

W.A.Y.

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Welsh Associated Youth of Canada and the United States

Annual Report, Utica, 1996

National Gymanfa Ganu, Harrisburg, 1995

WAY was in the process of being terminated due to lack of new interest. For the few members left, balancing of careers and maintaining and building a communication network for WAY had become an overwhelming task. Fortunately, while this process was going on, John Lloyd, WAY President, was contacted by a group of youth who expressed an interest in revitalizing WAY. Carolyn Kearney was invited to come to a Board Meeting in Harrisburg to express the renewed interest in WAY. Later during the weekend, John Lloyd informed Carolyn that she was the new Acting President of WAY. On May 1996, Carolyn was notified by Wm. John Lewis, M.D., President of WNGGA that she had been officially recognized as the new WAY President. John Lloyd would remain a member of WAY and become it's Financial Advisor/Treasurer.

Overview of Goals

WAY, to our knowledge, has never been an exceptionally large organization. It has typically been a group of youth who tried to meet at National's and arrange group activities. Our concept of WAY is to create a network of youth all around the world to work together to support both WNGGA and WAY. Many families do not have the opportunity to attend the National's. A goal for WAY is to reach out and maximize the involvement of these families.

WAY wants to sponsor a trip to Wales in either 1997 or 1998. This trip would be open to anyone age 15 - 35. One suggestion is to backpack across Wales for one to two weeks with the aid of local churches. Megan Lloyd, a former President of WAY, has offered to assist with organizing and arranging this event.

WAY was contacted during July, 1996 by Mary Davis a member of the Milwaukee 1997 National Committee. This communication regarded a new idea for a program called Welsh World for Kids. This concept was created by Mary Davis along with eight youth from Milwaukee. The youth had brainstormed for over two hours -- coming up with a multitude of ideas for a youth weekend. The weekend would coincide with the National, thereby, allowing youth to not only experience new activities but, more importantly, see the National in action. The concept is great! WAY invited the Milwaukee youth to come and help in Utica.

WAY is currently working on a mailing list of WAY members in order to start sending out newsletters twice a year. We also are looking into getting on the internet, however, we are trying to work out the membership verses internet access.

WAY would like to develop a student exchange program for youth from Wales, Canada and the United States. This program would allow WAY members to spend time with Welsh families but in a different country from their own. Perhaps this idea could also work at the college level allowing for college credit to be earned by students.

An excellent idea proposed to WAY is for WAY to rent or buy an RV to travel in order to develop a stronger awareness and create a higher level of involvement in WAY/WNGGA/NWAF. Although this idea is still in it's infancy as well as being an extremely large project, we are excited by the prospect. The idea is to have six Welsh Youth: two from Canada, two from United States and two from Wales living, learning and having fun together while promoting WAY/WNGGA/NWAF. This tour would occur each August in the area surrounding the National and would end by the members of the group attending the National weekend.

Planned Activities for Utica

1. Membership drive all weekend at WAY table which will be run by local and non-local members.
2. Friday night WAY has a dinner out for it's older members including dancing and singing.
3. Saturday morning WAY will arrange a time for an annual meeting to elect officers and plan future attacks. Any interested youth are invited to attend.
4. Saturday night WAY will have it's annual pool and pizza party.
5. Sunday --- Gymanfa Ganu!

Respectfully submitted,


Carolyn J. Kearney
WAY President