

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association Inc.
Unofficial Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
Orlando, Florida
Thursday, September 1, 2005

Trustees in Attendance:

Rev. Richard Price Baskwill (President); Janet Briggs; Betty Cullingworth; Hywel Davies; David W. Evans Jr.; Sally Evans Funderburk; Trudy Howells-Murphy; Rev. Robert Hughes; David E. Jones; Ada Mae Lewis; Ann McFerrin; Roy Morris (Vice President); Gerri Baker Parry; Robert Roser; John Ellis.

- 1. Call to Order; Opening prayer; Certification of Quorum:** President Dic Baskwill opened the meeting with a prayer. Noting that there was a quorum present, the president emphasized his intention to pursue common consent whenever possible.
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda:** Colonel Alf Reese's presentation was added to the agenda as the first item of business. The agenda was then adopted as amended.

2a Report of Colonel Alf Reese: Colonel Alf Reese reminded the present Board of the commitment made by a former Board to develop a documentary on the Welsh of North America. A donation of \$3000 had been made by an anonymous donor around 1990 and a similar amount by Colonel Alf Rees. At that time the WNGGA Board pledged \$10,000 to the project as did the North American Welsh Foundation. Colonel Reese is committed to putting a script together and wished to remind the Board of its previous interest and commitment to the project. The president thanked Colonel Reese for his continuing interest and involvement.
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting:** Roy Morris moved the adoption of the minutes; seconded by Janet Briggs. There was a request that the minutes be printed in future on a lighter shade of paper for ease of reading.
- 4. President's Report:** Dic Baskwill spoke to his report emphasizing his gratitude to all those who had worked diligently in preparing the NAFOW festivals in Orlando and Cincinnati and beyond; he especially noted the exemplary work of John and Karen Ellis. The president also reminded board members of the need to conscript both board members and other volunteers, noting the need for talented and dedicated people to sustain the organization. Fiscal responsibility was emphasized with a possible review of our mode of operation as expressed in the constitution also being required. The full report was received; a copy is on file.
- 5. International Headquarters Report:** John Ellis gave a Membership Status report noting that there were 2282 members as of 8/31/05. Annual dues-paying members number 312. There were 42 new individual members this year. A Publication/Sales Inventory was also distributed. The **Hwyl** is now being printed

annually and will feature more pages. The Orlando registration system of an all-inclusive \$55/person fee has had a positive response with a few negative responses being noted. Registration for Orlando is down with hurricane fears playing a role in that reduction. The need to fly to a destination also seems to have had a negative impact on registration. However there has been a high level of excitement re “Disneyworld” with 102 registrations (25% approximately) from Florida. A significant number of these are new registrants. Both Orlando and Buffalo have demonstrated that the NAFOW can be organized on a remote basis. This year more of the work has been disseminated amongst a greater number of people but the load is still heavy for a small minority. Under the new structure, the festival committee and the BOT are somewhat synonymous. There must be a 100% commitment to be actively involved. It was noted that through electronic means, board members can be involved even if unable to attend meetings in person. John Ellis noted that it is now time to review the new NAFOW structure to determine where refinements might be made. He stressed the need for flexibility as the Board moves forward. A report has been received and placed on file.

6. Board of Trustees Committee Reports:

6.1 Local Venue 2005 Orlando: Janet Briggs reported that the NAWF had donated \$1000 to the banquet and that the Welsh American Chamber of Commerce was represented in the marketplace. There are efforts being made to get the North American Society of Welsh Culture and History (NAASWCH) involved in future events. Thanks were extended to Dr. David Williams for his work on the program booklet for this year’s festival. It was noted that a troubleshooting sheet had been developed to cover all exigencies that might arise. There was a need for BOT members to act as assistants to the speakers at some of the seminars. Comments were made by John Ellis re the financial aspects of this year’s festival as of August 29, 2005. It is hoped to make a modest profit but revenues needed to sustain the headquarters and the associated payroll obligations, the newsletter and the festival registration package are unlikely to be generated. It was suggested that the executive might need to review how to meet expenses until the funds hopefully generated by the Cincinnati NAFOW are realized. The report was received and a copy is on file.

6.2 Program Development: Bob Roser gave the report highlighting the contracts already in hand for the Orlando event and the ongoing work in completing contracts for Cincinnati. Bob discussed the problems associated with making travel arrangements with the artists and suggested that a travel agency be involved in this process in future. He also suggested that non-refundable tickets are not a good way to proceed even though they are somewhat cheaper. Bob mentioned the new format of a jam session after the Friday night concert. This will be evaluated re its potential for future sites as well. Background information on presenters for

future seminars was also given. Hywel Davies spoke to the need to cover a wide spectrum of topics in the seminars and to avoid annual repetition where possible. There was a query re the possibility of separating the program/entertainment portfolio from the seminar portfolio as both jobs entail a substantial amount of work. A full report has been received and is on file.

6.3 Scholarship/Grants: Ada Mae Lewis spoke to her report noting that there were 7 applications this year, a smaller number than in previous years. Information re the winners was included in the report. Ada Mae emphasized that the grants program is a good publicity vehicle. She also noted that changes were made this year in the application process with forms being made available electronically. This allows for Headquarters to be the central repository of information. The forms will continue to be refined. Information re the scholarship/grants programs is made available through ads in the Ninnau. It was suggested that to reduce the cost of the advertisements, articles about the winners, with photographs where possible, be submitted to the Ninnau for publication. The complete report was received and a copy is on file.

6.4 Sunday Activities Committee: The Reverend Robert Hughes presented his report and noted that the some details re the Sunday program in Cincinnati were already in place. Roy Morris has agreed to be the conductor of the Gymanfa; the Reverend Deian Evans of Toronto will be the guest preacher and Alan Thomas of Ottawa will be the organist. There was discussion around the importance of consulting the local community in advance of making key decisions re the availability of appropriate local people for roles in the service. Perhaps the local chair should sit on the Sunday Activities committee. The chairman also spoke of the need to refine some of the committee tasks. A report was received and is on file.

6.5 Revenue/Sponsorship: Hywel Davies spoke of the committee's targeting of larger donors on a three level matrix with amounts suggested of \$5000, \$10,000 and \$15000. At \$20000 dollars there would be co-sponsorship. Only the Welsh tourist Board responded at the \$5000 level. This involvement would be recognized at the Hin Deg concert. The focus was on sponsors at the \$1000 level with the WNAF and NAASWCH both donating \$1000. The target for the years was \$21,000. The total achieved was \$7000. Hywel spoke to these results with the following comments: Sponsorship must be vigorously pursued and that is hard to do with a distributed committee. The follow up needs to be done by a concentrated group/individual. Organizations in the Midwest need to be approached for significant sponsorship in Cincinnati. There needs to be local sponsorship with a more focused intent. Hywel suggested developing a prospectus. A tape or disc could be included with the sponsorship materials. Perhaps the NAFOW in Cincinnati could be use as a marketing activity (possibly with help from the Rio Grande University). This product could then be used as a publicity tool for future events. A report was received and is on file.

- 6.6 Eisteddfod Report:** Betty Cullingworth spoke to the need to review numbers of participants after the Cincinnati NAFOW to determine whether such a full syllabus of events would be offered in future venues. Ed Field would be approached re method of payment to the winner of the David Morris award. Alan Upshaw would be asked to contact David Morris about his ongoing sponsorship of the award. It was suggested that an article on David Morris be included in next year's program booklet. A full report was received and is on file.
- 6.7 Future Venues:** John Ellis presented the report. It was read and received. It was moved by Janet Briggs and seconded by Robert Hughes that the NAFOW be held in the vicinity of Washington D.C. in 2007. The motion was passed. It was noted that the Smithsonian Institute would be featuring a Folk Life Festival in 2007. Could that benefit NAFOW?
- 6.8 Publication Committee:** Chair David Williams was given kudos for his work on the committee and the program booklet. A report was received and a copy is on file.
- 6.9 Local Venue 2006 Cincinnati:** Ian Morris, the Cincinnati chairperson, submitted a report indicating that plans for Cincinnati are well in hand. There was some indication of the need to keep local communities apprised of NAFOW decisions re location to ensure local "buy in". There is still work to be done around finalizing seminars and providing tours etc. but the groundwork has been firmly laid. A report was received and is on file.
- 7. Treasurer's Report:** Earlier in the meeting, John Ellis spoke to the treasurer's report indicating the discrepancy between income projected at about \$18,000 and expenses at \$62,000. The difference of \$44,000 needs to be raised by the festival itself. The headquarters is budgeted separately and is a bare bones budget. David Jones presented his budget noting that it was being submitted subject to being audited. He noted that the end of the fiscal year was June 30, 2005. David praised John and Karen Ellis for all their work in making the transition between himself and previous treasurer, Huw Williams, proceed smoothly. A copy of the report is on file.
- 8. New Business:** Betty Cullingworth enquired as to the possibility of coffee being served at the board meetings. John Ellis suggested that the cost could not be borne by the board in its present financial situation. The suggestion was made that a break be taken to allow members to get libations/snacks as needed. Betty further commented on the decrease in productivity when there are no breaks in a long meeting.
- New Business (continued):** Ada Mae Lewis requested that the large print hymnals be reordered when monies become available.

- 9. Announcements:** President Dic Baskwill announced the next BOT meeting was scheduled for Saturday, September 3 from 12:00 to 1 P.M. in the same venue.

The closing prayer was given by Reverend Robert Hughes followed by a motion of adjournment.