

Scholarship & Grants Committee Report 2005

There were 7 applications to the Scholarship & Grants Committee (S&G) in 2005, many fewer than other years. Of these, 5 were applications from groups for grants and 2 were from individuals for scholarships. The committee approved the following groups be awarded grants.

- 1- Cymdeithas Madog for scholarships to attend Cwrs Cymraeg to be held at Rio Grande University, July 2005. \$1,000.
- 2- Welsh Heritage and Culture Centre, Inc., Wymore, NE, to sponsor a Welsh musical group, Oceans Apart, at the town's summer festival. \$500.
- 3- Welsh Society of Fredericksburg, VA, to co-sponsor the Welsh Festival of Fredericksburg. \$1,000.

The Committee was allotted \$3,000 and awarded \$2,500.

Two individuals applied for scholarships. One application was referred to the WNGGA Youth Initiative Committee and the other did not meet the purpose of the WNGGA as set out in the general instructions, point 1. This applicant was referred to the Welsh Home for possible scholarship opportunities.

Most applicants receive 90% of the grant and the remaining 10% when they file a report about the event for which the grant was made. This report must be filed before March 1 of the following year, which is before applications are due for the following year. The report from Welsh Heritage and Culture Centre for their 2005 event was received and the remaining \$50 was mailed to them.

The following discusses the successful applicants in more detail:

- 1- Cymdeithas Madog has been a successful applicant for many years and for a number of years, they have been awarded 100% of their grant without the 10% being withheld. They award partial and matching scholarships with the money from WNGGA. Many of the students who attend need some assistance in the form of a partial scholarship. Matching scholarships are those that match, up to a limited amount, scholarships from the student's local Welsh society. The 29th Cwrs Cymraeg was held in July at Rio Grande University, Rio Grande, OH. For more information see www.madog.org.
- 2- Welsh Heritage and Culture Centre, Inc., Wymore, NE, is a group founded in 2000. They have 2 museums in Wymore, NE, The Welsh Heritage and Culture Centre and the one-room schoolhouse from the Welsh pioneer community. They wanted to provide a Welsh presence at the local summer festival to honor the founders of the town, and arranged for Oceans Apart, a Celtic band, to present a concert of Welsh music and workshops on Welsh music during the event. The grant helped defray cost of the band, which was a success at the June festival. For more information see www.welshheritage.org.

- 3- Welsh Society of Fredericksburg, VA, co-sponsors the Welsh Festival of Fredericksburg along with the James Monroe Museum. It is an outdoor festival with Welsh music, language lessons, harp performance, folk songs, storytelling, poetry reading, and talks on Wales, Welsh culture, and the Mabinogion. They also have Welsh crafts and vendors. This festival has been held 15 years and the grant is used to defray expenses. For more information see www.welsfred.com

There were 2 group applications that were incomplete. In the general instructions, point 5 states incomplete applications will not be considered. Both of these groups had received grants from WNGGA in the past and they have been encouraged to apply again next year.

As chair of the committee, I have received several thank you letters from students who attended Cymdeithas Madog Cwrs Cymraeg, July 2005, and whose scholarships were funded by the grant from WNGGA. I believe their comments express the importance of continuing to fund these sorts of activities.

- One woman attended the cwrs and, after discovering WNGGA, has decided to attend the North American Festival of Wales in Orlando.
- A pastor who will be on sabbatical next summer attended the cwrs to study Welsh this year so that if she has the funding next year she can go to Wales to study Welsh hymnody. If she does not get the funding, she will study Welsh churches in the USA and Canada.
- A woman wrote that she has been studying the language on her own and when she discovered Cymdeithas Madog on the web; she applied for a scholarship to attend to the cwrs so she could hear Welsh spoken.
- Another scholarship winner entered the Cwrs Eisteddfod and won first place for her level. She is also working toward a program on Welsh Culture for a future Smithsonian Folklife Festival.
- All of them mentioned how much closer they felt to their Welsh roots after attending the cwrs, studying the language and participating in the cultural events.

I received comments from the Welsh Society of Fredericksburg, VA. They reported there was no question that this year's Welsh Festival in Fredericksburg could not be held without the generosity of the WNGGA grant. The last 2 festivals were interrupted by hurricanes, which caused them great losses. But because of the WNGGA grant they can continue to bring Welsh culture and heritage to the Fredericksburg area.

The Scholarship Committee made a number of changes to reduce the burden on applicants and to maintain better records at WNGGA Headquarters (HQ).

This was the first year scholarship and grant application forms and instructions for completing them were available on the web. Submissions were accepted as e-mail attachments, as faxes, as well as USPS and other couriers. We arranged to have submissions go to HQ so they could maintain file copies, and then send the applications on to me. I had no access to previous files, so this procedure will provide for a smoother transition between Chairs of the S&G committee. HQ forwarded questions to me by e-mail. We received applications by all methods mentioned above.

We made some changes to the application forms to clarify items. For instance, on the group application, we asked for name and address where the check should be sent if they were awarded a grant. Often, someone other than the Treasurer completes the application. We eliminated the requirement for addresses and occupations for Board members. No one we talked with knew what was meant by or understood why WNGGA would request a copy of the Code of Regulations, so we eliminated it. We defined what we meant by a financial statement, as that had been a sticking point for many group applicants in previous years.

The individual application asked if the applicant was a member of WAY, but WAY no longer exists, so that request was eliminated.

We received feedback from some applicants on ways to improve the form. Those suggestions will be incorporated in the application form for 2006.

We asked applicants to forward an application form with their signature to HQ so we had a hard copy of their signature. We will evaluate the necessity of that for next year. In the absence of legal counsel, because this was the first year to accept applications as e-mail attachments, I felt that having a signature on file would be a good idea. People could still apply by e-mail and then mail a form with only their signature and organization name, which could arrive after the March 1 application deadline.

We suggested incorporating the S&G ad in Ninnau with another of the WNGGA ads. Previously, there were S&G ads in Ninnau Oct. through Jan, 4 months. Those ads cost \$450. There were also membership ads and NAFOW ads. John Ellis suggested combining all WNGGA information into one ad to save money. That way, there is S&G information in Ninnau every month.

Because of the timing of this change, we had one ad with the web site listed and one article in the February issue of Ninnau inviting applications and including instructions.

Previously, not all WNGGA ads had the web site listed. We can put more information on the web site than we can afford to put in an ad, so we suggested the web site should be listed in all articles and ads from WNGGA in Ninnau.

Two grant winners from 2004 and one from 2005 filed their final project reports and the remaining 10% was forwarded to them.

Another previous winner asked for an extension of time to file his report for the remaining 10%. It is a long-term project and not yet complete. His request was granted.

The article in the February 2005 issue of Ninnau follows:

WNGGA Invites Applications for Scholarships & Grants
Ada Mae Lewis, Chair

The WNGGA Scholarship & Grants Committee invites applications for scholarships and grants. Applications are due March 1.

The process has changed from previous years. To get forms please write, email, phone or fax the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association International Headquarters or download them from www.wngga.org. The mailing address is PO Box 215, Hartland, MI 48353-0215, e-mail wngga@comcast.net, phone (810) 632-7850 or (800) 477-0090, and fax (810) 632-7805.

The forms consist of 2 pages, 1 page of instructions and a 1-page form to complete.

For the first time, applications may be submitted electronically as email attachments. Send the completed forms to wngga@comcast.net. If you are submitting the completed forms electronically, please send another copy of the 1-page form with only your signature and your name or the group name by mail to the above mailing address to be received no later than March 15. This will provide the WNGGA with a signature.

The completed forms may also be mailed to the same address above. Completed forms should reach the destination by March 1 no matter how they are submitted.

Only complete applications will be considered.

Please direct questions to the above contact information.

Submitted by the Scholarship and Grants Committee
Ada Mae Lewis, Chair
Sally Funderburk,
Keith Davies Jones
Richard Price Baskwill, ex officio
John Ellis, ex officio member

August 2005