

VENUES - FUTURE '95 OR '96

st David's welsh-american society of washington, D.C.



3/16/92 ✓

March 13, 1992

Dear Nelson:

Thanks so much for the very helpful material you sent to me with Dorothy Guerry. We distributed all the WNGGA applications at our banquet and placed them, along with the banquet programs. We had 74 in attendance so I hope you will get some new members.

I can't give you much information by mid-March because my Board of Directors does not meet until the middle of May when we have a harp concert scheduled, and which is also our Annual Meeting where we elect officers. I will have a new Board of Directors, but I will appoint a committee right away to investigate hotel rates. That is the big stumbling block in this affluent area. I learned that all the Wilkes Barre Welsh who attended the Baltimore Gymanfa commuted in busses and did not stay at the hotel. They will do the same thing since Washington is only 40 miles from Baltimore.

I will contact the Hyatt Regency here, a magnificent hotel, and let you know before in ten days or 2 weeks what I learn. I will also check out the Alexandria Hotel so at least you will have some idea of what the room rates are. Occupancy rates for hotel rooms in this area is extremely high. There is a great deal of occupancy by people on expense accounts so that is why the rates are so high. Our Gymanfa attendees are most people living on pensions or those who have enough savings to do the traveling. Anyway, Nelson I will try very hard to give you some information. I will call you.

The Women's Welsh Convention is in Alexandria, Virginia in June and we might do better in Alexandria. It is a very historic city, and just across the Potomac River from Washington and the magnificent George Washington Masonic Temple is there and that has great possibilities because it has magnificent rooms; the Women's Masonic Organizations would be happy to cater the dinners. Alexandria Court No. 7 meets at the Temple and they cater a lot of parties; there is an Eastern Star chapter there which might be willing to cater but we need time to get all the data gathered together and one month is not enough time, especially when the St. David's Day banquet came in the middle of it.

The Kennedy Center has perfect acoustics and I will even investigate that august auditorium. I think they make concessions to ethnic groups, which includes us. They have excellent dining facilities: a cafeteria, a small restaurant called Curtain Call, and a French restaurant which is expensive but the food is elegant. The cafeteria would probably be the favorite.

When we had the Gymanfa here in 1959, we hired busses (they also were cheaper then) to take people from the Mayflower Hotel to the DAR's Constitution Hall. That was great fun. They sang to and from the concerts and the bus drivers loved it.

Incidentally, for our banquet speaker this year we had Dr. Islyn Thomas of New Jersey, whom I am sure you know very well, as our speaker, and he was just delightful. We had him some years ago and he was great then. I am enclosing his very impressive resume just in case you ever need a good speaker. He is very wealthy so he does this for fun. I think we gave him \$100 but he stayed with his daughter, who lives here. He told one or two off-color stories which one old gal objected to but most of them laughed. You can tactfully ask him to refrain from any off-color wit. That is the first time I heard him do it.

I have gone over briefly the material you sent and you know perfectly well that it would be absolutely impossible to comply with the kind of information you need in one month's time. If your committee meets before we can assemble all the data, just tell them that we need time to put the thing together, and we will ask Barbara Morgan and some of those people who put on the Gymanfa in Baltimore to meet with us and give us the benefit of their expertise. I belong to St. David's in Baltimore also and they are very friendly. I attended their St. David's Banquet last Saturday. I note that Baltimore had over 3200 people present. I doubt that we could expect more than 2000. As I said before, the Baltimore people will bus back and forth, and the local here will go home. I love to stay at the hotel because otherwise, you will the lobby singing and a chance to really visit with people.

Our Society had a couple of lean years but people are rejoining and we got some new members Friday night so I feel much more confident that we can give serious consideration to a National.

Also, let me know what year we are talking about.

I plan to be in Kansas City and hope to see Betty there. Please give her my best and tell her I sure have missed seeing her.

Much love to you both,

Mr. Nelson L. Llewellyn
Secretary
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OS I will be in Cleveland ^{next} Wednesday for a Board meeting and will call you. If I can change my flight, I will plan to stay over.

