

To the Accordion Community of the Pacific Northwest and
to all Friends of the Accordion:

Make your plans today! The Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration will be June 16 – 19, 2011 in Leavenworth, Washington - presented by the Northwest Accordion Society.

I must admit that my communication with you all last year was a bit desperate! We needed financial support and the amount necessary to continue the accordion celebration was daunting. Bonnie Birch submitted requests for grants and they were awarded; accordionists far and wide sent financial support too. It was thrilling to see the necessary funds come and to know that the celebration was really going to happen. The Northwest Accordion Society made a leap of faith and the accordion community responded in a great way.

With last year's successful festival, we can plan for 2011. Thankfully we are not desperate. We do not have funding for the entire event, however. Bonnie has submitted applications on our behalf for funding grants again. The awards are dependent upon the event's promoting the Bavarian quality of the Leavenworth community. Those responsible for managing the funds were pleased with our work last year and we feel confident that the money will be awarded again. As last year, we will commit to providing Bavarian/ethnic, audience friendly music at the gazebo.

Unless we raise additional funds, the competition piece of the festival will be pretty much the same. I have a passion for amateurism and for the benefits of competition and evaluation. Steve Berg and I had some "great" ideas for the competition last year, but each brilliant thought was met with the comment, "That costs money!" It was necessary to be conservative with prize money and incentives not knowing what income we could generate. For our first year's competition, we were able to give a total of \$3,855.00 in cash awards to competitors. We are planning to increase the cash awards for competition and provide additional incentives for competitors this year. I'm especially excited about that.

The Leavenworth Accordion Celebration needs your support! To be successful, we need accordion players and friends to participate in the activities planned. Accordion teachers, encourage your students to compete and/or to participate in the evaluation category. As before, we need your volunteer help during your stay. We are committed to the importance of competition/evaluation but entry - fees do not begin to cover the costs for competition. We know that young people and adult learners need incentives to participate. In order to increase the cash awards and provide additional incentives, we ask for your financial support. To accomplish the goals we have for the competitions, we are seeking donations to be used expressly for that purpose.

Your cash gifts will be recognized; individuals and clubs will be honored for their support in the *Northwest Accordion News*. Make out your checks to The Northwest Accordion Society 5102 NE 121st Ave Unit 12 Vancouver, WA 98682. Note the designation for Leavenworth. (Contributions can be made via PayPal to: www.nwasnews.com)

Thank you for considering this request for support. We look forward to a successful accordion celebration in June. Updates concerning the accordion celebration will be posted on the official Accordion Celebration web site: www.accordioncelebration.org

Sincerely,
Doris Osgood, Vice President
Northwest Accordion Society

The Day of the Accordion WILL take place February 27, 2011 at the Center House of the Seattle Center 11:30 – 4:30 PM then join us in Leavenworth June 16 – 19, 2011 for the *love of the accordion*.