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The telephone number for the IRS 1042 hotline is (215) 516-2000.

It is very important for all chapters to comply with the IRS regulations to ensure that the chapter's and AOSA's tax exempt status as a non-profit organization is not jeopardized.

If you are considering contracting with an international presenter, it may be in your chapter's best interests to have an accountant work with you so that you completely understand the tax ramifications before you sign a contract.

Alabama Chapter Shares the Wealth

Sharon August, Region IV Representative

Five years ago Sharon August and Theresa McKibben led the Alabama chapter in creating a summer music camp for children in grades K-5. The original purpose of the camp was to provide funds to assist the chapter in hosting the 2005 AOSA National Conference. A secondary, but equally important purpose was to provide scholarships for chapter members seeking Levels training. The success of the annual Music Camp has allowed the chapter to provide scholarships for Levels training for five teachers and workshop fees for members, while also allowing the chapter to keep a healthy bank balance.

This year, the executive board of the Alabama chapter voted to share the profits of the chapter's annual music camp with AOSA. President Mary Shaw presented the proposal to the chapter, and the chapter voted unanimously to donate ten percent of the profits of music camp to the Annual Fund (Operating Expenses) of AOSA.

The generous donation could not have come at a more opportune time. The economic downturn has noticeably affected non-profit organizations like AOSA. One in every two nonprofits report that funding has fallen, according to "The Quiet Crisis," a new report by Civic Enterprises, a social-issues think tank. When the economy stalled in the early 1970s, charitable giving fell more than 9%. Experts believe something like that will occur in this recession, too.

In an effort to balance the budget of AOSA, the National Board has recommended a number of changes. For example, next year the Membership Directory will be published exclusively on the AOSA Website. This one step will save nearly \$32,000.00 in postage and printing costs and allow AOSA to "go green" in this area. Cost cutting is taking place in all areas. Even Headquarters in Cleveland is working with a bare-bones budget—just two rooms plus storage could put the AOSA office on the pages of *Real Simple* magazine!

The Alabama chapter challenges other chapters and members to consider directing donations this year to the AOSA Annual Fund to make it possible to make up for the current projected budget shortfall. Our scholarship funds are in good shape and the interest they generate will continue. Until the economy improves, however, donations to the Annual Fund will help keep AOSA operational. This is your chance to change the world with your gift by supporting the organization that brings Orff Schulwerk to the teachers, and ultimately to the children of America.