Website	219	27
Discount on publications	199	24
<i>Montessori Life</i> magazine	173	21
Other publications	146	18
Fall conference	105	13

56. Recommendations to help AMS better serve you as a member:

Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Improve teacher training	10
More responsiveness to email and telephone calls	10
Research	9
Improve schools	8
Total responses received	233

57. Please indicate the category below that best describes you.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
I am a teacher member, student teach member or general member	486	68
I am a head of school	177	25
I am both a head of school and a teacher education Director	36	5
I am a teacher education director	21	2
Total	719	100

Heads of Schools

58. Rate the following School Member benefits:

Benefit	Useful	Neutral	Not Useful	No. of Respondents
Discounts on AMS brochures/publications	155 (70%)	58 (25%)	11 (5%)	224
Online job postings	152 (69%)	49 (21%)	21 (10%)	222
Discounts from Nienhuis Montessori	137 (61%)	65 (29%)	22 (10%)	224
Heads of Schools ListServer	106 (48%)	94 (43%)	20 (9%)	220
Voting rights in AMS elections	92 (41%)	103 (46%)	30 (13%)	225
Comprehensive health insurance	60 (27%)	95 (42%)	69 (31%)	224
AMS EZweb for websites	44 (20%)	115 (53%)	60 (27%)	219
Disability insurance plan	39 (18%)	116 (52%)	68 (30%)	223
Term life insurance plan	38 (17%)	117 (53%)	68 (30%)	223
GEICO auto insurance	33 (15%)	98 (44%)	89 (41%)	220
SMART Tuition	29 (13%)	107 (49%)	82 (38%)	218
Bank of America credit card	13 (6%)	94 (43%)	112 (51%)	219

59. How relevant are the following to your school?

	Relevant	Neutral	Not Relevant	No. of Respondents
Identifying and addressing the needs of today's children	213 (94%)	11 (5%)	2 (1%)	226
Identifying and addressing the needs of today's teachers	205 (90%)	18 (8%)	4 (2%)	227
Building school community—children, faculty, staff, parent, local neighborhood	201 (89%)	22 (10%)	2 (1%)	226
Reflecting on curriculum and assessment and implementing changes when necessary	199 (88%)	25 (11%)	2 (1%)	226
Access to current Montessori/educational research	198 (87%)	25 (11%)	4 (2%)	227
Health, safety and welfare of children	192 (86%)	30 (14%)	1 (<1%)	223
Identifying, recruiting and hiring well-prepared Montessori teachers for both public and private educational communities	192 (85%)	29 (13%)	5 (2%)	226
Honoring and fostering Dr. Montessori's philosophy and tenets while simultaneously incorporating current state and federal mandates into curricular areas	184 (81%)	33 (15%)	10 (4%)	227
Fostering Montessori research	180 (81%)	36 (16%)	7 (3%)	223
Meeting budgetary concerns in a rapidly changing economy	178 (80%)	37 (17%)	7 (3%)	222
Marketing my school	166 (76%)	44 (20%)	8 (4)	218
Public policy issues on state level	153 (69%)	59 (27%)	9 (4%)	221
Public policy issues on regional level	141 (63%)	71 (32%)	11 (5%)	223
Public policy issues on national level	124 (56%)	85 (39%)	12 (5%)	221

60. What are other challenges for schools?

Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Hiring qualified teachers	16
Educating parents about Montessori	10
Achieving financial prosperity	10
Total responses received	93

61. What are the current needs of your school?

Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Hiring qualified teachers	21
Space	17
Enrollment	10
Financial strength	9
Total responses received	93

62. What are your suggestions for AMS support for your school?

Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Consultation resources	5
Accreditation help	4
Research	4
Public policy support	3
Speakers bureau	3
Total responses received	84

63. If you are not planning to attend the Heads of Schools Retreat in January, why not? Check all that apply.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Cost	127	62
Distance	102	50
Unable to take time off	92	45
Time of year	82	40
Location	52	25
Not aware of retreat	24	12
Attend another conference	17	8
No interest in attending	9	4
No interest in topic	5	2
Other	34	17

64. If you have never attended a Heads of Schools Retreat, what prevents you from attending? Check all that apply.

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Cost	106	64
Distance	80	48
Unable to take time off	70	42
Time of year	66	40
Location	45	27
Not aware of retreat	16	10
Attend another conference	14	8
No interest in attending	8	5
No interest in topic	4	2
Other	26	16

65. Would you attend a Heads Retreat if:

	Yes	Possibly	No	No. of Respondents
The professional development was more in-depth	79 (42%)	76 (41%)	31 (17%)	186
It was located at a hotel other than a resort	41 (22%)	98 (53%)	46 (25%)	185
It was held at another time of year	57 (30%)	106 (55%)	28 (15%)	191

66. Have you used AMS school consultation?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	58	26
No	164	74
Total	222	100

67. Rate consultation process:

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Satisfied	43	35
Neutral	18	14
Dissatisfied	5	4
Not applicable	59	47
Total	125	100

68. Comments on school consultation. Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Valuable experience	9
Not enough consultants	4
Total responses received	47

69. How might we improve the school consultation process? Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Decrease cost	2
Simplify the process	2
Total responses received	25

70. Is your school accredited by AMS or MSAC?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Yes	68	32
No	142	68
Total	210	100

71. Comments on the accreditation process. Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Worth the effort	8
Expensive	6
Difficult for small schools	5
Overwhelming	4
Very helpful	4
Time consuming	4
Total responses received	94

72. What do you see as the benefits of having become accredited? Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Attractive to families	17
Process is valuable	14
Give credibility to school	14
Represents critical standards met	11
Is a recognition of quality	10
Total responses received	80

73. How might we improve the accreditation process? Most common responses:

	No. of Responses
Simplify, streamline	7
Lower the cost	7
Total responses received	56

74. This completes the Heads of School section. Please answer the following question to complete the survey:

	No. of Respondents	Percent
I am also a Teacher Education Program Director	35	19
I am not a Teacher Education Program Director	152	81
Total	187	100

Teacher Education Program Directors

75. How satisfied are you with the teacher education affiliation process?

	No. of Respondents	Percent
Satisfied	27	41
Neutral	23	35
Dissatisfied	10	15
N/A	6	9
Total	66	100

76. Comments on teacher education affiliation

Process

To become an AMS Full Affiliate, a teacher education program must be MACTE accredited. It is the reviewer's opinion that responses are directed more to MACTE accreditation process rather than AMS affiliation process (one respondent indicated s/he is not AMS affiliated, but MACTE accredited). TEAC is discussing how better to support programs during the affiliation process. AMS Verifier Training is being developed to support AMS verifiers and TEPs during the on-site visit and to bring consistency to the process.

Education of Constituents

For AMS affiliation only AMS requirements beyond MACTE requirements are part of the application for affiliation. For requirements that are common to both MACTE and AMS, the TEAC defers to MACTE to verify the TEPs are in compliance with those Essential Standards and Criteria. Comments indicate that some TEPs are not aware of this. TEAC is revising the *AMS Affiliation Handbook*. In addition, the committee is discussing the appropriate frequency of changes to the Handbook. Changes are posted on the TEC Website.

Affiliate Status

5 of the 33 respondents provided comments once a program is an AMS Full Affiliate. The suggestion concerning improvement in AMS database is part of the proposal for the new database.

77. What do you see as the benefits of having become affiliated? – 33 responses

AMS Credential for Graduates

- AMS credential is very desirable; embodies high standards
- National significance to credential
- Worldwide recognition of credentials; internationally recognized credential
- AMS Teacher Education Scholarship opportunities

Teacher Education Programs

- Provides focus and status of quality
- AMS recognition; legitimacy; AMS has a reputation in the Montessori community which is positive; AMS protects the quality of Montessori education
- AMS is professional organization that provides TEPs more authority as professionals and gives new teachers an opportunity to network and learn
- Use of AMS name
- AMS Website Listing
- Networking and clout
- Credibility
- Voice and benefits
- Collegiality with TEP peers
- Professional development at TEP level
- Takes one back to his/her training “roots”
- Recognition for prospective students
- Very important graduates hold AMS credential

78. How might we improve the affiliation process? – 28 responses

As with responses to question #76, it is difficult to determine if affiliation process responses are directed to AMS affiliation or MACTE accreditation or both. Affiliation workshop is offered at AMS conferences – a second could be offered to go through the writing process. Verifier training workshop is currently being developed. Database suggestions are included in discussion for new database.

Notes

Definitions

Northeast - Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Southeast - Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Midwest - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Plains - Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas.

West - Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Possible Sources of Bias

AMS members number over 12,000; yet only 700 people completed this survey. Also, as mentioned above, no verification was made that all respondents were current members of AMS.

Many individual comments were received in the survey. Responses of similar nature were collated together. This is a representative sample of the numerous unique comments received.

Contact Information

Please help us make the next Membership Survey even better. If you would like to see additional information or have an idea to make the report more effective, please send your comments to:

Carla Hofland
Director, Member Services
American Montessori Society
281 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010
Carla@amshq.org
212/358-1250