

Minutes of the 2005 Orlando Planning Committee Meeting, Saturday, March 6, 2004, Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando, FLA

In attendance: John Ellis, Janet Briggs, Trudy Howells-Murphy, Ann McFerrin, Donald Jenkins, Doris Jenkins, Avanwy Adams, Ronald Vierling, Emyr Morris, Lisa Morris

The meeting opened at 10:30 am.

John Ellis opened the meeting by thanking all who attended and indicated the crucial role that local members of the WNGGA play in the implementation of the North American Festival of Wales. Dr. Ellis stated that Jan Briggs and Trudy Howells-Murphy had indicated their willingness to serve as co-chairs of the committee.

Dr. Ellis reviewed the history of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu and the North American Festival of Wales. He then reviewed the NAFOW 2005 Tentative Schedule, identifying the various components of a typical festival from day to day. Dr. Ellis explained the collaborative relationship between the WNGGA board of trustees and the local working committee in hosting a North American Festival of Wales.

Discussion then turned to what elements of planning for NAFOW 2005 have been done and what needed to be done in the future. Dr. Ellis reviewed and explained the main features of the WNGGA's contract with the Coronado Springs Resort as the host site for the festival, including room rate, block, and meeting space. It was noted that the contract included the possibility of holding an event at Epcot Center's British pavilion. The meeting then examined the registration numbers of the NAFOW since 1999 and expressed optimism in Orlando's potential to attract good numbers. Dr. Ellis then indicated that discussions were taking place between members of the board of trustees and the London Welsh Male Voice Choir, a youth choir and soloist Aled Jones and that these negotiations should be resolved by March 15th. He mentioned that the Bangor City Welsh Male Voice Choir also had expressed an interest in participating. The meeting looked at an example budget in order to get some feel for the kinds of expenditure and income to expect. Dr. Ellis stressed the importance of sponsorship and fundraising and indicated that the board of trustees would be heavily involved in these areas. Dr. Ellis then discussed the role of the WNGGA's International Headquarters in festival registration in printing and distributing registration packages and receiving and processing registrations.

The committee then discussed what needed to be done between the meeting and the festival next year. These included programming, marketplace, catering, travel arrangements, publicity, publishing and fund raising. The committee spent some time discussing various aspects of programming. Jan Briggs indicated that we should take advantage of the opportunity that the Disney location provided to create an intergenerational event. It was pointed out that in thinking of youth and family programming we shouldn't try to compete with Disney but should work around the theme park's schedule. It was pointed out that Disney recommends a midday return and break to the hotel when visiting the parks with children and that this as well as the evening

could be good times for such youth and family programming. Discussion also focused on the possibility of using Epcot's British pavilion as the site for a public opening ceremony with a second opening ceremony held on Thursday evening, as had occurred at the Richmond 2003 NAFOW. The committee discussed the idea of facilitating the awarding of WNGGA grants to organizations like Cymdeithas Madog, Welsh Harp Society and NAASWCH to sponsor seminars at NAFOW. The committee reviewed the general timetable for NAFOW planning.

Following lunch, the committee met with Vicky Arenas, Assistant Catering and Convention Services Director at the Coronado Springs Resort. The committee reviewed with Ms. Arenas the current space assignments for the various events and expressed their satisfaction with the space and the hotel. Adding a few rooms or changing space allocations was possible provided that space was available. Dr. Ellis stated that the committee should try to finalize its space requirements by the end of January. Discussion was held on various scenarios for the use and configuration of the large, ballroom space for the banquet, grand concert, religious services, and the gymanfa. The committee stressed to Ms. Arenas the needs of the elderly section of our membership and discussed the importance of the pargo transportation provided by the contract. Jan Briggs indicated to Ms. Arenas that we would need 1000 brochures on the Coronado Springs for distribution at the 2004 NAFOW in Buffalo.

The committee broke up into small groups to "brainstorm" ideas for the 2005 NAFOW. Dr. Ellis collected the results, reviewed them with the group as a whole and indicated that the list provided would be distributed with the minutes for further discussion. He encouraged people to contact him with further ideas. Dr. Ellis collected the Volunteer Forms and indicated that these would be used to draw up subcommittees. He quickly reviewed the timetable again and indicated that the first task facing the committee was the drawing up of an informational brochure and making arrangements for a table in the marketplace at the NAFOW 2004 in Buffalo. Dr. Ellis thanked the committee members for coming and indicated that a report on their meeting would be sent in the post to both members attending and those who have expressed an interest but who were unable to attend. He expected that subcommittees would be drawn up by the chairs in consultation with himself some time afterwards.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm

Submitted: J Ellis

**Ideas for the 2005 North American Festival of Wales
Orlando Committee, March 6, 2004**

These ideas all came verbatim from a brainstorming session held at the Orlando planning meeting. I have organized them into groups which seem to share common elements.

Pub event with rugby video/seminar explaining game, customs
Welsh sing along with Welsh beer
Welsh quiz program
Welsh sports demonstration
Welsh sports- soccer, rugby, snooker

Max Boyce
Welsh humor
Welsh comedy

Crafts- Gaudy Welsh pottery painting workshop
Mother/Daughter- Son/Father activities
Tape children interviewing parents, grandparents
Personal History Interview Booth- Record oral histories
Medieval Room- Playmobile medieval action figures, castles, storytelling, reenactors
Storytelling for adults and children; Beth Phillips Brown?
Genealogy- beginning and adults; family tree craft for children

Eisteddfod- Connect with high schools in area
Robin Huw Bowen
Twmpath Dawns/Folk Dancing
Clogging
Epcot- Have several days of Welsh entertainment there in conjunction with festival

Quality Welsh clothes in marketplace
Welsh woolens, weaving/seminar, display

A Medieval Banquet
Welsh Pirate Picnic
Seminar on Welsh food/cooking
Welsh wine and cheese seminar/tasting
Basic Welsh food that you can make at home

Welsh film festival
Invite Catherine Zeta Jones

The Jenkins family owns Publix Markets major grocery chain in FLA (Sponsorship)