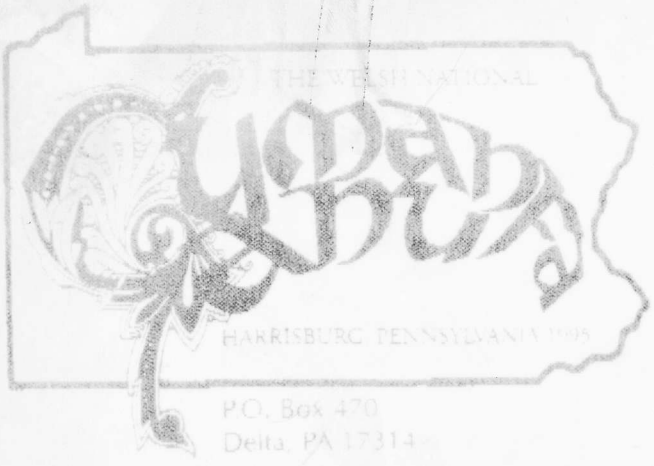


11/1/94



The September meeting of the WNGG Harrisburg '95 Committee was held on 09-24-94 at the home of Glenn Grove in Delta, PA. The meeting commenced at 10:00 AM with the singing of one verse of Rachie in Welsh and a prayer led by Rev. Richard Price Baskwill

First on the agenda was a report from all members who attended the '94 National in Bellevue, Washington. The following observations were made and discussions were held pertaining to problem avoidance and solutions

The Registration Committee noted that *1100 registrants were at this National.* There was a greater number of walk-in registrants than anticipated. The area set aside for registration was not visible to most people. Consequently, many guests came to our booth in the lobby area and asked for directions the entire weekend. Volunteers were not easily recognized either, and were not around when a question needed to be answered. *We can do better with a centrally located registration area and volunteers at an information desk on each floor*

We discovered that no monies were made on any food related activities. Hidden expenses absorbed all of the profit that was expected. *We were advised to get absolutely everything in writing from hotel as to what will and will not be provided.* The audio system in the Meydenbauer Complex was excellent, but cost a small fortune. The Grand Concert was sold out and even had a waiting list of about 60 people. The Meydenbauer was large enough to accommodate the extra people which helped make a profit for this event. *Glenn Grove asked Todd Kohr to check into extra seating in the Forum. We believe that more guests can be accommodated than originally noted. (1,880)*

Our information booth was on a lobby floor in an excellent location. We were at the end of a hall near the rest rooms, across from the Welsh Tourist Board Booth and next to the entrance of the Welsh Market Place. Truly at the crossroads of Welsh life! Our banner was a focal point and received many favorable comments. We handed out 500 stickers and almost all of our brochures and promotional items. With 1100 registrants, this means that half of the people there visited our booth and accepted information on the '95 National. We met most guests on Thursday afternoon after they picked up their registration package.

We looked at a copy of the Souvenir Program booklet and noted the different fundraising devices used to boost their treasury. There were several "clubs" established to help raise money in the early stages. We also noted the help from other Celtic groups. The Grand Concert also featured a souvenir booklet which featured advertisements along with the program schedule of the visiting choir.

*The format of the Grand Concert was discussed. The Llanelli Male Choir presented a program of Welsh poetry/literature and Welsh music and lasted two hours. It was well received by the audience. This was a sell out event and the building could accommodate the extra seating needed. We anticipate a sell out crowd for our Grand Concert also. Glenn is looking into extra seating arrangement that can be made. *If the Grand Concert is not sold out by August, we will have a media blitz in the York-Harrisburg area that will certainly sell the remaining tickets.**

*There were varied opinions on the Shuttle Bus Service. It was generally good, but when the crowds let out after the main event, there was a considerable wait until the loop was made. There was no shuttle service late in the evening (for Glenn) and no taxis were found. Fortunately, we will not have to deal with this problem. *Everything is within two blocks of each other. Harrisburg has plenty of taxi cab services and there is also a trolley that runs around the town. We will look into taxi service for those who may need it before and after events. Perhaps we can negotiate a set fee to and from the Forum. Shuttles from the Hilton and Harrisburg Hotels are complementary for airline travellers. We will also look into the shuttle service from the Transportation Center for train travellers. We plan to have a walk through of all final plans in August for guests landing at Harrisburg International Airport and guests arriving by Amtrak at the Transportation Center. We hope to have hospitality volunteers stationed at both areas to assist guests as they arrive.**

We also noted some of the logistic problems at the events. There was a Te Bach between the Puget Sound Concert and the Noson Llawn. This was held in the lobby outside the auditorium that could not accommodate the vast number of people attending the function. It would only take one person to fall and no one would have been able to render assistance due to the crowds pushing against each other. The Hyatt also served beer and wine during the Te Bach. We felt that this was inappropriate at a family event and should be relegated to the pubs. One disadvantage present at this National was that there was no central meeting place for everyone to gather for singing except in the Wintergarten. Many of us felt split up between hotels. If you weren't in the Hyatt, you weren't part of the action. The Hyatt was eight blocks away from the Best Western and you had to wait for a shuttle bus unless you wanted to walk that distance at night. Fortunately, our hotels are right next door to each other. No one will feel left out because of distance. Harrisburg is well patrolled day and night.

Some of us attended the *Banquet* which was also held in the Meydenbauer Center. There were 66 tables seating 10 persons each. Eleven persons sat at the head table. No national anthems were sung, probably due to the absence of a piano. There was a mirror with a candle for the centerpiece on each table. Each guest received a bottle of local spring water and a locally made confection as a gift. *We believe that the Hilton will hold more charm and appeal for our banquet due to the fact that it is in a hotel and not an auditorium.* Theresa Perdue has suggested a break-apart centerpiece with three flags. Guests can take a piece of the centerpiece as a gift for the evening. *Theresa also said that the seating arrangements worked well at Bellevue.* Upon registration, you turn in your banquet ticket for a seat that was marked off on a chart. You could then reserve seats for your group. Upon their arrival, they just were advised where to sit. The banquet chairperson at Bellevue advised us to get absolutely everything in writing from the hotel catering facility, all negotiations and anything promised as complementary. Incidental costs will leave very little for profit.

It was suggested that we invite the following year's National Chairperson (and necessary committee persons) to be seated at the head table at the Banquet. We believe that this invitation will foster good relations and show cooperation between the Welsh organizations. We have already met next year's Chairperson from Utica, New York and have offered to include them in any meetings and affairs they might think valuable. *We also suggest that we add an emblem to the honorary chain of office and begin a tradition of each National also adding an emblem.*

Some positive points were discussed. Small cups of water were available in the lobby during both Gymanfa sessions. We will plan to do the same. Two banners will be available for our use that have passed down from Wilkes-Barre's National. One very special seminar on Gymanfa conducting was by invitation only. We discovered that this was lead by Tim Dyck and was outstanding according to all participants. We hope to make this available in '95 also.

Glenn Grove and Pat St. Clair made a presentation to the WNGGA Executive Committee on Saturday afternoon. The progress report was well received by most of the members. One member (Don Mills) advised us that he can give us the name of a notable Welsh Chef if needed. The WNGGA Executive Committee realizes the cost of furnishing their Committee with complementary hotel rooms and has re-evaluated their position on this subject. They will only require a suite with two adjoining rooms for their members as opposed to 5 rooms as originally requested. The WNGGA is also adding five dollars (\$5.00) onto each registration fee to help defray their budget expenses.

Hilton Business:

We will now be released from Sharon Hassinger's auspices and turned over to specific managers at the Hilton who will work with our individual committees. The meeting in Harrisburg in October will introduce us to these people.

As previously mentioned, the WNGGA Executive Committee will only need two rooms (preferably a suite with adjoining rooms) in which to conduct their business so as not to take up another conference room during the weekend. The Hilton will give us one complimentary room for every 50 rooms that are reserved. Because the Hilton will handle room reservations directly with an 800 line (as was done in Bellevue), *we believe that we will not need the services of the Convention and Tourism Bureau that would have done the same for a three dollar (\$3.00) per registration fee. Direct reservation will save us all expenses and hassle.*

While in Harrisburg at our October meeting, *the Forum will be open for our inspection and questions.* Pendyrus has informed us that Robert ~~H~~ Morgan has been selected as the organist for their tour. We might consider asking him to perform a recital in the Forum sometime during the weekend, since we are renting it for the entire time. This topic was tabled for further discussion later.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Hannah reported that there is a balance of \$413.03 in the treasury as of today. We deposited \$373.00 in T shirt sales. The next order of T shirts will be slightly less because the screen charge will not be included. We should think about a major order for golf, sweat and T shirts in 1994 before the price goes up in 1995. Chuck Vaughan offered to lend money to the Committee in order to purchase these items.

Pat St. Clair would like *all committee chairpersons to create a detailed budget of their estimated expenses. This should be in real and projected figures.* Glenn and Pat felt that this was a short coming on our last progress report. The WNGGA Executive Committee was expecting detailed treasurer's report of projected figures and we presented our current status. Our next progress report is due in April 1995 in Toronto. Pat would like all budgets due for the October meeting.

Eisteddfod Discussion:

Glenn and Pat reported that a great deal of pressure was put on them to feature an Eisteddfod during the '95 National. A discussion ensued at our meeting and the following issues were brought forth:

We feel that the Hymn Competition is our focus.

We believe that the seminars, tours, meetings and an Eisteddfod in two days would be overkill. We already have a full schedule of events and one more would take away from others.

We will work with Edwardsville to encourage more Welsh entries in their own Eisteddfod (which is the longest running) and possibly offer prize money in the name of WNGG Harrisburg '95.

By a vote of common consent, it was agreed to have the Hymn Competition as our interpretation of the Eisteddfod during the '95 National.

Publicity:

We were reminded that Mary Morris Mergenthal of *Y Drych* needs our articles by the tenth of each month in order to meet her deadline. Articles need to come to Committee for review by the first of the month and no later than the fifth. *Ninnau* will also feature our articles. Cheryl Mitchell has a list of Welsh vendors and advertisers from both *Ninnau* and *Y Drych*.

Welsh Market Place:

Bill and Marge Markley reported that they have arranged a set up time for the '95 Welsh Market Place on Thursday, August 31, from 8 AM until 10 AM with Rileigh's. The vendors can then set up their booths at 10 AM and the Market Place can open at noon. A contract that is sent to each vendor from Rileigh's that contains extra items they might request was circulated among our members. The vendors get a copy as a receipt. The prototype of the Market Place contract was also passed around the group for approval. The Committee approved the Welsh Market Place contract by common consent.

Tours:

Bill St. Clair presented his report for the Tour Committee. The following tours are suggested

Lancaster County and the Amish Culture 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday all day tour with guide (bus volunteer will be needed)
Cost: \$28.00 per person
We will need 30 people on the bus in order to break even with expenses.

Lancaster "Shop 'Til You Drop" Tour 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday all day Shopping Outlet Tour (bus volunteer needed)
Cost: \$25.00 per person
We will need 19 people to break even with expenses.

Hershey Chocolate Tour 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon
Friday Morning and Saturday Afternoon guided tour
Cost: \$20.00 per person
We will need 16 people to break even with expenses.

Harrisburg City Tour 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Friday Afternoon and Saturday Morning guided tour
Cost: \$20.00 per person
We will need 16 people to break even with expenses.

Delta Heritage Tour 8:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Saturday all day tour limited to one bus load.
A lunch at Delta Pizza and Restaurant will be included. Te Bach at Capel Rehoboth following the tour.
Price for tour is still being negotiated and is not available at present. Full bus is expected.

Bill St. Clair is still working on a *Gettysburg Tour* that would be offered on the day before the National and the day after (similar to the Mt. Rainier Tour). Discount vouchers for Hershey Park are available. A day before/day after the National tour can also be arranged.

Seminars:

Dick Baskwill advised the Committee that we have 15 seminars scheduled for Friday and 13 seminars scheduled for Saturday if all seminar leaders participate. Since Bellevue, other suggestions were made

A Gymanfa conducting seminar with Tim Dyck
 Current Events in Wales with Enid Morgan
 Another Welsh cooking seminar with Don Mills' chef.

Dick Baskwill advised us that letters and copies of agreements to all seminar leaders will be sent out shortly. He has the following list to present to Committee

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <i>Conversational Welsh</i> | Peter Williams |
| <i>Ysgol Gan</i> | Donald and Ellen King |
| <i>Joseph Parry</i> | Glynne Jones |
| <i>Welsh Music</i> | Glynne Jones |
| <i>Mabinogi</i> | Beth Phillips Brown |
| <i>Vacations in Wales</i> | Welsh Tourist Board |
| <i>Thomas L. Thomas</i> | Celia Thomas |
| <i>Welsh Women Immigrants</i> | Utica |
| <i>Celtic Jewelry</i> | Rhiannon |
| <i>Folk Dancing</i> | Sian Frick |
| <i>Awr Y Plant (Listen...then Become!)</i> | Beth Vaughan |
| <i>Current Events in Wales</i> | |
| <i>Gymanfa Conducting</i> | |
| <i>Cooking with the Welsh Chef</i> | |
| <i>Geneology (Basic and Advanced)</i> | |
| <i>Trade Winds (seaChanties)</i> | Calennig |
| <i>Traditions and Customs of Wales</i> | Calennig |

At this time it was agreed by common consent to choose Trade Winds and Traditions of Wales for the seminar topic presented by Calennig. We will need 18 to 19 people in order to break even with our expenses associated with each seminar. It was suggested that we charge \$5.00 per participant and reserve the right to cancel due to insufficient attendance. Dick will check with each hotel as to available space and time for each seminar.

Bilingual Morning Worship:

Dick Baskwill advised us that in addition to the other participants in the Morning Worship Service, he has invited Creighton Lewis, also. A vote of common consent approved the invitation extended to Creighton Lewis to participate in the Morning Worship Service. The service lasts one and a half hours and twenty minutes is dedicated to the Memorial Service. Ushers will be needed to collect the offering. It was suggested that we announce where the contributions will be designated to increase donations from the congregation.

Civic Ceremony:

Priscilla Sherman advised us that the time and location of the Civic Ceremony is confirmed. We were advised by the WNGGA Executive Board to leave the 2:30 PM commencement of this as is and not worry about having it at night before the Noson Llawn. Priscilla will send out invitations to dignitaries and officials as soon as elections are over.

WAY:

Cheryl Mitchell suggested making a fee of \$5.00 for each participant in the WAY evening. It will start off with a pool party at the Harrisburg Hotel with pizza. The actual cost per person is \$5.80, but we do not look at this as a money making activity. The past president of WAY told Cheryl that the WNGGA has a reserve of WAY money from previous Nationals. She will write to the WNGGA to investigate this area. After the pool party, there will be a Twmpath across the hall in the auditorium area featuring Calennig. Cheryl will invite Danny Proud to be break music for Calennig. The Twmpath will continue until a little past the Banquet, for others who might wish to participate. The evening will end with a short folk concert by Calennig.

Hospitality:

Danielle Wells made a brief report on the trip to the Delaware Welsh Society on 09-16-94. Both she and her husband were invited to demonstrate the art of making Welsh tea cakes. Trips to the Lehigh Valley and Wilkes-Barre are projected in the future. Other possibilities are the Welsh Society of Philadelphia and the Welsh Guild of Arch Street Presbyterian Church. A letter inviting all Welsh societies to participate in the '95 National will go out before next meeting. Two local markets have offered to help freeze Welsh cakes for our project. A detailed list of volunteer jobs has been created to use when visiting societies.

Gymanfa Sessions:

The Committee was advised that Donald King has accepted the invitation to participate in the Morning Worship Service as pianist/organist and accompany both soloists during the Gymanfa Sessions. Louise has accepted the invitation to sing during the afternoon break, but we have not yet heard from David Gwesyn Smith. He may not have received our original letter, since he travels so much between countries and states. We will send a second letter by registered mail to insure its delivery and include a decision deadline so we may have time to secure another soloist if needed.

Registration:

Ron Roberts asked that we go over the registration form in depth to catch any errors or logistical mistakes. We agreed to do this at the end of the meeting.

Brainstorming Session:

Other ideas were brought to Committee's attention. Jack Jones found a shop in Port Deposit, Maryland, that produces *salt glazed stoneware* out of local clay. The pottery is in the shape of a vase with a local town inscribed on it. We can order quantities with our own design or lettering. An order of 50 pieces would cost us \$6.50 per vase and lettering is extra. We could easily sell them for \$13.00 a piece as collector's items from the '95 National.

It was suggested that we offer an *early bird promotional package* to encourage early registration.

It was observed at Bellevue that most of the *signs* used were not large enough or placed in prominent areas to be of greatest value. We must remember this when talking to the hotels.

We also made comment on the amount of *programs* that were handed out at each event. The souvenir booklet contained a detailed schedule of everything except the Grand Concert program. This made one gather many unnecessary papers throughout the weekend. Perhaps we could come up with a better idea.

The WNGGA sells hymnals prior to the Gymanfa Sessions in the lobby of the building. We will be asked to do the same at our National. Bellevue ran out of hymnals and resorted to photocopying the hymns for use. By 1995, the new hymnal will be out in print and will cause great demand. We will have to be aware of this situation.

Pat St. Clair and Glenn Grove talked to Paul Loveluck while at Bellevue and noted the following request: *the Welsh Tourist Board wants more exposure in the Nationals.* We will do our best to accommodate them. Paul Loveluck will write a letter on our behalf appealing for fund for our National. Abergavenny Foods has shown interest in providing Welsh Cheeses to us.

A discussion was held on the *Welsh Chefs* and their compensation for the weekend. We will offer a gratis table at the Market Place and overnight lodging for each chef.

Our next meeting will be held on October 29, 1994, at the Harrisburger Room in the Hilton Hotel and Towers at 10:00 AM. A representative of the Welsh Tourist Board, possibly John Alwyn Jones, will be present. He wants to hear a short synopsis of each committee to be able to advise us on our present situation and how he can help us with his organization. We are also expecting Todd Kohr and a Hilton representative to be with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Wells
Recording Secretary

