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Dear Handbell Directors,

You and your ringers are invited to participate in the 32nd Annual WELS Handbell Festival. This year there will be one national festival. The festival includes Saturday as a day of rehearsing and a festival concert on Sunday at 2:00 P.M.

Date: April 9-10, 2011

Site: Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI

Site Coordinator: Craig Hirschmann

The Music Selection Committee for the WELS Handbell Festivals has met and has selected music for the 2011 national festival. Janeen Roska, Cheryl Diener, Tamara Koenig, and I attended the Music Selection Committee meeting. "I BELIEVE—Ringing the Apostles' Creed" was chosen as the theme for the 2011 national festival. In choosing the music we tried to respond to comments that were offered during the directors' meetings. The music spans the church year. Some include organ, instrumental parts, hand chimes and vocal choir. In response to the increasing cost of music, five repeats were chosen. You will find the music list on the website, www.welsbells.com.

If you are new to festivals, do not let the long list of music discourage you. Your first step should be to choose which choir—Jubilate, Laudate or Exaltate—is best for your choir. We will continue the Jubilate choir this year in order to encourage more beginning choirs or those with only 2 octaves to participate in the festival. This music is somewhat easier and written for those choirs that have 2-3 octaves. Laudate music is somewhat moderate. Exaltate music is more challenging. If you direct a beginning choir, or are participating in a handbell festival for the first time, the Jubilate or Laudate Choir music is recommended. Learn all three pieces assigned to the choir you choose. Then learn as many of the mass numbers that your choir can handle. You do not have to learn all of the mass numbers. Limit yourself to those that you can prepare well. Some churches bring two or three choirs to festival and they divide the music between the choirs. If you have only one choir you are welcome to ring all 15 pieces, but it is not required.

You may obtain your music from several sources:

*Northwestern Publishing House: Use a NPH order blank or call 1-800-662-6022. Indicate you are ordering festival music.

*Heitz Handbells and Music, Norman Heitz, 1-877-426-3235; normheitz@usfamily.net

*Jeffers Handbell Supply, 1-800-JHS-BELL, www.handbellworld.com

*Wisconsin National Music Sales, 1-414-327-7336, fax 414-327-7357, wnms@sbcglobal.net

Northeast Region	Southeast Region	Western Region	Treasurer
Debi Traeder 2706 Pleasant View Dr. Schofield, WI 54476 (715) 551-0966 traeders@charter.net	Neva Kimble 2532 N. 115 th St. Wauwatosa, WI 53226 (414) 238-3554 nkimble@wi.rr.com	Brian Schwanz 1029 N. Park St. Watertown, SD 57201 (605) 884-1012 watermusik@hotmail.com	Gwen Tjernagel 620 Page Avenue North Mankato, MN 56003 (507) 387-1501 gwen@gtbugs.com

All of the above have been supplied with a list of our festival music. Several of these businesses have discount policies. If you would like to see a copy before you purchase, several businesses will send out one copy on approval. Please ask your supplier.

Please remember that it is illegal to copy music. If you do copy music, for a legitimate reason, you must have the same number of originals on site. If you do not, you will not be allowed to participate in the Festival; the liability for such illegal activity is shared by all of us. More information about copying music may be found at www.mpa.org/copyright_resource_center/copying. Copyright Agreement: I will comply with the copyright laws of the United States of America as they pertain to printed music or the downloading of music off the internet. (Compliance with these laws is also a condition of participation by clinicians and performing ensembles that appear on any sponsored event or convention.) Recording the sounds, or sounds and images, of the musical performances is not permitted. Any such recording is in violation of the Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. §1101).

On the music list you will find a source to use to hear the piece. You will also find a link on our website to listen to the music. Directors' notes and hotel information will be placed on our website, www.welsbells.com as soon as they are available. Schedules, maps, posters, etc. will also be placed there when available.

On the website you will now find the music list, preliminary registration form, and national chairperson nomination form. At the 2011 festival I will complete my term as national chairperson. I have served two consecutive terms and therefore I am not able to be reelected. If there is someone that you would like to nominate to this position please read through the form on the website and return it to me by October 15.

Those items listed above have not been included in this mailing. You will need to visit the website and print them. If you are unable to do so please contact me. Please note the due dates for all of those forms. Please complete the preliminary registration form and return it to me by **OCTOBER 15**. This will not commit you to festival participation, but will give us an idea of how many will likely be attending. **Please return this form whether or not you are planning to participate. IF YOU DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2011 FESTIVAL.** No fees need to be sent with this form. We will use the information on the form to update our mailing lists and files.

We are asking each choir to bring a banner to the festival site. This tradition has been very well received at each festival. The banner should measure five feet by three feet and be attached to a six foot pole, placed in a standard. You will need to provide the pole and standard. Most banners include the church/school name and location. This is not a requirement. If you do not have a banner, please do not let that be the deciding factor in attending a festival.

Please help us maintain a complete list of WELS and ELS congregations and schools with handbells. If you know of any congregation or school that you think is not on our mailing list, or hear of a congregation acquiring bells, please pass that information to me.

Festival Business

On Friday, July 23 the regional representatives and I met to discuss and plan for the festival. You will find the representatives' contact information on the front page. Gwen Tjernagel has agreed to serve another year as our treasurer. Debi Traeder will serve as the secretary.

Fees for the 2011 national festival are as follows.

Registration Fee: \$35 for the first choir, \$50 for two choirs and \$65 for three choirs.
It will be refunded only if the entire choir withdraws from the festival by February 15.

“Orphan Ringers:” If you have 5 or fewer ringers who would like to come to the festival and be “adopted” by another choir the fee for each of those ringers is \$5. They will also pay the participant fee.

Participant Fee: \$10.00 per participant—ringers and directors. It is non-refundable.
This will be due March 1. If the registration is postmarked after this date a \$20.00 late fee will be added. Our site coordinator needs time to plan accordingly with the number of participants expected.

In December you will find the final registration forms on the website. I will not be mailing them unless I do not have an email address for you. Some directors have used a church secretary email address as a way of receiving emails from me. Please choose the address that works best for you. Please print clearly when writing your email address on the form.

If you have any questions or concerns about the 2011 festival you may contact me, your regional representative or the site coordinator, whomever you think could best answer your question.

If you have never joined us at a handbell festival, we urge you to join us this year. If it has been some years since you've rung at a WELS Handbell Festival, ring with us again this year. The ringers and directors experience a special bond of Christian fellowship through working together at a festival. Festivals also give ringers and directors an opportunity to discuss music and problems associated with bell ringing. Our motto is “We gather together to give our best to the Lord of our salvation and to His assembled saints.”

Yours in Christ,

Kim M. Pilz
WELS National Chairperson