

## The President's Report – Stratford, 2005

In the seven months since our last meeting, the WNGGA Board of Trustees has undergone a major restructuring. A new committee structure has brought new responsibilities. We have made a transition toward implementation of the recommendations of the Strategic Plan, which has included the board's control of the North American Festival of Wales through the board's financial and committee structure. This has required the members of the board to learn new tasks and to become actively involved to a greater extent than most members had before.

I am very pleased with the way members of the board have stepped forward to meet their responsibilities. Many of us, myself included, have had to overcome a steep learning curve as we learned totally new tasks. In so doing, we have acquired new skills and have developed deposits of information and plans of action which can be reused from year to year, thereby enabling us in the future to more quickly identify our objectives and accomplish our goals.

We have laid a solid foundation for the NAFOW in Orlando and are making progress on Cincinnati. We have improved our communication during the year through email, even to the point of conducting official business.

While our accomplishments have been substantial, there are still problems to overcome. Among the areas which require our utmost attention are these:

- o The financial situation due to the legal issue. Important decisions must be made.
- o Heavy dependence on Headquarters for administrative functions. Headquarters staff has been doing outstanding work, but many of the things which they have done could be done by volunteers.
- o Communication needs. While it has improved considerably, more could be done, especially to assure that committee members have clear understandings of the relationship of their responsibilities to that of other committees.
- o Recruitment of volunteers. Our structure allows the addition of volunteers to supplement each committee. While the President must appoint committee members, recruitment should be an activity of every board member.
- o Cultivation of a multi-year perspective. We need to keep in mind that we are working on the NAFOW simultaneously for 2005, 2006, and 2007.
- o Training of new board members to assure that they know their responsibilities and have the tools necessary to accomplish them.

Based on the progress we have made thus far, and given the demonstrated talents and dedication shown by members of the board and staff, I am confident that we can assure the continued success of the WNGGA.

Gyda diolch,

Richard Price Baskwill, President  
WNGGA