

From: huw.williams [redacted]
 To: WNGGA [redacted]
 Cc: huw.williams [redacted] (Huw Williams), william [redacted] (David Williams), aupshal [redacted] (Alan Upshall), roscyn [redacted] (Robert Roser), sheke [redacted], gbakerpa [redacted] (Gerry Parry), lowens-whal [redacted] (Lynn Owens-Whalen), ghowellsmurph [redacted] (Trudy Murphy), amm [redacted] (Ann McFerrin), klew [redacted] (Kara Lewis), lewi [redacted] (Ada Mae Lewis), kjones [redacted] (Keith Jones), megh.jones [redacted] (Geraint Jones), berwynjon [redacted] (Berwyn Jones), cwhclay [redacted] (Connie Holt-Claypool), sbfunderburk [redacted] (Sally Funderburk), edfiel [redacted] (Ed Field), b [redacted] (Myfanwy Davies), h.m.da [redacted] (Hywel Davies), culling [redacted] (Betty Cullingworth), naint [redacted] (Janet Briggs), rbaskw [redacted] (Richard Baskwill)

Subject: Re: Future of the WNGGA (fwd)
 Date: Wed, 28 Jan 2004 17:51:39 +0000

John: As Lynn stated a very complex-ed subject and not an easy one to resolve but never the less do bring it up in Peterborough. Huw
 > I received the email below from a member today and thought it worth bringing to
 > the attention of the board of trustees. The points he brings up regarding the
 > timing of the North American Festival of Wales, of course, are not new but are
 > certainly worth continued consideration.

> I am currently compiling proposal information from various potential venues for
 > 2006 and 2007. Might we consider changing the date of the NAFOW in one of these
 > years as an experiment? Perhaps this is something we can discuss in April in
 > Peterborough.

> John Ellis

> ----- Forwarded Message: -----
 > From: djar [redacted]
 > To: wngg [redacted]
 > Subject: Future of the WNGGA
 > Date: Tue, 27 Jan 2004 09:10:23 -0600

> Dr. Ellis,

> I'm a lifetime member of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association and
 > keenly interested in the future of the organization. Several years ago, I
 > sent a slightly shorter version of the following email to your predecessor
 > as he took office. I'm forwarding the core of the message to you in an
 > effort to bring to your attention the need for changing the date of the
 > North American Festival of Wales from Labor Day to mid-summer when the
 > majority of the young people who represent the future of the WNGGA can
 > attend. I acknowledge that changing the date of such an important annual
 > event represents a major break, although in my opinion a necessary break,
 > with a tradition that goes back to 1929.

> "For many years I've been concerned about the fact that the Labor Day
 > weekend over which the event is traditionally held each year excludes a
 > great many families in both the United States and Canada, particularly
 > younger families with children, who might attend if the event fell sometime
 > during the summer break from school, from roughly mid-June to mid-August.

> By Labor Day, most families have taken their summer vacations and are
> preparing their children to return to school. As a result, many of the
> young people we hope to attract to the Festival and National Gymanfa and to
> membership in the WNGGA aren't able to attend due to the timing of the
> event.

>
> My wife and I have three children ages thirteen to nineteen and we'd love
> to incorporate the Festival of Wales, notably the National Gymanfa, into
> our vacation plans each summer. If the Festival were held sometime between
> mid-June and mid-August, we believe many families, like ours, would plan
> their summer vacations to coincide with the event.

>
> The directive you mentioned in a recent newsletter, that of 'maintaining
> and promoting our Welsh heritage in North America,' is a subject dear to
> the heart of every Welsh American and Welsh Canadian. If our children and
> grandchildren represent the future of this organization, then we need to do
> everything in our power to make the Festival available to these young
> people and their families. It falls now to us to chart a realistic course
> that will keep the memory of our Welsh ancestors and their love of song
> alive and the fire burning on and on into the future. We owe it to those
> who came before us, to the present generation of hymn singers, and to all
> future generations to give serious consideration to changing the date of
> the Festival of Wales.

>
> Those glorious old Welsh hymns have been a powerful force in my daily life
> for over thirty years. The unflinching love of Christ embodied in them has
> formed the nucleus of my personal faith. The hymns have given me courage,
> solace, hope, and resolve, and frequently, when the rest of the family is
> away or when I am alone with my thoughts in the wee hours, have helped me
> re-connect with those loving voices, long departed, who cheer our hearts
> once more.

>
> My fervent wish is that the Festival of Wales/National Gymanfa will someday
> be held during the mid-June to mid-August peak summer vacation period so
> that as many young people and their families as possible can experience the
> event. I believe the future of our beloved National Gymanfa in North
> America depends on this. May our cherished Welsh hymns, the most precious
> gift of our common ancestry--Byrn Calfaria, Aberystwyth, Penpark, and all
> the others--guide and inspire us as we look to a bright future for the
> WNGGA and the Festival of Wales."

>
> Congratulations, Dr. Ellis, the very best of luck to you, and God bless.

>
> Most Sincerely and Respectfully,

>
> William Hugh James
> [REDACTED] Foxboro Lane,
> Woodbury, Minnesota 55125
> [REDACTED]

>

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From: "Kara Lewis" <klew[REDACTED]>
To: <WNG[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Future of the WNGGA (fwd)
Date: Wed, 28 Jan 2004 16:17:23 -0500

Dear all,

I can see that this is an issue, and as Lynn points out, it is one where solutions may themselves be as problematic. Naturally, this is an issue close to my heart, what with our work at the University and with the Youth Initiative.

>From personal experience, some members of our Welsh-crowd cannot come as they are teachers. While other events could be organized at other times for families, the National Gymanfa/ NAFOW is the biggie.

Even though I cannot offer a solution right now, I do believe that this email presents a crucial point that we need to discuss.

Kara

Kara Lewis
Cyfarwyddwraig/Director
Canolfan Madog Center
Prifysgol Rio Grande
University of Rio Grande

www.rio.edu/madog

-----Original Message-----

From: WNGGA [mailto:WNGGA@rio.edu] [mailto:WNGGA@rio.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2004 7:02 PM
To: Huw Williams; David Williams; Alan Upshall; Robert Roser; Shelia Pepper; Gerry Parry; Lynn Owens-Whalen; Trudy Murphy; Ann McFerrin; Kara Lewis; Ada Mae Lewis; Keith Jones; Geraint Jones; Berwyn Jones; Connie Holt-Claypool; Sally Funderburk; Ed Field; Myfanwy Davies; Hywel Davies; Betty Cullingworth; Janet Briggs; Richard Baskwill
Subject: Future of the WNGGA (fwd)

I received the email below from a member today and thought it worth bringing to the attention of the board of trustees. The points he brings up regarding the timing of the North American Festival of Wales, of course, are not new but are certainly worth continued consideration.

I am currently compiling proposal information from various potential venues for 2006 and 2007. Might we consider changing the date of the NAFOW in one of these years as an experiment? Perhaps this is something we can discuss in April in Peterborough.

John Ellis

From: Keith Davies Jones <kj[REDACTED]@Manitoba.CA>

To: Alan Upshall <aupshall[REDACTED]>, Bob Roser <ros[REDACTED]>, Richard Price Baskwill <rbaskw[REDACTED]>, Ann McFerrin <amm[REDACTED]>, Sheila Pepper <shekenp[REDACTED]>, Elinor Bennett <elinor[REDACTED]>, Janet M Briggs <naint[REDACTED]>, Connie Holt Claypool <cw[REDACTED]>, Berwyn Jones <berwy[REDACTED]>, John S Ellis <ellisjs[REDACTED]>, Thomas Edward Field <edf[REDACTED]>, Geraint Herbert Jones <Megh.jon[REDACTED]>, Lynn Owens-Whalen <lowens-whalen[REDACTED]>, Gerri Baker Parry <gbakerp[REDACTED]>, Huw Seiriol Williams <huw.will[REDACTED]>, Martha A Davies <cariad[REDACTED]>, John S Ellis <ellisjs[REDACTED]>, WNGGA <[REDACTED]>, Trudy Murphy <ghowe[REDACTED]>, Sally Funderburk <sbfunderbur[REDACTED]>, Kara Lewis <kl[REDACTED]>, Betty Cullingworth <cull[REDACTED]>, Hywel Davies <h.m.d[REDACTED]>, Ada Mae Lewis <lew[REDACTED]>, bu[REDACTED]

Subject: NAFOW

Date: Sat, 31 Jan 2004 11:25:38 -0600

Out of date address book, sorry, I sent it to a few of the wrong people, and a few wrong addresses. Hope I have got it all sorted now. Sorry if you are receiving this again (and again) !

Dear Friends

Have just spent an hour reading all the e-mails that arrived during the week, in somewhat random order, probably due to the current disorder on our servers caused by the Russian worm. Hope everyone has their security up to date.

The timing of the Festival is a big issue that has gone round several times, and indeed there is no ready answer. In favour of leaving it where it is - there are obviously a lot of people whom this date suits, they attend the Festival, and their number is known. Against this is a group of people who do not attend and might do so at a different time, and their number is unknown. Some of those who do attend on the Labour Day weekend might not be able to at another time, and their number is

also unknown. Mathematically, an equation with so many unknowns cannot be solved without making a number of assumptions, which we have no data to support.

Of the other times that might be considered, early August is not good, as this would compete with the National Eisteddfod in Wales. Obviously, we would not have participation from organisations such as Cymru a'r Byd at that time, there would be little support from Wales, and difficulty with availability of artists, seminar speakers etc etc. A lot of people from here want to go the Eisteddfod. The only suitable time would be in early July. This would be at the same time as the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, but I don't think this would have very much impact. It's worth thinking about, seriously. It would be a leap of faith for sure.

Unfortunately, I don't think that the solution to getting greater participation from younger people is by any means as simple as moving

the date of NAFOW. Young people are in school, they are working at 2 jobs to pay their way through college, they want to travel, they are

pre-occupied with romantic matters, looking after their children, spending time with parents, grandparents etc etc. Thirty years ago, when I was working 100 hours a week on-call in the hospital, studying when I could for professional exams and bringing up a young family on a not too large income, I wouldn't have been at NAFOW either.

We have just concluded our International New Music Festival in Winnipeg - very successful once again, with several major choral and orchestral premieres. At the final concert last night, we had a rap group performing with the orchestra. You would think something like this would attract a younger crowd, but it doesn't. There were quite a few young people for sure, they were there all week, but the audience was as usual predominantly my age and upward, a fair number of them with canes and

walkers (and they loved it). Churches worry that their congregations seem nowadays to be predominantly elderly ladies with white hair. "Who will replace them when they are gone?" we ask, and the wise reply, "More old ladies with white hair, of course".

I am happy to see that the 'special' music in the Gymanfa sessions at Buffalo will apparently be sacred. I believe we should insist on that being the case in general.

Keith

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From: Ada Mae Lewis <lewis@wngga.com>
To: WNGGA <wngga@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Future of the WNGGA (fwd)
Date: Sat, 31 Jan 2004 12:19:29 -0600

I'm certainly in favor of looking at other weeks. One of the rather regular teachers at Cymdeithas Madog Cwrs Cymraeg is an elementary teacher and laments that she is unable to attend the NAFoW. Some of the students at Cwrs Cymraeg are also teachers and are back in school the first week of August.

Speaking of Cwrs Cymraeg, as immediate past president I would ask that you avoid competing with Cwrs Cymraeg, usually held one of the last 2 weeks in July. We are not able to be more specific than that because sometimes the small colleges where the cwrs is held only has one of the weeks open. (We compete with sports camps.) As you know, a fair number of people who attend Cwrs Cymraeg also attend the NAFoW. Just in general, it would be good to avoid competing with other Welsh events in the USA.

I'm sure that Beth Landmesser (unsure of spelling) would feel the same about Welsh Heritage Week. I cannot tell you how they select the dates, but it often coincides with Cwrs Cymraeg although we try to avoid that.

Ada Mae

From: Berwyn Jones <berwynj[REDACTED]>
To: Keith Davies Jones <kjones@umanitoba.ca>, Alan Upshall <aupsh[REDACTED]>, Bob Roser <rosy[REDACTED]>, Richard Price Baskwill <rbask[REDACTED]>, Ann McFerrin <amm[REDACTED]>, Sheila Pepper <sheken[REDACTED]>, Bennett <elin[REDACTED]>, Janet M Briggs <namtara@uor.com>, Connie Holt Claypool <cwhclay[REDACTED]>, John S Ellis <ellisj[REDACTED]>, Thomas Edward Field <edfield[REDACTED]>, Geraint Herbert Jones <Megh.jones@sympatico.ca>, Lynn Owens-Whalen <lo[REDACTED]>, Gerri Baker Parry <gbakerpa[REDACTED]>, Huw Seiriol Williams <huw.will[REDACTED]>, Martha A Davies <cariad[REDACTED]>, John S Ellis <elli[REDACTED]>, <WNGG[REDACTED]>, Trudy Murphy <ghowellsmu[REDACTED]>, Sally Funderburk <sbfunderburk[REDACTED]>, Kara Lewis <klev[REDACTED]>, Betty Cullingworth <cullingw[REDACTED]>, Hywel Davies <h.m.d[REDACTED]>, Ada Mae Lewis <lev[REDACTED]>, <buck[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: NAFOW

Date: Sun, 01 Feb 2004 10:57:46 -0500

One way to assist in answering the unknowns: ASK THEM! Let's find out how many people with children say they would come if the Festival were in the summer. Also how many of our present attendees would be unable to come earlier.

Surely we can find a summer week that does not conflict with the National or the International, although I can't believe that a lot of us go to the international.

Retired people (a huge part of our current attendance) are just as available in July as in in September -- maybe more so. I wonder if we could work out a grandparents - grandchildren's program based on tales of the old days, building photo albums, family story books, old time skills and crafts, etc. Elderhostel has several successful programs of this type.

A disadvantage not yet considered is that hotels will not be as eager to give us good rates in July as on Labor Day weekend, when convention travel is at a low point.

Berwyn

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From: Lynn Owens-Whalen <lowens- [REDACTED]>
To: WNGG [REDACTED]
Cc: Huw Williams <huw.williams@[REDACTED]>, David Williams <williams@[REDACTED]>, Alan Upshall <aup@[REDACTED]>, Robert Roser <rosyr@[REDACTED]>, Shelia Pepper <shepen@[REDACTED]>, Gerry Parry <gbakerp@[REDACTED]>, Trudy Murphy <ghowe@[REDACTED]>, Ann McFerrin <amm@[REDACTED]>, Kara Lewis <klew@[REDACTED]>, Ada Mae Lewis <lewis@[REDACTED]>, Keith Jones <kjones@[REDACTED]>, Geraint Jones <megh.jones@[REDACTED]>, Berwyn Jones <berwynj@[REDACTED]>, Connie Holt-Claypool <cwhcl@[REDACTED]>, Sally Funderburk <sbfunderburk@[REDACTED]>, Ed Field <edfield@[REDACTED]>, Myfanwy Davies <bud@[REDACTED]>, Hywel Davies <h.m.davi@[REDACTED]>, Betty Cullingworth <cullingwh@[REDACTED]>, Janet Briggs <nainta@[REDACTED]>, Richard Baskwill <rbaskw@[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Future of the WNGGA (fwd)

Date: Tue, 27 Jan 2004 22:41:59 -0800

Mr. James has written a wonderful letter and it is very encouraging that there is such passion for Wales and for the work of the WNGGA. My response is one of hope but also one of frustration. To be honest, there will never be a satisfactory time for the North American Festival of Wales. This matter has been talked about, reviewed, discussed and surveyed at least twice in the last dozen years and every time it is obvious that there is no good time that will meet the needs of all of our members. The Labour Day week end is the only common holiday Canada and the United States other than Christmas and Easter. Even school holidays vary from state to state and province to province. It if occurs in the middle of the summer then summer camps and longer vacations are often in the way. And so the list goes. I am not so much reacting to when the Festival is held but rather the frustration of my experience that there is no solution.

This is why I am strongly in favour of the WNGGA promoting more than one event where we celebrate and promote Wales and its' culture. There is no reason in the world why, in the future, we cannot continue the NAFOW however it evolves (and it is evolving as we speak) and at the same time have (egs. only) family weekends, folk festivals, Welsh language festivals or other activities at other times of the year. We have moved to this awareness and my understanding is that we are on the cutting edge of doing just that. The creation of the Youth Initiative Committee and the two year appointment of the Chairperson is a huge step in this direction. The sky is the limit here and privately, I really hope that we hear suggestions from outside the box for example, rather than focus on simply modifying the NAFOW, create new activities that the BOT and the membership of the WNGGA can get excited about. and ones that are at a different time of the year. I think that Mr. James might be delighted with a family oriented gathering in the summer. It does not have to be the NAFOW. We have more than one challenge however. First, we need to be creative; not easy ! Second, finances. (if we can recover legal expenses, this will really help). Third, we need members to help to put the activities into practice. I have to believe that if the WNGGA is to survive, we need all of this.

We can raise this issue again in Peterborough if you like or we can encourage at least one new activity at a different time of the year that is supported by the WNGGA. In the meantime, I will respond to Mr. James and copy the BOT with my letter.

From: WNGG. [Save Address]
To: "Rick Bellwood" <buck[REDACTED]>
Cc: "Richard Price Baskwill" <rbaskwill@bepi.net>, "Janet Briggs" <na[REDACTED]>, "Connie Holt Claypool" <cwhclay[REDACTED]>, "Betty Cullingworth" <cullingwh[REDACTED]>, "Hywel Davies" <h.m.dav[REDACTED]>, "Myfanwy Davies" <[REDACTED]>, "John S. Ellis" <ellisj[REDACTED]>, "Ed Field" <edfield[REDACTED]>, "Sally Funderburk" <sbfunderb[REDACTED]>, "Berwyn Jones" <berwyn[REDACTED]>, "Geraint Jones" <megh.jon[REDACTED]>, "Keith Davies Jones" <kj[REDACTED]>, "Ada Mae Lewis" <lewis[REDACTED]>, "Joan Owen Mandry" <dman[REDACTED]>, "Ann McFerrin" <amf[REDACTED]>, "Trudy Howells Murphy" <ghowellsmurp[REDACTED]>, "Lynn Owens-Whalen" <lowens-w[REDACTED]>, "Gerri Baker Parry" <gbakerpar[REDACTED]>, "Sheila Pepper" <shekenpe[REDACTED]>, "Robert Roser" <roscvm[REDACTED]>, "Alan Upshall" <aupshall@[REDACTED]>, "Huw S. Williams" <huw.wi[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: NAFOW Date Change?
Date: Tue, 03 Feb 2004 13:41:09 +0000

There are certainly pros and cons to both keeping the Labor Day date and changing it. Before our meeting in April, I will draw up a list based upon our email comments to help facilitate discussion.

I acknowledge the many good points made in favor of keeping the Labor Day date but want to clarify one point. Keith and Myfanwy argue that the children, grandchildren and young adults of the membership are not likely to make a trip to attend the NAFOW regardless of the date. I think there is some truth to this, but it misses an important strategic point in regards to attracting wider audiences (and youth in particular). We are trying to draw attendance not only from our membership base but also from the local community in which NAFOW is held. Given this goal, the best way to attract youth participation is not individually through the children and grandchildren of our membership but through schools, colleges, churches and youth groups (choirs, rugby clubs, ect) in the host locality (and perhaps through special relationships that could be developed with such organizations in areas of traditional Welsh settlement like southern Ohio, the Slate Valley, ect.). These organizations provide ready-made groups of youth whose attendance can be assured once a relationship has been established with their teachers or leaders. Such group participation would provide the critical mass of youth at the NAFOW that would make it more likely that individual young adults, children and grandchildren of the membership would attend. The point is that such a strategy is precluded altogether by the Labor Day date due to its serious conflict with the beginning of schools and colleges.

John Ellis

Del/File
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From: "Rick Bellwood" <buck@██████████>]
 To: "Richard Price Baskwill" <rbaskwi██████████>, "Janet Briggs" <n██████████om>, "Connie Holt Claypool" <cwhclay@██████████>, "Betty Cullingworth" <cullingwh██████████>, "Hywel Davies" <h.m.dav██████████>, "Myfanwy Davies" <buc██████████com>, "John S. Ellis" <ellisj██████████>, "Ed Field" <edfield@██████████>, "Sally Funderburk" <sbfunderbu██████████>, "Berwyn Jones" <berwynjon██████████>, "Geraint Jones" <megh.jones██████████>, "Keith Davies Jones" <kjones@██████████>, "Ada Mae Lewis" <lewi██████████isunet.net>, "Joan Owen Mandry" <dmandr██████████>, "Ann McFerrin" <an██████████>, "Trudy Howells Murphy" <ghowellsmurp██████████@fl.nj.com>, "Lynn Owens-Whalen" <lowens-██████████>, "Gerri Baker Parry" <gbake██████████>, "Sheila Pepper" <shekenpep██████████>, "Robert Roser" <roscym██████████>, "Alan Upshall" <aupshall@██████████>, "Huw S. Williams" <huw.██████████>, <WNGGA@comcast.net>

Subject: NAFOW Date Change?

Date: Sun, 1 Feb 2004 20:02:25 -0500

Hello All,

I have read all the messages and arguments, and have to admit I've heard them all before. For several reasons I am in favour of NOT changing the date of the Festival from Labour Day weekend.

1) **Consistent Tradition.** For 75 years we have held the Gymanfa on Labour Day weekend, and many people plan their holidays around it, regardless of location. It has always been WNGGA policy not to publicize the next Festival more than one year in advance. If we were to change the date, we would have to change this policy so that the date is well known more than 1 year ahead. I also agree with Keith that we should not conflict with major events in Wales.

2) **Costs.** Most hotels have trouble filling rooms around Labour Day and offer reduced prices for that weekend. Travel companies have also offered lower prices at this time. (This may have changed recently, but needs to be researched.) If we were to hold the Festival at the peak of summer, our penny-pinching attendees would complain about higher travel costs and hotel room rates.

3) **Attitude.** In my experience, many young people are not interested in their Welsh heritage and wouldn't come no matter when we held the Festival. For those who are interested, and their parents, they will make the effort regardless of when we hold it. I'm sure a day or two out of school at the beginning of the year would not cause any long term harm. And teenagers or college students who are working won't be able to attend during the summer anyway.

Having attended Nationals for over 30 years, I can tell from experience that every year new faces show up of all ages, and if we provide an interesting product and make them feel welcome, they will return. Every group I have been involved in that has changed a regular meeting date has lost attendees as a result. I don't feel it is worth the risk of losing some of our regular attendees in the hope we can attract a few new faces.

Myfanwy

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NAFOW Date

Karen Ellis

From: "Lynn Owens-Whalen" <lowens-wh[REDACTED]>
To: "Connie Claypool" <cwhclay[REDACTED]>
Cc: "Keith Davies Jones" <kjones@[REDACTED]>; "Alan Upshall" <aup[REDACTED]>;
 "Berwyn Emrys Jones" <berw[REDACTED]>; "Huw Seiriol Williams" <[REDACTED]@att.net>;
 "BOT WNGGA" <WNG[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2004 10:28 PM
Subject: Re: NAFOW, dates, and youth

Hello Connie,

I agree that the date issue is just like that tree that we keep running into. Sooner or later we need to back up and go around the tree and still get to the destination we want to providing an opportunity for all those under 40 to experience Wales and Welsh. I do hope that the Youth Initiative Committee are able to come up with activities in different parts of the US and Canada that are close enough to home to allow the young ones to be able to afford the time and the money to attend. It is a different perspective but why put all our eggs in one basket the NAFOW. The latter is brilliant for many of us but not feasible or appealing to all. So, hopefully there is an alternative created by the WNGGA sooner rather than later.

Cheers ! Hope to see you soon.

Lynn

Connie Claypool wrote:

Every generational organization I have ever been involved with, from churches to YMCA, and now, WNGGA wants to attract young people in order to keep the organization going. I don't think dates have much to do with it. If an organization wants to attract youth, young adults, couples with young children, etc., huge efforts need to be made to plan, organize, support, and carry out activities for these age groups. This includes baby-sitting facilities for people with young children. Parents just can't take in a NAFOW with all its day and night adult activities with two and three-year olds in tow!! Whatever the date. If the time comes when WNGGA wants to get serious about this, I think a Chair of Children and Youth would be in order. I am not volunteering for such a position, merely stating the obvious, that children and young people won't be coming unless there is a focus on taking care of their needs, as we now supply buses for people who can't walk far! Cheers to all,
 Connie

2/13/2004

NAFOW date

Karen Ellis

From: "Lynn Owens-Whalen" <lowens-whaler@...>
To: "Rick Bellwood" <bu...>
Cc: "Richard Price Baskwill" <rbaskwil@...>; "Janet Briggs" <naintaid@...>; "Connie Holt Claypool" <cwhclay@...>; "Betty Cullingworth" <cullingwr...>; "Hywel Davies" <h.m.dav...>; "John S. Ellis" <elli...>; "Ed Field" <edfie...>; "Sally Funderburk" <sfunderburk@...>; "Berwyn Jones" <berwy...>; "Geraint Jones" <megh.jor...>; "Keith Davies Jones" <kjones@...>; "Ada Mae Lewis" <lew...>; "Joan Owen Mandry" <dmand...>; "Ann McFerrin" <amm...>; "Trudy Howells Murphy" <ghowellsn...>; "Gerri Baker Parry" <gbaker...>; "Sheila Pepper" <sheken...>; "Robert Roser" <roscyn...>; "Alan Upshall" <aupsha...>; "Huw S. Williams" <huw.willia...>; <WNGG...>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2004 10:21 PM
Subject: Re: NAFOW Date Change?

Hello Myfanwy,

Well said. You and Keith have presented very thoughtful perspectives of the 'date' debate. I can't agree with you more. It is really important to continue to have a well balanced programme at the NAFOW including activities for the 'young' both in age and in heart. However, in the future we really need to look beyond the box and create activities for families and under 40 near to where people live. This way they can afford the time and the money to engage in activities rooted in their Welsh heritage. It is a challenge for the future but I hope that something gets off the ground in this respect within the next year or so.

Thanks, Myfanwy and see you soon.

Lynn

Rick Bellwood wrote:

Hello All, I have read all the messages and arguments, and have to admit I've heard them all before. For several reasons I am in favour of NOT changing the date of the Festival from Labour Day weekend. 1) **Consistent Tradition.** For 75 years we have held the Gymanfa on Labour Day weekend, and many people plan their holidays around it, regardless of location. It has always been WNGGA policy not to publicize the next Festival more than one year in advance. If we were to change the date, we would have to change this policy so that the date is well known more than 1 year ahead. I also agree with Keith that we should not conflict with major events in Wales. 2) **Costs.** Most hotels have trouble filling rooms around Labour Day and offer reduced prices for that weekend. Travel companies have also offered lower prices at this time. (This may have changed recently, but needs to be researched.) If we were to hold the Festival at the peak of summer, our penny-pinching attendees would complain about higher travel costs and hotel room rates. 3) **Attitude.** In my experience, many young people are not interested in their Welsh heritage and wouldn't come no matter when we held the Festival. For those who are interested, and their parents, they will make the effort regardless of when we hold it. I'm sure a day or two out of school at the beginning of the year would not cause any long term harm. And teenagers or college students who are working won't be able to attend during the summer anyway. Having attended Nationals for over 30 years, I can tell from experience that every year new faces show up of all ages, and if we provide an interesting product and make them feel welcome, they will return. Every group I have been involved in that has changed a regular meeting date has lost attendees as a result. I don't feel it is worth the risk of losing some of our regular attendees in the hope we can attract a few new faces. Myfanwy

Karen Ellis

From: <ghowellsmurp[REDACTED]>
To: "Ada Mae Lewis" <lewis@[REDACTED]>; "Alan Upshall" <aupshall@[REDACTED]>; "Ann McFerrin" <ammc@[REDACTED]>; "Berwyn Jones" <berwynjon@[REDACTED]>; "Betty Cullingworth" <cullingwh@[REDACTED]>; "Connie Holt-Claypool" <cwh@[REDACTED]>; "David Williams" <williamsda@[REDACTED]>; "Geraint Jones" <megh.jo@[REDACTED]>; "Gerry Parry" <gbakerpa@[REDACTED]>; "Huw Williams" <huw.william@[REDACTED]>; "Hywel Davies" <h.m.davie@[REDACTED]>; "Janet Briggs" <naint@[REDACTED]>; "Joan Mandry" <dmandry@[REDACTED]>; "Keith Jones" <kjones@[REDACTED]>; "Lynn Owens-Whalen" <lowens-whale@[REDACTED]>; "Myfanwy Davies" <[REDACTED]>; "Richard Baskwill" <rbaskwi@[REDACTED]>; "Robert Roser" <roscyr@[REDACTED]>; "Sally Funderburk" <sbfunderbur@[REDACTED]>; "Shelia Pepper" <shekenpe@[REDACTED]>; "Kara Lewis" <klewis@rio.edu>; "wngga" <wngga@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2004 5:06 PM
Subject: Changing of Date

Hello all from the Sunshine State,

I have been reading all of your emails about the change of dates for the National. The pros and cons are very impassioned. Myfanwy and Keith have a lot of good points in their letters as do all that I have read. I guess I could write a very long one in response to all, but I have been thinking over and over one thing. While I was living in Philadelphia I was on a committee for the local churches in our area. Our job was to help new churches that wanted to form and to help those that were falling apart so to say. We were working with on church that was losing a lot of people due to deaths, moving to new areas, just not wanting to go etc. As we worked with them on what could be done different or new or otherwise all we kept hearing was "But we have always done it that way." Well that church is no longer. The people have all gone and the building has been sold. It is no longer.

Will that be us if we keep saying "But we have always done it that way." I do not know what to suggest or what we could do. Only that we just have to keep trying. Because I do not want people 20 or 30 or more years than that saying, " Gee what ever happened to that Welsh event that use to happen." That would be a very sad thing.

I will be looking forward to seeing some of you in March at the Coronado. If not there in Buffalo.
 Trudy Howells-Murphy

DATE

Karen Ellis

From: "Alan Upshall" <aupsh[REDACTED]>
To: "Alan Upshall (E-mail)" <aups[REDACTED]>; "Huw Williams (E-mail)" <hu[REDACTED]@att.net>;
 "Lynn Owens-Whalen (E-mail)" <lowens-whale[REDACTED]>; "Myfanwy Davies (E-mail)" <bu[REDACTED]>; "Richard Baskwill (E-mail)" <WNGGA[REDACTED]>;
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2004 8:24 PM
Subject: date change etc

Dear All

I sincerely apologize for not coming into this conversation earlier and I don't want to undo anything that has been done or written whilst I was away in Holland and not available for this last week after my return.

But I do have 10 cents.

In principle, changing the date seems a sensible idea, but we need to be realistic about the motives for doing so.

The main one that is cited is that it offers the youth a better opportunity for attendance because they will still be on school holiday. Maybe so, but there is one caveat with this argument that is not considered. If we are now beginning to arrange an event to specifically attract the youth (making therefore the assumption that the present program structure is not good enough to do that), we will have to change the nature of the event. And in doing so will we attract the "older people" (and I am not talking about the over 60s)?

The first set of proposals from the Strategic planning committee approved last September, did not discuss planning for youth (and this was not a mistaken omission). Rather it commented on the issue that is in my eyes much more important, we need to attract those with a Welsh heritage in the 45-55 age range and hold on to them. Welsh Associations around the country are becoming, in general, smaller (yes there are some that thrive) and we are going to run low on experienced people who have the energy and vision to take us forward. Youth, while they are the much longer term future will not do that. They come in and then go for a while. Just look at the last 15 years from a WAY perspective: it has been vigorous and non existent during that time. Where have all the WAY leaders gone?

I am not against youth or change but I think that we have to get our priorities right.

The logic I believe is for two events, the youth event in the summer and the gala festival over labor day, but nowhere did I see in the emails comment on Welsh Heritage Week. (Forgive me if I missed it) Surely this is an ideal outlet for a mid summer event that should attract Welsh

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youth, but the average age of attendance is quite high. So why is it that the Welsh youth do not attend? I do not have the answer, but it indicates to me that before we begin to plan an event to try to accommodate the youth we need to make sure that the youth will attend, otherwise we will be deeper in the red than we are now (and will have upset the Welsh heritage Week group).

In the past we have undertaken several canvasses of our members concerning the date of the Festival. Always there has been a group who want change but the general consensus is to leave it. That is a biased sample of course, but to balance, a corresponding questionnaire should be entertained which designed to ask those who would, we hope, attend the mid summer festival, i.e. the youth, whether or not they would come before we try it.

Can we cooperate with Welsh Heritage Week to do something here?

I am not anti-change, just wanting to make sure we consider the package before we jump in the deep end.

Just my thoughts
Alan