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ST. DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

4/24/93
April 20, 1993

TO: Iris Rees
From: Jack Nesbitt *JN*
Subject: WNGGA Planning Guidelines Committee

I look forward to joining you in the opportunity to make some positive contributions which will insure the survival of the annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu. My daytime FAX number [redacted] 6/926-7513.

Mae and Don Anderson will be in Kansas City near the end of April and we plan to get together to discuss our assignment. Needless to say, we have some thoughts on this topic in light of our own experiences in chairing recent Welsh Nationals!

Venues in deep pockets of Welsh immigration (Pennsylvania and Ohio) will have great numbers of local participants. This could be misleading in terms of what is actually happening to annual attendance. Subtracting local attendees (looking at recent Welsh Nationals), the number of out-of-town folks spending money to travel to venue sites appears to be diminishing. We have our work cut out for us!

Our survey of attendees at the 1992 Kansas City Welsh National (402 sheets returned) suggests some reasons for that decline in out-of-town participants. We found that 69% of those registered were age 60 or over (40% were age 70 or over). Only a third (32%) were 100% Welsh (18% responded that they had no Welsh ancestry or didn't know). Half (51%) had previously attended five or more Welsh Nationals (32% were attending their first Welsh National, many of whom resided within driving distance).

Less than half (44.6%) of those responding were WNGGA Life Members and only 13.4% reported that they read Hwyl (obviously its newness hasn't worn off). Although 42% can sing the Welsh words to hymns, 86% admitted that they could not carry on a conversation in Welsh. Only a handful of Canadians attended (fewer than the number from Wales). The core group appears to be an aging, non-Welsh speaking group of retired U. S. citizens who participate annually. And, this group is shrinking in size each year.

Being somewhat of a traditionalist myself and inclined to stick with the traditional Labor Day timetable, I found it interesting to note that this largely retirement age group did not consider Labor Day Weekend to be that important to their attendance. Labor Day Weekend ranked fourth from the bottom in importance among 17 items listed on the form. Only the Welsh Tea Room (not the Welsh Market Place), the Children's Hour and the WNGGA Annual Meeting received fewer "Strongly Agree/Agree" responses. The souvenir coffee mug ranked higher than Labor Day Weekend in terms of positive responses! Perhaps the Trustees should consider a time of year more favorable to parents with children in school, teachers and college students, etc.

I'll send each member of the committee a copy of the results as soon as Ellis and I re-check some data.

The Welsh National is a major event, with bank accounts running in the \$90,000-\$105,000 range, and demanding enormous amounts of time on the part of venue committee leaders. Aside from the assistance provided by Nelson, national officer/trustee involvement in the planning, financing and execution of a Welsh National is difficult to document. Each venue chairperson can speak for herself/himself on this point! These and other factors experienced by the recent venue committees should be taken into consideration when revising the red and green books or "gospels" of the WNGGA.

Kansas City ended up well in the black for the 1992 Welsh National, thanks to the money from the Welsh choir concert, Welsh folk group concert (the Wales Tourist Board paid their transportation, meals and housing) and donations/memorials.

I believe that most attendees have no notion of the costs involved in making a Welsh National a success. Many think that their registration fee covers a wide array of expenses. In Kansas City, the \$10 registration fees was not sufficient to cover WNGGA National Office expenses related to the event (two WNGGA membership mailings, printing and stationery), cost of printing the program book (even with advertising defraying a portion of the typesetting and printing fees), cost of the two Sunday singing sessions (honorariums, travel costs, organ rental, etc.) and Farewell Tea on Sunday evening, audiovisual charges from the hotel for various events, paid advertisements in several issues of Ninnau and Y Drych, or the two years of local venue committee on-going expenses.

Most of the other activities broke even (e.g., we charged diners exactly what the hotel charged us for meals), made a small profit (seminars, tours, vendor rent at the Welsh Marketplace, etc.) or lost a small amount (tea and Welsh cake sales at the Welsh Tea Room section of the Welsh Market Place).

cc: WNGGA Planning Guidelines Committee Members
Dr. Ellis J. Jones

WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION

4/24/93

DRAFT

The 1992 Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu
 Kansas City, Missouri
 September 3-6

PARTICIPANT SURVEY RESULTS

At the 1992 National Gymanfa Ganu, the local Venue Committee distributed to each person who registered a "Participant Survey" form to be returned to the Committee following the conclusion of the National. The survey form contained 30 separate items with a space for the individuals to add suggestions for improving future Welsh Nationals.

Given below and on the following pages are summaries of the responses to the items in the survey form. Please note that in some cases the persons did not answer all of the items on the survey form; therefore, the numbers do not add up the same from item to item.

Starting with Item 3, the results are presented showing the responses from those who attended the National for the first time (Column marked First), those who had attended at least one national previously (Column marked Previous), and the combined totals for the item (Column marked Total). The interpretation of the results is left to the reader.

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Item 1. Is this your first Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu?

Yes	130	<i>32% attended <u>first</u> Welsh National</i>
No	<u>272</u>	
Total	402	<i>v. 513 on 1989 Membership Survey</i>

Item 2. If your answer to Question 1 was "no," how many previous Welsh Nationals have you attended?

1:	24	<i>50% of veterans attended 5 or more</i>
2:	32	
3:	20	
4:	17	
5 or more:	184	

Item 3. Your age.

	First	Previous	Total	
10-19:	3	3	6	<i>16% 49-</i>
20-29:	1	5	6	
30-39:	6	9	15	<i>69% 60+</i>
40-49:	15	18	33	
50-59:	22	33	55	<i>40% 70+</i>
60-69:	39	66	107	
70-79:	22	101	123	
80-89:	6	17	23	
90-plus:	0	0	0	

PARTICIPANT SURVEY RESULTS, page 2

Item 4: Were you born in Wales? If YES, skip Question 5.

	First	Previous	Total
Yes	10	37	47
No	113	223	336
			87.7 (v. 80.7)

Item 5: Have you traveled to Wales?

	First	Previous	Total
Yes	78	200	278
No	46	43	89
			75.7 (v. 76.8)

Item 6: Can you carry on a conversation in Welsh?

	First	Previous	Total
Yes	10	45	55
No	117	214	331
			85.7 (v. 71.1)

Item 7: Can you sing the Welsh words in the hymns?

	First	Previous	Total
Yes	36	180	216
No	79	81	160
			57.4 (v. 69.7)

Item 8: Do you belong to a local Welsh organization?

	First	Previous	Total
Yes	66	223	284
No	63	48	111

Item 9: Are you a paid Life Member of the WNGGA?

	First	Previous	Total
Yes	31	177	208
No	92	76	168
			55.4%

Item 10: How did you arrive in Kansas City?

	First	Previous	Total
Plane	30	143	173
Train	1	3	4
Car	69	93	162
Chartered Bus	3	28	31
Greyhound Bus	3	0	3
Local Resident	22	5	27

Item 11: Circle the publications you read:

	First	Previous	Total
<u>Hwyl</u>	0	30	30
<u>Ninnau</u>	49	175	224
<u>Y Drych</u>	54	171	225
			13.4%
			> 55.7%

Item 12: What proportion of you is of Welsh ancestry?

	First	Previous	Total
100%	25	105	130
75%	2	2	4
50%	37	79	116
25%	30	22	52
Less than 25%	10	13	23
Unknown/None	28	44	72

62%
18%

Item 13: What was your primary source of information on the 1992 Welsh National?

	First	Previous	Total
WNGGA Mailings	7	169	176
<u>Ninnau</u>	23	62	85
<u>Y Drych</u>	28	147	175
Local Newspaper	2	1	3
Relative/Friend	44	24	68
Local Welsh Org.	47	34	81
Other	1	0	1

In Items 14-30 each person was asked to indicate the extent to which he/she agreed with each statement. The basic statement was:

"The following are important parts of the Welsh National."

The agreement was indicated by circling Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), No Opinion (NO), Disagree (D), or Strongly Disagree (SD).

The responses are summarized in three lists--Those who were attending their First National, Those who had attended previously, and the Total.

A. First

	<u>SA</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>SD</u>
Noson Lawen	65	20	25	0	0
Grand Banquet	41	30	30	3	1
Welsh Folk Music Eve.	56	34	25	2	1
WNGGA Annual Meeting	19	20	46	0	0
Welsh Choir Concert	91	21	7	0	1
Bilingual Chapel Svc.	78	24	13	3	0
Two Hymn Sing. Svcs.	83	19	11	3	0
Sun. Eve. Farewell Tea	42	29	33	1	0
Seminars/Workshops	85	25	9	0	0
Local Tours	25	36	28	7	1
Children's Hour	28	12	51	1	0

PARTICIPANT SURVEY RESULTS. page 4

	<u>SA</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>SD</u>
Welsh Market Place	83	29	9	1	1
Welsh Tea Room	34	32	30	6	4
Sun. Buffet/Sessions	21	28	44	4	1
WNGG on Labor Day Wknd.	34	26	34	16	6
Souvenir Prog. Book	69	40	11	1	1
Souvenir Coffee Mug	46	35	26	6	2

B. Previous

	<u>SA</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>SD</u>
Noson Lawen	155	80	17	7	0
Grand Banquet	182	83	43	22	22
Welsh Folk Music Eve.	195	92	46	16	1
WNGGA Annual Meeting	85	54	81	2	1
Welsh Choir Concert	179	59	14	10	4
Bilingual Chapel Svc.	168	73	17	3	0
Two Hymn Sing. Svcs.	227	27	5	2	0
Sun. Eve. Farewell Tea	146	76	31	4	0
Seminars/Workshops	149	80	24	2	0
Local Tours	121	78	61	4	4
Children's Hour	87	66	78	4	2
Welsh Market Place	175	77	9	13	0
Welsh Tea Room	89	75	59	7	4
Sun. Buffet/Sessions	116	74	50	5	4
WNGG on Labor Day Wknd.	115	61	38	30	15
Souvenir Prog. Book	167	72	13	3	0
Souvenir Coffee Mug	94	65	78	21	4

C. Total

	<u>SA</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>SD</u>
Noson Lawen	220	100	42	7	0
Grand Banquet	233	113	73	25	13
Welsh Folk Music Eve.	251	126	71	18	2
WNGGA Annual Meeting	104	74	127	2	1
Welsh Choir Concert	270	80	21	10	5
Bilingual Chapel Svc.	246	97	30	6	0
Two Hymn Sing. Svcs.	310	46	16	5	0

I've asked Ellis to re check these

	<u>SA</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>SD</u>
Sun. Eve. Farewell Tea	188	105	64	5	0
Seminars/Workshops	234	105	33	2	0
Local Tours	146	114	89	11	5
Children's Hour	115	78	129	5	2
Welsh Market Place	258	106	18	14	1
Welsh Tea Room	123	107	89	13	8
Sun. Buffet/Sessions	137	102	94	9	5
WNGG on Labor Day Wknd.	149	87	72	46	21
Souvenir Prog. Book	236	112	24	4	1
Souvenir Coffee Mug	140	100	104	27	6

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On the following pages are the unedited comments written by persons who responded to the Survey. The first set of comments are by persons who were attending their First National; the second set of comments are by persons who have attended at least on National previously.

What suggestions do you have for improving future Welsh Nationals?

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Responses from persons who had not attended a National before:

Being in one building for everything. Professional video's available after the Gymanfa Ganu is over for a person to purchase. (Especially church service, morning, afternoon, evening and the lobby night activities.

This was my first Gymanfa and I enjoyed it very much. Hywel Thomas was a wonderful music director. The practice session was a great help however. I would have liked even more Welsh language sessions. Being a novice in singing in Welsh I could have attended several sessions! I hope the varied programs continue -things aimed at children and young adults too. The ardwyn Singers were wonderful! I would have enjoyed more harp music or even a session on playing the harp.

The music director Hywel Thomas was extremely good. I believe a male choir best - because so few exist in America today so this makes it unique. The singing around the Piano very important. The Pre-service parts singing important. The Gymanfa very improving and fond memory establisher. The event was very memorable and will have a lasting import on my thoughts about Wales and Welsh culture. At a local Celtic Society we try at each meeting to have a small Gymanfa as part of our program.

We must incorporate our youth into our Welsh Associations and the Welsh Nationals lest our numbers die off within the next two years. Every effort should be made, which preserves the goals and integrity of the WNGGA, to aid our youth. The dance classes should also be preserved.

What suggestions do you have for improving future Welsh Nationals?

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Responses from persons who had not attended a National before:

I enjoyed most the luncheon and fashion show (I look at clothes better than sing) I was in K.C. partly to babysit grandchildren so had to choose only a few events. I wish I had chosen Sunday night rather than Friday. The folk music was ok, but at intermission we left for the informal hymn singing and enjoyed it more. I was glad I came and hope someday to attend one again and bring the grandchildren to absorb their 1/8 Welsh heritage. I heard and enjoyed the chorus in Topeka (nearer my home and much easier access for me) The music was wonderful but I regretted the absence of the Welsh song I especially remember from almost annual attendance at St. David's Day. Emporia (will keep a Welcome. men of Harleck guide me or thou great Jevoah) Maybe they sang these in K.C.

Over-all Good!! A little too "Retiree orientated" for example banquet should be Sat not Fri. If Fri. Start at 7:30 -- people still employed are interested too!! Try to be open to new people and ideas. On the other hand, the political (PLAID CYMRV) impart, is especially partisan and regrettable: Please restore "God Save the Queen" !! We get enough propoganda from the media! As a Kansas citizen I regret the silly "co-chair person" word use - surely Wilke Bane with do better. Over-all good!! esp. folk singing, workshop, dancing, etc. try a welsh language lesson next year.

New altos, tenors, basses need a way to learn their parts. The hymn - singing is glorious, and I (age 46) would like to continue this tradition. Like most people, I need the chance to hear my part and learn it well. Suggestion: make and sell tapes of the parts. (My church choir does this.) We listen to our parts in the car, while doing housework, yard work etc. This is not a complicated project, and greatly increases our confidence - and the feeling that we are welcome to the singing. More sectional practices could be held during the gymanfa as well. Another singer mentioned that her church prints the Welsh words with phonetic spelling, and it's much easier to sing - I think this is an idea whose time has come. I found Hywel Thomas an egotistical, unkind, and unintelligent person. I resented the way he kept drawing attention to himself on Sunday afternoon. Sounded like a radio announcer! Then at one point he shouted something into his powerful microphone (in simulated ecstasy) and hurt my ears so badly that I left the Gymanfa. My heart was pounding, my blood pressure skyrocketed, and I was so sure he would do it again, that I fled!!!! This is supposed to be Religious?

Only attended 1 day.

Increase seminars.

Do more in English. Have more for young people to do. Programs need to be shorter to attract the younger people.

Make the Noson Lawen a truer Noson Lawen - and don't let it drag on so long. The mixed choir and Hin Neg were terrific!!

I enjoyed very much my first WNGG. The visiting choir and the seminars attended were excellent!! (Emigration and Welsh Women.)

Less talk by the Noson Lawen MC's. Detracted from the several excellent performances and made too long a "sit". Programs well planned and executed. Appreciate promptness. A map of directions to the hotel would have been more helpful than written instructions.

Hold Noson Lawen to reasonable time - especially delete MC's irrelevant digressions and "funny" stories. Program was good but too dragged out by MC's excessive talk, talk, talk.

Duplication of seminars was helpful in personal scheduling on Fri and Sat.

As one of the organists, I was disappointed in the level of the conversation during the prelude time - at both the chapel service and Gymanfa sessions. I felt that this particular music was "lost" - even though it also represented the rich musical heritage of Wales. Maybe these pre-event time are not appropriate places to have music. It is always a dilemma. Congratulations on an excellent job! We loved it all!!!

I enjoyed all the programs very much but since it was my first GGA I have nothing to judge it by. The breakfast was fine, but the food at the banquet and buffet was unbelievably poor for the price we paid.

When choir was singing would have liked more hymns and more Welsh songs. Also would have liked to have been able to purchase a tape of the choir with more hymns. I hope it will be some where in the midwest more often.

I will think of many things when I get home, if the ideas are any good I will send them on.

I liked the low registration fee, but then was surprised at the ticked cost for part of the festival. I would have like more info about parking policies near the hotel. I guess I felt like kind of a novice about the Gymanfa Ganu since this my first time.

The banquet took place in uncomfortable crowded conditions. The dinner was poorly prepared. Acoustics poor. Place in a place conducive to large crowds.

Over Labor Day has its drawbacks but for working people especially. School personnel it is about as good as any. With the largest percentage being retired it would probably not work for us still working.

Market and Tea Room--too expensive.

I enjoyed the Gymanfa Ganu very much. Everything was great. All has been great on this one! Maybe at the beginning a presentation of the leaders could be made in person as well as in print.

An overall good time was had by all. The Welsh are doing a great job of carrying on the Heritage with their "Gymanfa's" on all levels--local district, State and National. Getting the (free) mug was a great idea! Thanks! would be great to see more native dress at Nationals, especially at Banquets.

Note taking pad in packet. John Sheaffer an excellent organist. Mr. Thomas delightful leader. Hymn singing more effective if seated in parts--no signs visible. lots of people scattered. Should fill in area. Seminars good. Well prepared and in good depth.

Soloists and speakers to please use the mike. Visitors should be informed about validating parking tickets. Banquet seating given upon registration.

This was well-organized and very nice. Great singing!! Enjoyed bell-ringers. Singing soloists could have been closer to microphones so we could hear words. An information sheet could be included instructing people to get banquet vouchers exchanged and have parking tickets validated.

Didn't like the raw green beans! Not worth \$25! Parking should be free to local participants. Great music. People with hearing problems should be able to sit in front.

Food(banquet, buffet) should be eatable foods! Both meals were not good. Should accommodate nationality. Cost at Tea Time outrageous--plus real Welsh cakes. Accommodations, organization--great! Future workshops: 1. Holiday Traditions--past, present. 2. Costume--through history. (patterns made available).

Please make sure food is edible. Most food not very good for older people!

Food very poor in banquets. Waste of good money.

A large U.S. map with pins with names to show who is from where. A room for teens or a party or dance for teens to meet each other with contemporary Welsh rock music.(Maybe between afternoon and evening ganus). Both Ganu's a little shorter.

How about listing on name bags where you or your grandparents or parents came from in Wales?

The "Red Dragon Pub" was a great idea--not so much for imbibing as for mixing informally with other Welsh and some of the guest artists. Try to get better food for banquet or lower price. Try to find better place for informal singing with better acoustics. Give more information to people not in attendance the first day--How many present and where from. Let the first time people know they should buy Hymn books for Hymn songs.

1. Print new hymnals with the words and the music together. 2. Discourage taking of pictures, particularly at the concert. 3. Have a seminar on Welsh pronunciation.

Difficulty in finding rooms for seminars. Difficulty in hearing from sound system. Enjoyed organization of the Noson Lawen. If people want to sing, play or recite--a little time could be saved for them, but timed! Part singing seminars was very helpful. Concert absolutely beautiful!! Congregation should have been asked to sit for the Cum Khandda Postlude--due to the dedication.

Congratulations to Kansas City Committee for a wonderfully organized meeting and thank you for your many kindnesses and courtesies.

A. Some opportunity for discussion sessions:

1) How to attract and retain members at the local level

2) Sources/ideas for programs

3) How to contact visiting Welsh personages or visiting groups.

B. "Cracker barrel" sessions with opportunity to talk informally (with informed leader) on current issues in Wales, trends in Welsh art and literature.

C. More space in Welsh tea-room with more opportunity to sit and visit over a cup of tea. (Solicit refreshments from WNGGA organizations participating. Hotel Welsh-cakes were exorbitant in price).

Publish a listing of registrants (Name, City Plus Association with Wales E.G. Native Born, First, Second, or Third Generation). Identification preferably with Welsh county of origin or the new county (Gaent, Dyfed, Powys, etc.) with assembly areas for counties identified credit card service by the major Welsh market vendors. Optional visits to local universities, major industries.

The Sunday service was a little blah. Also quite long--too much bell time. The sermon was sleep-inducing. Perhaps there is a more dynamic Welsh preacher somewhere.

Workshops (especially children's) needs HELP! Very unorganized.

More classes. Banquet and buffet menus were disappointing.

More classes. Banquet food was terrible! Buffet time not well publicized. In the classes please present where and what Welsh people--ie Europe and America, are doing, saying and publishing.

I liked every bit of it!

Please consider banning picture-taking during the concert and other formal times such as the church service. It is very distracting to the audience and must be to the performers as well. If there is another fashion show, please let people eat their lunch at least up to dessert before showing the fashions. For those of us whose chairs were facing the opposite direction, we had a choice of not finishing our lunch or not seeing the show. Not a good choice!

Handouts at seminars please. Choose songs most of us know please. Have food more typical of Wales at banquet. Sweatshirts/T-shirts with Harp/Dragon in green and red or authentic flag colors available. Catalogs for ordering souvenirs available.

Have a less expensive hotel and hold the big services in a local church. Find a hotel that allows you to make your own tea.

More carefully prepare for the numbers of people attending Te Bach so food and tea doesn't run out. Have more than one line to eliminate the eternal waiting.

The hymn-singing in the hotel was fun but chants could be provided sooner. The fountain was a hindrance of hearing well.

Someplace that has good food! In getting tea at the Welsh Tearoom--you couldn't get a second cup of water! They said the hotel charged for that. Three kinds of pasta for the Buffet? Now that's profit! And for \$15! These complaints are against the hotel, not the WNGG--it's great. The director of Sunday's singing is magnificent.

Longer workshop on Mabinogi--beginning and advanced. Oral history/storytelling from older members (transmitting the tradition).

Longer/Multi-Sequential workshops on Mabinogi and other Welsh Folklore. Oral history and tradition workshops--sharing by older members.

It was so wonderful! I don't see how it can improve.

More for young people. More English--less Welsh. Having the Gymanfa Ganu at the immediate beginning of the school year in so many locations discourages young families from participating. Having it in August would enable them to incorporate it with a family vacation. I would encourage those planning next year's Gymanfa to have more locations for dining--family picnic areas--churches holding suppers served family style--younger people--in truth, even many older retirees--can ill afford the luxury prices of posh hotels. The Gymanfa should be a "coming together" at more than just singing sessions and concerts. Traditional "Bore Da" greetings need to be encouraged--areas set aside for people of regions to come together socially--We need more friendly opportunities to mix together as a group of people with mutual heritage. Hyatt hotels do not promote this! Our children do not need to be chastised because they cannot speak the language but need to be encouraged to participate as they can or this whole thing will suffer as ultimate demise!

It would be nice to be able to locate other people from specific towns or areas who are attending.

1) Attract younger people (children) by making it clearer that children are welcome in dancing and folk singing, for example, my twins went and had a great time (they are 12 years old), but generally kids in that age group and (a little older) were left on their own. 2) Many things that were done were excellent--the "cafeteria-style" registration is great. I thought the local people in Kansas City were very willing to help in any regard. 3) Perhaps the sponsoring committee could see about having the hotel have sandwiches or something available as a faster and/or cheaper option for lunch on a couple of the days. We had a car, so it was no problem for us, but many people didn't. Eating sit-down lunches at Hyatt prices for every meal (especially with kids) is tough on any budget. 4) For locals and/or kids, a simple version of the hymnal would be nice--simple melodies only. 5) Overall, I thought it was a great experience!

Access to young people--Work with choir directors and young people to experience the singing--also some Welsh.

Next time I will try to take the seminars in I understand the Noson Lawen is great too. Since this was my first gymanfa, I really should not comment too much but I have a few suggestions: 1) I didn't care for the Friday night folk fest, perhaps it was the acoustics in the room. 2) I like the idea of the banquet but as strong speaker or better sound system is needed. 3) I feel they cut the informal singing too short and need a strong conductor who will keep the music going and going. 4) This is such a great festival--I hate to think of what will become of it as we older ones die out.

The Welsh Choir was a disappointment--much prefer the All-Male Singers as a chorus and the selection of the program was not what I came to hear. The Singers were technically good but too small in number. The women were given the more prominent role in the singing. Enjoyed the folk song trio and the storyteller at the Noson Lawen, in particular.

There weren't nearly enough Welsh cakes to go around! The setting of the Regency was glorious--very nice background for informal singing and visiting. Access to K.C. sites excellent. What a lovely, lovely city! Droich yn fawriawn.

My first Gymanfa so I would have preferred a male choir. It would be fun to have little announcements to pass out to folks you talk to in town and restaurants. Seating idea for banquet super!

Hymns to be sung in English first, then Welsh for those of us who are sight-reading. It's very difficult to figure out Welsh and music at the same time--and the Welsh verses are sung less well. Loved Hywel's conducting and jokes. Did not love some of the overly baptist sentiments, though, or some of the flaky comments (2.5% Christians in Wales--yeah, sure...Are the others Druids, perhaps?) These kinds of comments are divisive, and retract from the hwyl of the Gymanfa Ganu. The hotel was a good choice, particularly for the acoustics in the lobby! More T-shirts next time.

I was disappointed in the choir from Wales. It seemed to lack the fire I expected. Perhaps they are worn down with their town.

On the registration form, would like to see a place to write the county or town if known where you came from--then grouped (the Noson Lawen) so one will meet right away, those from you area--so questions could be asked from those from Wales or those who had been there.

As this is my first national Gymanfa Ganu, I have nothing to compare it with. I enjoyed myself very much, but I do have several suggestions for future "nationals." 1) Scheduling the WNGG over Labor Day can be a problem for those families with school age children who need to drive rather than fly due to finances. If one is driving from a distance, attending a Gymanfa Ganu can be a problem. Either the children must miss school or miss the Gymanfa Ganu, neither of which is a good alternative. Therefore, my vote would go to changing the date. 2) The Welsh Tea Room was a good idea for congregating and visiting, but the cost seemed prohibitive. I understand that the hotel charged exorbitant prices for water, necessitating expensive tea \$1.10/glass.

If this is what the cost will be, perhaps the Tea Room should be discontinued, as this can be expensive! It's a little gripe, but I thought I'd mention it. 3) The part-singing should be divided into workshops for experienced and novice Welsh speakers. I'm new to this and needed a lot more practice! Either have separate singing times or perhaps a workshop on pronouncing the words of the hymns. It would be most appreciated! 4) Please have the Gymanfa Ganu in a church! Perhaps it was not possible due to location considerations, but the acoustics and the reverence for the occasion would be much enhanced by having the program in a church! 5) Our tour to the Powell Gardens did not include adequate provisions for lunch. Since we had a 4 hour tour, I felt lunch should've been included. The personnel at Powell Gardens were not prepared for us and weren't terribly accommodating. I'd be glad to pay extra for a lunch to be included with the tour. 6) All in all, I'm sure a Gymanfa Ganu is terribly difficult to plan for and I have enjoyed myself. The fellowship and singing with "kinsmen" has been a joyful experience. I hope my comments will be considered however, to make future Gymanfa Ganus even more special. Thank you! Margaret J. Prond Edwards

Superb! Welsh Tea Room needs more publicity.

Make sure sound system in excellent to superb form (as majority of audience is order!) for speakers and soloists. Fine occasion!

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be able to participate in and pay for only those events in which I was interested or that fit my schedule, that I didn't have to pay for the entire event in order to participate only in the few that were possible with my schedule. THANK YOU! (This has kept me from attending this event in the past when I looked into it...)

Need better amplification system.

I participated in #19, #25 and #29 only - Would have enjoyed more if I hadn't had time conflicts with other events.

Workshops and seminars should not be back to back, so that the room could be cleared. Encourage more young couples to attend by providing baby sitting service.

All arrangements fine except inadequate amplification for ballroom M. C.

Change to a non-holiday weekend.

There should be more for the teenagers. Some things are a little long.

I feel more attention should be given to the Welsh Youth. More participant activities (other than just group singing) could be added. I feel that more of the songs should be sung in English, and/or the Welsh language should be taught at the Ganu. The timing wasn't good because many youth are in school and/or school activities.

Responses from persons who not attended a National before:

To make GG a truly cultural event - Continue bringing talented youth groups from Wales with their contemporary presentations. Have some informal lively, rousing PUB songs - with less than 3% of Welsh practicing Christians - Remember the rest of Wales and the time Welsh people spend in PUBS - they are part of the culture.

Excellent program this year - seminar leaders tops - events started on time - well organized - just keep up the quality of this years events - buffet supper wasn't too good!

We felt that the service provided by the hotel was poor. The cost was high, the level of courtesy was often low, and the amount of Welsh cakes, etc. was very limited - we had to wait extremely long for service. A thought - in next years program include close-by restaurants and moderately priced ways to get breakfast and lunch. I don't know if one exists, but if not a committee made up of people in each region to address the urgent need of attracting young people might be a thought. What about the 30-40 year olds for a start? Other organizations have been quite successful in doing this and we could learn from them.

I have had a great four days here. The attendees as always are friendly and very interesting. Kansas City is certainly an ideal central location! The setting was lovely! Thank you.

23. The tours are important if they are part of the Welsh heritage. If it's just local sightseeing forget it.

24. I enjoy the Children's Hour and definitely see its value if there are children to participate. If it's going to be cutesy things done by adults it does nothing to carry on the Welsh heritage. (The one in Toronto was terrific.)

I think the principals do a very good job. One side of my family was from N. Wales and one from S. Wales, so I was never taught Welsh. I did not grow up in a Welsh speaking area. I wish the choirs bought over from Wales would stick to Welsh folk songs and hymns. We hear other types of music almost anywhere in the USA and Canada.

1. The Noson Lawen participants should limit their performance to two numbers only.

2. Snake Table instead of Banquet (Limit minutes for speakers.)

How about just snack tables and a few speakers instead of a banquet - we were ill all night from the food.

Italian food at a Welsh Gymanfa Ganu? "Where's the Beef"
Twmpath is excellent idea. Mixed choirs every other year, wonderful change! Starting Gymanfa on Fri. and having events on Labor Day or better yet, changing days to July 15,16, and 17, or July 4th weekend - there would be the family involved as well as having the holiday to work with for working folk. It is important to include families, if not the gymanfa will die.

WAY events need to include more seminars given by young people like Megan Lloyd - on her dissertation topic, Jane Gwyneth Hughes etc. K. C. did a

superb job! Diolch yn fawn!

Give speakers no longer than 15 mins. speaking time "to windy" Banquet was very "BAD" the worst yet. Should be informed what is being served in with registration.

This gymanfa was very well organized. I liked getting a confirmation of the activities I signed up for. Although the visiting choir was musically and technically very fine, most of our cities have comparable choirs and choruses but we do not have male choirs so typical of Wales. Let's go back to male choirs who sing Welsh music. The dining room should have been warned about the need for help following evening events and all morning. We eat! Registration was great and so was the Market Place. Seminars were the best I've attended in the past ten+ years! Suggest directors stay away from mikes when they sing!

The Te Bach after the Noson Lawen: many people did not get any Welsh cakes, either because not enough were provided, or some people took too many. Some way needs to be found to hand out the Welsh cakes, so that everyone gets a share.

It might be desirable to shorten the program part of the Noson Lawen a little and allow a little time for audience singing as a "warm-up". The Kansas City Gymanfa Ganu has been so well organized and executed that in most respects I am completely satisfied.

You did a great job. It'll be a hard act to follow.

I would like the Sat. concert and/or Sun. events to be in another location - concert hall as in Cols and Cincinnati - Otherwise I was very pleased with the weekend - Hyatt Ballrooms did not have good acoustics for singing!!! WNGGA meeting too long. Although I personally like Labor Day weekend - as I looked around I saw few young families and young singles other than from close by (geographically). I think it is time we consider being more inclusive by holding the Nat'l on a date perhaps two week earlier or in Mid-June and make an effort to have it in a geographic area such as Orlando where families could spend their week vacation to attend the National. I'm very concerned at the lack of attendance and membership in the 30-50 year age group, both at the local and Nat'l level and feel we must do and try more (the folk singing on Fri. nite was great but following the banquet was late for families with young children.) Also more dancing events and video's of Wales and Welsh history might appeal to younger folks! The K. C. Folks did a great job overall - one of the best organized events of this size I have ever attended! Thank you for the opportunity to express my views!

I prefer all male choirs including soloists. We have excellent mixed choirs in this country. Why not support the typical wonderful uplifting institute of all male choirs? Not everything "new" is better. Be careful you don't throw out the baby with the bath water. Use our money to keep the foundational traditions. Let's not be a group that blindly thinks because it is new - it is better!

Banquet. I paid \$25 for a wilted skimpy salad - meat (chicken) which I eat regularly at home - so overcooked it was hard. I had to ask for a steak knife to cut it - very few beans and hard pilaf - cold tea with no seconds -

Good roll but not enough butter to cover the roll. Speaker was a disaster also - He spoke about a myriad of topics never connecting them in any way. It might of been better if had used notes to which some planning had been done.

Tours. no official announcement ever make as to where and when to get ready for tour. Charged for admission to Memorial monument and unable to go because of "Spirit" preparations. What happened to two bus loads of unused paid admission fees? No advanced notice as to lack of lunch facilities when tours went thru noon hours. Some people have health conditions requiring certain dietary regulations. It is difficult to account for prices charged - a 4 hr. trip with a \$2 admission fee was \$18 - A 2.5 hr. trip with a \$1 admission fee was \$16.

Noson Lawen Te Bach. Superb Noson Lawen. Te Bach was the worst I've ever been in. Charge \$6 for a cup of tea. There were not enough tea cakes or place where anyone could get any. You knew how many tickets were sold. Why hold it in the small foyer? - unable to move at all. Cincinnati Hyatt at least served it in enough space to move around and provided enough Tea Cakes so we could get a taste. Can't use excuse didn't have enough because I saw them on sale for many days in the bakery case at The Terrace Restaurant. Probably had so many because didn't serve them at the Te Bach for which we paid for.

The Noson Lawen was the best ever. However, it still tends to be too long. All performers should be quasi-professional and limited to one number apiece. As said before, this was the best we've enjoyed on both counts.

1. Keep using piano and organ (as here in K. C.) for accompaniment of congregation.
2. Have a locally organized "Gymanfa Choir" to sit on the stage to augment the visiting choir (if any). To get the true front and back stereo effect. and/or split the congregation so that they face one another for singing in round. This can be easily accomplished in a hall with moveable seating.

Piano and organ for gymanfa! Essential to have Welsh groups, singers, and choirs from Wales to revive (and revitalize) our Welsh heritage.

1. The Noson Lawen was too long. It should be over by 9 o'clock. People have been traveling to get here - they are tired. They have been sitting in vehicles and don't want to sit for over 2 hours.
2. Dr. William T. Jones did not mention Jesus in his sermon. Christianity is founded on God sending Jesus into the world to die for our sins. John 3:16 Protestants and Catholics believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Jews do not. Doesn't Dr. Jones believe in Jesus?

I like being assigned seats for banquet. All in all a good gymanfa. Is there any other way we could fasten our name cards?

The concert does not have to be a visiting choir. It could be soloists, or locals as long as their standard is high. Better signage for meeting rooms, seminars, etc. hard to find. Ask registrants to request banquet seating when ordering tickets. Lower prices for students for all events. Don't conflict WAY activities with main Gymanfa functions. Causes a split rather than making them feel welcome.

I suggest they be held in less expensive places. Acoustics in this ballroom are bad. Difficult for hearing impaired to hear.

A host or hostess at the hotel lobby door and some roaming the lobby to answer questions, would be very helpful.

1. In regard to the Buffet: We feel a choice should be offered with the forms for Registration - the choice could be sent in with the payment.
2. Visiting Welsh Choir: We enjoyed the Ardwyn Singers tremendously, however, we missed a Welsh Male Choir. The strong tenors and bass voices were missed. It seems at past Gymanfa's the male choir members (not all) would join in the singing around the piano too. In concert we missed so many of the traditional hymns. Thank you!

Continue the excellent quality and variety of workshops. Expand space and attention for part-singing workshop. There is NO reason for the WNGGA meeting to take more than one hour.

Scheduling of seminars and workshops sometimes did not give you time to get to the other place. Tours that we attended were very good. Accommodations were lovely. Check on speakers because at some time they did not appear to be adequate. Otherwise thoroughly enjoyed the weekend.

New hymnals which would have the words under the music for all hymns and preferably bigger size allowing bigger print. The buffet between services is probably the simplest way for all to get something to eat without a hassle. For those of us who don't know the hymns by heart, it would be helpful if the verses to be sung were included with the numbers - at least until we get that new hymnal.

School has usually started by Labor Day making attendance difficult for students and teachers.

Let us work to bring in our young folks, without them we will not be able to continue with the heritage of the Gymanfa Ganu. With the beginning of the school year it is difficult to get the young people involved in the Gymanfa. Early August may be a move to help involve the youngsters. Please have more accurate directions to the hotel destination. All other agenda items well organized and we so enjoyed our Kansas City stay! Diolch yn fawr.

More tea cakes. Announce or print number from each state. Also total of those that sing at the sessions.

What happened to the tea cakes? More info on how many people attend and where they come from.

Please when new hymn books are printed, all words should appear under the music. Please.

Have an unwritten rule (new tradition?) that "We'll Keep a Welcome" be sung at least once at each Gymanfa Ganu.

More people would attend the Annual Meeting if it were on hour long. Make it snappy and people will participate in this very important grass roots politics.

Noson Lawen: Should be a "talent night" format (Thurs. night)

Folk Evening: Great to have it after the banquet but keep it in a "cabaret-towpath(?)" format - very enjoyable.

Eric Gwynne-Thomas was fantastic! Is there a copy of his talk?

Will there be a tape of this Gymanfa?

Rin Deg and Cantorinare(?) Ardwyn - Great!

Great show

The WNGGA began as a Christian event in the past years. Some folk dancing I don't think belonged here. Also liquor is not a good Christian witness. I don't think the Lord would approve I'm sure.

Noson Lawen - use amateur talent instead of professional. Provide more Welsh cakes at Te Bach. Te Bach to be in more spacious area. Singing sessions to in a music hall auditorium where acoustics are better. Keep part singing sections exclusive.

Noson Lawen: Change format too much like another concert - Professional performers. Please insist that some portion of the sections be set aside for only those who will sing in parts (not husband and wives)

Wonder if more young people would attend if GG were to be held in Aug. before school begins.

More young people might come in July or August as a vacation. Labor Day is hard for them - working teachers - getting children to school. Families take summer vacations together and might make National a part of that. Be aware of acoustics - both for informal sings and gymanfa's, Kansas City was a bit of disappointment on that. Also - more signs and directions around hotels - more flags etc. cacaugri(?), costumes, host/hostess.

Scheduling the WNGG over Labor Day weekend (generally) prevents school-age children from attending. We have a number of teen-age and younger children who would or could attend if it was scheduled at another time. But when?! Our area (New England) has a week long spring break in April. Perhaps school districts in other geographical areas schedule a similar week off at the same time. That would be a possibility. If young people do not begin to attend the gymanfa, eventually there will not be enough participants to hold a gymanfa--which would be a loss.

Because I am concerned about this issue of the participation of younger Welsh-American people in the gymanfa--I would be willing to work towards looking at a different time to hold the WNGG. I could volunteer to be a coordinator on this matter. If through the Ninnau and Y Drych newspapers and WNGGA mailings the members could be polled as to when their local schools hold a spring break, (if they do) and if they would attend a gymanfa held in the spring, and if their children or grandchildren would attend, I would be willing to receive the letters and tally the results. I don't know if this would be much help,

but I am willing to do what I can as long as it can be done through the mails.

I also would like to see the availability of the phonetic hymnbook--(the Welsh words printed phonetically--I think it was spiral bound, and published by the WNGGA). I know that most of the younger participants do not know the Welsh words and the phonetic approach helps these folks very much. Anyway, to find out whatever became of that phonetic book?

One more concern I have is the high cost involved to come to the gymanfa. Some of this can't be helped, but please try to make it as economical as possible for younger families with children.
(Name and address available on form 2055.)

1. Banquet meal was horrid. For that price we shouldn't have to eat chicken. There was no appetizer. The salad dressing was rationed. The rice was not fully cooked, and it crunched. Vegetables weren't cooked well. Dessert was too sweet, with congealed whipped cream that most people just lifted off. The rolls were good, and the service was excellent, but over-all the banquet was a big disappointment. Some music on the program would have been nice.
2. The informal singing Thurs. night was fine, but when it was in the lobby, conditions were impossible. The conductors had to keep turning, and one side usually couldn't hear. The fountain on one side made hearing difficult, and the other side couldn't hear the piano. We need an enclosed room.
3. The choir was excellent in musicianship but lacking in heart. Most of us are not professional musicians and prefer more familiar music. Also, most of us do not speak Welsh (except in hymns) and need more songs in English. The male choir in Columbus, Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati made us want to buy their tapes. This one didn't.
4. The hotel facilities were excellent, and the hotel staff was helpful and polite. They always seemed to be there when needed! The food and service at the Terrace Restaurant were superb.
5. Thanks to the local committee! We appreciate all their long hours of work. The registration was the best organized we have seen.
6. The workshops I attended were excellent except for the one on Welsh Family History. The speaker would not talk loud enough even when asked. She seemed not to care.
7. Hywel Thomas was a wonderful leader. He and his wife were extremely helpful in rehearsals. They are truly Christian and put meaning in the words.

Inform us of Banquet menu before we book. The meals are boring and chicken no.

Greater than > 75% emphasis on traditional music. Less than < 25% for "modern" music. As I see it the Gymanfa is powered by tradition--without it the Gymanfa will fade away.

I would like to see some of the seminars presented at a higher level than just appealing to the inexperienced such as: Welsh Family History for the advanced genealogist and Travel to Wales for those who have been there stressing out of the way places. The buffet was terrible; lack of food and value for \$30/couple. I'm sorry but I LIKE MALE VOICE CHOIRS!!

A Welsh tea room should have brewed tea and not the "hot water and bag set up." Keep Lloyd Savage out of the program. He doesn't know when to quit talking and he thinks shouting and singing are synonymous. I enjoyed Eric Gwynne Thomas but I wish we could dispense with the expensive banquet. Not enough chairs at afternoon gymanfa. Can't see director in this ballroom seating. Best gymanfa I've been to. Hywell Thomas and Ardwyn Singers were great choices!

I hope future Gymanfa Ganu have something other than chicken, rice and uncooked veg. I was very disappointed with the Te Bach after the Noson Lawen, everything was very well managed.

Longer workshops. The ones I attended, particularly the Mabinngi and Folk singing barely nicked the surface. I was also rather disappointed in the folk singing workshop, for I hoped it would be more participatory (I wanted to sing a bit--some criticism for the folk singing evening. Hin Deg was marvelous but the community sing was far too short.) The weekend was wonderful in any case, though I fear we will have to wait until the National is back in the Central or Upper Midwest before we can go again.

The dinner was disgraceful. The hotel should be ashamed to charge you for it. I hope you complain loud and clear.

I find it ironic that of the 6 seminars I attended, the only one for which adequate room space had not been allotted was for that one Welsh women. Do we have an underlying attitude in the WNGGA and local societies which reflects the attitudes of Wales on this subject? If so, its time for a change. Having folk music is a definite plus. That is a definite part of Welsh history as is dance, and needs to be included not only for a rounded program but for fun. Hywell Thomas gave true meaning to the session on Sunday.

How many members does each club have - write the number next year next to each Welsh group.

Labor day weekend is perfect with the exception of schools starting before labor day. We need our youth and the way it is now with schools and colleges starting earlier they can't make it to the Gymanfa. If we lose our youth we lose the association.

Something other than chicken at banquet.

The cups are a nice touch - and beautiful designed. Also like the postcard and Kansas sticker in the packet. It would be much more helpful to have rooms specified in the program rather than on a separate sheet. Response to question #16 - Where is the Welsh Folk Song book? It is outrageous that this process is taking so long. #18 - Thanks for the mixed choir that sang new Welsh music as well as traditional. They were terrific! Love the young voices. #20 -

The hymn choices were bizarre. Someone should step in and forbid more than two "new" ones per session. A gymanfa without (Liverpool, Rhydygroes, Hyfrydol, Diddem, Ebenezer, Joanna or Rachie) is not the Gymanfa people come for. I think it is destructive that the hymn choices were allowed to stand. #19 - Please could we have some new generation of preacher. Dr. Jones just doesn't cut it anymore. Hats off to him with honor and respect for all his loyal service, but let the old graciously give way to the new!! AGAIN, and AGAIN and AGAIN. Let us have new hymnals with the words under the notes! It is terrible to try to sing Welsh words in harmony when the words are at the bottom of the page.

On Friday at the Welsh Family History I couldn't hear even that there was a mike. He made no attempt to correct the situation other seminars were great! Saturdays tour for \$18 to Powell Gardens was a disappointment also the banquet was a total loss. The food was not eatable except the salad. I must commend the Hyatt personnel. Everyone was so helpful and the waiters, waitress's and hostess' were cheerful. It was helpful to have designated leaders for the singing in the lobby, except it wasn't such a convenient place to have it. I know the planning is a great job and you all have worked very hard. Thank-You.

Having seat assignments for the banquet - good idea!! Sometimes seminars conflict with tours. Hyatt hotels are good choice.

Be sure to include the folk songs that were in the old National Book; have them arranged for part singing so piano can play the parts; have words between music scores. Suggest asking Rev. Lincoln and Mrs. Jan Hartford to help with this.

Move it from Labor Day weekend to some time in July or August when the children are out of school.

Singing one verse in Welsh and two in English. Have all activities in some Hotel as is 1992 K.C. Nat'l Gymanfa Ganu.

The Noson Lawen could be shorter. Most people have traveled that day and are tired. The name tags should be made in such a way that women can use them. Tickets should not be sold for an event until all ticket holders are seated.

Be sure that directions given for reaching the headquarters hotel are easily understandable and correct.

Actually this has been a marvelous gymanfa. Really the best I have attended. The seminars were good, the choir just great, and the conductor marvelous.

Since school is starting so early these days would it be a good idea to change the date so younger people could attend. Just a thought. I don't want gymanfa ganu to die of old age.

Try something excepting the banquet food not good too expensive. Congratulations to the committee for a wonderful time.

1. Seminars--Please include sequel to Mabinog: 2. Banquet--Strawberry jam on dessert was sickening sweet--Ick! Rather a poor meal generally. Prefer male voice choir unique to Wales. Tours--Should have posterboards telling where and when buses will load. Facilities--Wonderful to have all activities in one place. Banquet Speaker--No focus--rambled on just "pushing different buttons." All Seminars Attended--Excellent! Wonderful organization.

The choir of women and men was wonderful, however we much prefer a male chorus--more robust and volume of bass voices. It would be nice to have a register for people to look at to see if there are friends from other cities at the Gymanfa Ganus. Could be done alphabetically or by the listing of states and cities. Compliments to the committee for a great '92 G.G. and for all the work involved.

Better/larger seating for workshops. Less air conditioning everywhere.

The hymns should not be conducted during the chapel service.

To enable college students, primary-secondary students and faculty and parents of above students--consider moving date so does not conflict with academic calendar. We are now sending them a negative, exclusionary message.

1. Make the individual tickets small enough to fit in name badges. 2. Use label writer/smart labels to make name labels--72 or 96 point size letters. 3. Bilingual signs for market place (???) 4. Somehow distribution pattern of ?? and ?? was a secret. It is Sunday afternoon and yet to find them post (??) evening activity. Thank you, thank you for the increasing return of consciousness, mention praise of Jesus. Having a lighter alternative--Hin Deg Dawnsio Gwerin and ?? is excellent and dare I say probably necessary if we're to attract anyone younger than 40? 50? Min Deg, Arlog, Pafyodiwan Er, Folk dancing, clog dancing, costumes, cooking etc. are wonderful. They demonstrate that our culture is everyday not just for Sunday Meeting! Heave recruitment from Welsh courses (1979 got me to my first one of both.) Stagger chairs in Gymanfa/concert sessions (provided they aren't bolted to floor) so one can see beyond the collar of person in front. Yes! Yes! Yes! to mixed voice choirs contrary to prejudiced opinion a choir isn't excellent because it is cor meison(??).

Sunday Banquet: Essential when ?? gymanfa sessions are not geographically equivalent to hotel/food, and probably not sufficient even them. Finding accommodations for 1,000-2,000 in Columbus, Montreal, Utica, Baltimore in the available time--Gasp! Now about this buffet: Ofnadny. We had brunch earlier in this hotel for \$17.00 that was a monument to gluttony. The provender was excellent in quality and presentation. For \$15.00, I would have expected more in both. Now, I didn't want that much food the 2nd time--so I feel this "snack" should have cost far less. Pies were nearly worst imaginable. Fresh fruit (melon, berries, apples, bananas, etc) would have been better to clear one's mouth and not be leaded down for signing. Most important: A leader who repeats (and re-repeats) choruses! Hallelujah. Do not, I repeat, not ask Carlton Lake Jones. There's too much of him, and not enough of Jesus.

School is not starting before Labor Day which creates a problem with some.

With many schools starting in Aug. creates a problem for some.

The facility for the seminars was outstanding. The week-end was exceptionally well planned. Thank you very much for all your time and effort!!!

Return to the spiritual and sacred. Do not BEG for money and proceed to hand it out to unworthy people. Discontinue those layers of activities not ESSENTIAL to our purpose. National has become burdened down with less than productive elements and in some cases misused by individuals not concerned with the spiritual realm.

Limit number of new numbers to 2.

Provide more information about schedules and local points of interest sooner.

Wish to compliment the Kansas City Committee--very well organized. It was great! Bring back Hywel Thor, please.

Try to organize more Regional Welsh Clubs and encourage people with knowledge of the Welsh language to teach others. Thereby, drawing more participation in the National. Perhaps organize the Annual more like a Reunion. There may be enough people in the general vicinity of the reunion who would host some families, thereby cutting expenses. Each year costs grow high and could become prohibitive. Perhaps an outdoor picnic with interests for all ages and perhaps some good local talent would be happy to entertain.

My opinion is that the Kansas City Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu was very efficiently run. Congratulate you all. One complaint I heard from several. Will speakers please make sure that they can be heard before they proceed with their speech and use the microphones. By lifting them or lowering them.

Hywel Thomas was swell!!! This was the finest Gymanfa that we have attended in the last 10 years.

I prefer male choir singing with mostly old Welsh selections. That is what many of the attenders talk about after the concert. The choir was good and well appreciated, but practically very little, if any, Welsh songs. Not complaining, just stating my preference.

Many children cannot attend because school is in session in many areas. Because of this fact, I could accommodate to any three day weekend. (Holidays-Memorial day or Fourth of July.)

Four days are too long--we have cut it down to 2 or 3. It is also getting to be very expensive.

Celebrate the Gymanfa a week earlier so that people with school kids can come, as well as the kids and their teachers. In case you don't know, school starts a week before Labor Day in many areas. WE NEED TO BRING IN THE YOUNGER PEOPLE or the Gymanfa will be lost.

PARTICIPANT SURVEY RESULTS, page 23

K. C. really put it together. Congratulations! The big improvements were: The fair and clear way the hymns were handled i.e., 1. First and last in English and Welsh. 2. The placement of the singers. This is very good and a must.

Have a much better presentation of the traditional Welsh Cookies and organized much better.

This Gymanfa was very well organized. The banquet food not good--chicken undone. Service not attentive by waiters for extra rolls and coffee. Conductors, choirs, and other activities very good. Well done!

I would recommend a list of cafeterias or inexpensive coffee shops or restaurants for those of us on very limited incomes who have already stretched our budgets to be able to attend the gymanfa. For the Te Bach, I would recommend tables and chairs as it is difficult for a woman to juggle a cup of tea, a napkin and Welsh cakes and her purse while standing and trying to eat and drink.

Proposal of competition for new hymn each year!

Just keep it going.

Prefer singing in partly elevated seats, such as Opera House or theater. Think it's more enjoyable. Like the "all male" choir more. Buffet supper was lacking in meat. Spicy sausage not suitable for our age group. Last year had choice and variety of meats. Therefore cost was too much. Settings, etc., were very nice. At least the cream sauce/w mushrooms could have had turkey or chicken included. Spaghetti sauce too spicy.

Our departure was due to the condition of our terminally ill daughter-in-law. We were so sorry that we missed most of the Gymanfa.

I favour using more North-American of Welsh descent talent for the various concerts and other social functions. The present pattern in my opinion has been successful over the past years. Each locale and its sponsors usually have their own distinctive charm and appeal, especially the locale in beautiful Kansas City.

Would like to see new Welsh song books with words under music for those people who are trying to learn the songs. I truly enjoyed the gymanfa ganu. I think the events were very well organized. The restaurant service was super. Also it was a plus that all events happened under the same roof. You can be very pleased with it all.

1. Many songs we sang were not familiar to our locality. 2. Request the visiting chorus sing some old Welsh hymns. 3. Print a song book with the English words up with the music so young folks who have not sung these songs all their life could learn these songs. Note: We very much liked the hotel, restaurant, and the organized way everything was conducted. You should be very proud!!

The '92 Gymanfa was obviously well organized--my suggestions or criticisms concern some things that were out of your control. We enjoyed the meals

available in the hotel but the banquet meal was really poor. I don't think anyone at our table enjoyed the meal--amazing how different the food can be coming out of the same kitchen. isn't it? We talked to some local people who had come to the concert on Saturday night, which they enjoyed. We encouraged them to come to the Sunday sessions which they were not sure they could attend by the newspaper ads. These people could also not understand why we were going to have our song feast in the hotel as they assured us there was more than one excellent hall in K.C. that could be used. We told them we had been based in Cincinnati, but perhaps the K.C. committee didn't want to get into that responsibility, plus the added expense. There were never enough tables set up for the Te Bach's nor did the hotel keep the Welsh cookies supplied. The cakes were hardly worth eating--but don't really have any suggestions on how to get all those cookies baked like they did in Cincy '91. Never enough chairs set up for the late informal singing. We appreciated the info that we received about how to travel from the airport to the Hyatt. How about each host city including info on usual weather/temperatures etc. Even suggestions on what you might want to wear to the different functions. My sister and I enjoyed ourselves and it was fun running into friends made in Cincy! Looking forward to Wilkes-Barre!

Mr. Hywel Thomas was GREAT! Would have enjoyed a solo from him. As a matter of preference--I'll take an all male chorus anytime!. Geraint Wilkes was great also, and really enjoyed his beautiful voice!

Have the banquet a bit later for those who have to arrive Friday afternoon. The Folk music could have been shorter or combined with the banquet.

I just enjoy it the way it is. It is nice to have all the activities in one hotel. Also I enjoy the singing after the activities in the evening. The food was awful at Kansas City banquet.

Larger supply of G.G. T-shirts. Did not have any to sell on Saturday and Sunday. There should be a Family History Research class for both beginners and advanced--how to research in Wales. Grand Banquet is expensive. School begins right after labor day--many young families are getting ready for school--is there a better time for the G.G.? I don't know.

Families with school age children can not attend as the school year has already started. Also, school teachers, who are an important asset, are unable to attend.

The Grand Banquet too high priced. (Also Welsh Tea Room and The Sunday Buffet Between Singing Services.) Be sure to include folk dancing and folk cabaret music for drawing the younger groups.

Hotel lacked friendliness and often sufficient food and service in some instances. Physical facilities of hotel and location were excellent. Thanks for all your work and concerns.

Return to male voice choirs. Restaurant was not adequate to handle quick meals in order to get to meetings etc.

Labor Day difficult to attend for youth. I prefer Way functions--luncheon is good. Entertainment excellent. I feel we must by a show of our attendance to Way ?? show the youth that we want and need them to strengthen and brighten the ?? organization. The young mixed choir is a most wonderful and giant step in the right direction. Also such performers as Mabaaut, Bryn Terfel, Llio, Robin ?? all with W.A.Y. We need to recognize planning each Gymanfa. This one was great! Keep up the great work!

It is too expensive for some people who would love to be here.

You might get more young people and families if the National were held during vacation periods (mid June-mid Aug). It was great to see the emphasis on Welsh Folk singing and dancing this time--did you notice how many young people came. That's the way you'll get the young to appreciate they're Welsh background.

Always enjoy myself very much--always look forward to coming. I thought this one was outstanding. You did a splendid job in covering all of the bases. Liked your new ideas.

Tea Room should be Hospitality and Free.

Banquet meal was poor. Where was the leek soup? Accommodations were good. Excellent Bell Choir. Laura Ashley show was very nice. Noson Lawen excellent.

not necessarily suggestions but I think the falls music and dancing instructions were excellent additions to help bring younger people into the Welsh National. This years group was outstanding! (3 folk group persons) The Kansas City group organization committee is certainly to be commended for their outstanding work in organizing and carrying out this years Gymanfa. It was a wonderful weekend! Everything went so smoothly!

In these days of year-round public schools, it would be difficult to pick a time that's "right" for all families. (which we need). Otherwise the "older" generation can adjust to almost anytime.

1. Increase efforts to attract children of all ages. Even if they're not attracted well at first, eventually they will pay off.
2. Keep the Sunday service to a service, not to a spectacle. It was too long and pompous this year. Bell choir should have stopped when the offering was all taken. Let's not make a concert out of everything.
3. The Noson Lawen was not a Noson Lawen, it was a concert. Bill it as a concert, or make it more informal.
4. Efforts to attract young adults should include more diverse activities. Folk traveling and singing is a good start. Perhaps a rock dance party for young adults.
5. New singers need more help with Welsh pronunciations. More opportunities are needed for the rank beginners; for the person who is attending for the first time.

Prefer all male choirs for visiting Welsh Choir Concert. This year's directors at the after sessions singing were a bit heavy-handed. I want to sing

more of the songs in Welsh. I did not enjoy the singing as much because of this.

Beef instead of pasta. We are Welsh, not ITALIAN!

Extra schedule info. in booklet this year was very helpful- hotel plans, seminar and class schedule. I enjoyed the Ardwyn singers very much. Nice to have music by contemporary Welsh composers. A great organizing job by the K.C. committee and great visibility for us in the Hilton! Diolch gu faur iawn!

More of a chance to meet and talk with the members of the Welsh choir.

I'd like Robin Huw Bowen, the triple harpist from Aberystwyth, to play a concert and give a workshop. He is such fun, and knows more about our national instrument than anyone I know. I'd also like to bring in someone who could serve a lunch-counter of pub food-shepherds pie, faggots and peas, steak and kidney pie, pastries, all the good stuff. They can all be done in very simple facilities and are part of our heritage. The banquet should serve Welsh style foods. More song rehearsal time and TEACH THE WORDS! Ann Habermehl should be asked to play the harp and lecture on the Welsh harp tradition! We must develop an appreciation for the place of the harp in our history and culture! A WONDERFUL GYMANFA! Thanks.

Better signs for workshop locations--not just at the door to the room. A Welsh pronunciation workshop. As a "foreigner" who loves the hymns in English, it's hard to sing with conviction when you can't do other than sing "la-la." A workshop in manners. I have been pushed, knocked over, and bruised by little old Welsh men and women!!

Have two Sunday Chapel Services--one in Welsh, one in English. Hymn books are too difficult to follow--words and music should be together.

Print a hymnal with the words between the staves of music, I strongly dislike the current hymnal. Stick to the old standards at the singing sessions, this is not the place to try unfamiliar hymns.

Banquet: coffee served one cup only. Trifle too sweet and made with too much strawberry jelly. All Welsh at our table took one taste and left the rest (such waste!) Difficulty to serve so many but no excuse to serve almost raw, uncooked rice and tough chicken in the famous K.C. Hyatt noted for beef. This was a very expensive price for this banquet (even Ponderosa's grilled chicken for \$4.99 is and always is better than what we had). It's no reflection on you Jack, but it sure is a reflection on this hotel's chef. There was a lot of grumbling over this banquet dinner, but many will never take the time to tell you. If our organization was charged more than \$15 for this dinner per person--you were overcharged!

Noson Lawen, too long.

Continue the Maie choir tradition. Have the concert and singing services in a room with good acoustics. Watch the price gouging--\$3 for a tiny bottle of mineral water at the folk music session is a rip off that will leave a sour

note about the Kansas City Venue. The folk singing was great. Have a separate room for continental breakfast.

A) offer box lunches B) state home town (place of birth) on Welsh born persons name tag.

1) offer box lunches on trips that extend thru the lunch hour 2) more videos for sale on Wales 3) add county of residency on registration form for name tags 4) love spoon postcards for sale.

Stop serving (always) chicken at every banquet please. Remind people to speak into mike.

Should have a directory listing every meeting room, everyday, and what floor!

I enjoyed the mixed choir this year, but I much prefer a male choir. I felt the impromptu singing after evening sessions would have been more fun if the conductors had been less strict.

Content with the breakfast and arrange further breakfasts.

Being held a summer month instead of September would possibly increase attendance.

Folk singers were very good. Sadly these hotels with low ceilings, carpeting are not conducive to great sound. Those of us "over 39" are not "used to" contemporary sound in concerts. They were a very talented group.

Labor Day (USA) is both the best and the worst. The best because of the long weekend and the tradition. The worst because the school start-up conflicts with younger families.

Continue with the breakfast. Try to arrange more breakfast.

It's nice to sing some new tunes. We had five or six during the part singing and sopranos and altos but also keep the old, old ones. I've been trying to sing the Welsh words--it's hard but I feel better since I had one of the seminars to learn Welsh at another Gymanfa, either Pittsburgh or Cincinnati.

Better testing of microphones. New Hymns are good to learn, but not too many at one time. Do some research on name tags, this year's are very awkward.

Have better name tags. These clips are awful.

Make sure there is always a visiting Welsh choir preferably male voice which sings traditional music. Remind next years committee that choirs do not necessarily have to stay in hotels.

Attract the young.

Food was not of a good selection for the Welsh. Roast beef instead of pasta, marinated chicken uncooked. Food was of a poor selection for the "Welsh."

The best Noson Lawen I have been to in America. Use the com?/M.C. for more events--he's the best. Change the date to get the chicken.

I like the way you have the tables numbered for the banquets.

Banquet here was overpriced and not good. Everyone at our table left most of their food including the dessert. Older people do not like barely cooked vegetables and most men do not like rice. Small entertainment better than a speaker! Heard many complaints about prices of Welsh tea room. Computer registration was great--worked well!

Sometimes food and speaker at Grand Banquet; other times one or the other not so good. Sometimes buffet excellent, other times not so good.

It was helpful this year to have table reservations for the banquet. It is good to have arrangements made for the informal hymn singing as afterglow, so there is a piano, room, director, and accompanist and to have it announced so people know about it.

1. The Noson Lawen at this year's N.G.G. was not a Noson Lawen! It was a performance. Would much prefer to have it be more impromptu. People should feel free to contribute. Maybe it could even be put on the registration if a group or individual has something they want to do.
2. Grand Banquet--nice but way, way too expensive. Besides, I'm a vegetarian. Would be nice if we could come hear the speaker without having to pay for the meal.
3. Folk Music Evening. Wonderful, wonderful! Let's have more such events, with groups of the high caliber of Hin Deg.
4. Thank you for breaking with tradition and getting a mixed Chorus. I love to hear men--but the repertoire is somewhat limited. Really enjoyed something different. For future gymanfas--also consider an all-women's chorus, or a children's choir.
5. I really hate having the church service in the hotel. I know it can be a hassle to provide shuttle buses, but you lose the aesthetic pleasure of visiting some beautiful place of worship in the city of venue.
6. Let's get your act together for the tea bach. Have Welsh cakes made by someone who knows how (the powdered sugar was disgusting). And make sure quantity is sufficient.
7. Three cheers for the clogging and dance workshops. It's really nice to see some neglected aspects of Welsh culture (in this country) receiving attention. Many of the other seminars were excellent as well. BUT not all of the seminars were led by true experts. Enthusiasm does not always translate into a good workshop. It would also be nice to see something more in depth (i.e. why is genealogy always geared for beginners?) and on the other hand, when offering a workshop entitled advanced Welsh folk dancing, it should be just that--too many beginners signed up for this and the instructor had to waste valuable time going over basic steps.
8. Welsh Tea Room--very overpriced. And see comment #6.
9. All venues should be non-smoking. I went out into the foyer at intermission of the concert to stretch my legs and get a drink, but the smoke was so bad I had to go back and sit down.
10. Provide a continental breakfast buffet--self-service, self-seating, etc. Let's face it, hotel food is too expensive.

Keep a more worshipful time at the Gymanfa on Sunday with a music director less full of himself. If you want that kind of singing, put a songfest into the Noson Lawen. Certainly missed the home-baked Welsh cakes!

Reduce size of label for I.D. Reduce Welsh singing.

Good job. Glad we don't have to go in 1993. Consider a person to help Nelson Llewellyn.

This date makes it difficult for young people to attend. They are busy getting children back in school! I don't care for seating people in sections according to voice. Do our name tags need to be so large!

There must be more geared toward the Welsh youth of North America.

Grand banquet is a good time to get acquainted and have a visit. Could expect better food for price. Maybe tea cakes could be supplied by different states, societies--I would bring! Would like to hear a Welsh choir sing old songs of Wales. No marketplace on Sunday.

Anyone who is to speak should try out the use of the mike!

Please don't have chicken again. More signs to different areas.

1. The computerized registration worked very well.
2. More attention needs to be paid to the banquet menu. \$25 for chicken and rice is uncalled for.
3. Consideration for lunch on tours--the garden tour was from 11-3 with no thought given to this. The trip was too long to see so little.

Do not use an echoing cavernous ballroom for concert, worship, or singing. Use a church, auditorium or music hall. Move the chairs further apart, please. For a world class hotel, the Hyatt Regency sure makes horrible mistakes.

There seems to be that South Wales is better represented than North Wales. Lets have it evened up a little more and have both areas represented for entertainment.

Improve on organization and instruction--registration process. The food needs to be improved upon. This banquet food was garbage.

Never have the concert and the gymanfas in a hotel ballroom. The acoustics are atrocious and the sight lines are impossible. The whole point of the convention is the Sunday singing and if it is terrible so is the convention. And this one was awful!

Better banquet food. Noise level too high at concerts. Closer to mike please after Saturday.

1. Apart from those solo, want to sing the traditional Welsh music (mainly hymns) over a drink.
2. More Welsh cakes and tea.

3. Welsh signs (yn Cymraeg)
4. Restaurants with Welsh items on the menu.
5. A Welsh welcome from local merchants.

You have done so well this year--can't even think of anything better.

The supply of Welsh cakes was exhausted before my roommates and I could have a taste after the Noson Lawen. Not all that serious, I realize, only a Gymanfa Ganu is not complete without enjoying some. This is my fifth Gymanfa Ganu! What a blessing its been! Thank you for providing such an uplifting weekend. The singing reminds me of the song services I enjoyed in my childhood during camp meeting services.

Hin Deg--was excessively decibel. Soloist was shrill and accompanied by amplifier. Noise produced by full volume. Folk music should not be damaging to sense of hearing. I won't attend again unless advance notice of decibel rating given.

Appoint Ann and Jack as permanent organizers. Full time, paid positions! (Megabucks, corporate jet, etc.).

There needs to be more emphasis on drawing younger people.

The meals at the banquets are very poor. The Kansas City the worst. Cut or limit the time of speaker.

The "Showcase" for directions signs to foster a "prima donna" attitude in some. Perhaps lock G.G. Assns (states) should rate the various directions. We've had some disasters lately.

You can continue to improve the Gymanfa by introducing more of the traditions that are returning to popularity in Wales. Example--Dancing and Folk Music. In that way you will interest what is referred to as "young blood." I don't mean to get rid of the mainstays of the weekend, but you need to offer a varied program. Kansas City was a great start. Well done Jack and Ann and committee.

I think the part singing sectionals are very important. The 1992 WNGG is exceptional with all programs in the hotel building. I disagree for a change for the sectionals, especially the part singing sectionals. How about a sectional on basic beginning Welsh for those of us who are struggling with the language?

It would be nice to know the statistics of the WGGGA assemblies--e.g. attendance and from where--this could be posted somewhere if the committee feels it would take up too much time to announce this. Also is there a list obtainable as to where the Welsh Societies are established. I live in Louisville, Ky.--would like to attend St. David's Banquets--where would be the nearest location?

I think you did a magnificent job--the Welsh Folk Music evening was great--I think it helps to bring the younger people out.

Too expensive for most people.

More attention to appropriate sound systems and acoustics. The tour to Powell gardens was not worth the time and money. We had a tour of 4 hours, 11-3 pm, of which 2 hours were spent coming and going. No facilities for lunch, only 2 staff people at the entire visitors center. Their Surnoon cafe was a joke. No food available except cookies and bagged "snacks." We can see flowers and botanical elsewhere for a lot less than \$18, if not free. The guide (Georgia) spent most of the return trip speaking and distributing political material. A real bummer!

The words should be in the music in the Welsh hymnal. I like to sing in parts but because of this separation I can't. I can't follow both words and music. I feel that if the Welsh hymn singing is to be passed on to future generation this correction of the music is necessary. The Kansas City committee did a great job. I especially appreciated the booklet that was sent in the advertising which included information of the hotel on the back page.

The hymn book should contain the words within the music score. If the Welsh really to share this hymn singing heritage this is very important. It is almost impossible to sing a new hymn with the music in one place and the words in another, especially parts. The Welsh flag was distracting for a religious event. If any symbol is used it should be the cross in some way. When the memorials are read, it is not necessary to say "Canada." We know the Canadian Provinces are in Canada just as we know the states are in the United States. The Gymanfa event is great and the Kansas City Group has done a tremendous job in organizing it and implementing the weekend.

Have Beth Phillips Brown do another seminar on the Mabinogion and assigned reading in advance. Also 1 hour class on "Courtesy Welsh"--simple traveler's phrases.

This year's Noson Lawen was the best one in years.

To me this was an outstanding National other than the banquet...Everyone enjoys the Te Bach, however--for several years we had it "Cabaret Style." So much easier to sit at a table than to stand and juggle a cup of tea--program, purse and cookies... The banquet at the last few Nationals have been disappointing--usually chicken and a cost of \$20-\$25 or there about. But in K.C.--I could not eat my chicken--rice not cooked and beans partly done. I saw so many people I know waiting outside the ballroom after the banquet. They advised they were tired of paying the high prices and them be served "so called chicken." There will be more who will stay away from the banquet next year. Would it be possible for the Wilkes Barre people to have a firm commitment on price and menu--possibly a choice of 2 entrees--I know from handling our banquet that we know well in advance the price. I think we could solve some of this problem if people knew the entrees in advance and cost and were able to have a choice. These are some of the remarks I have been hearing.

I suggest that we be given a choice for the banquet food. The food in Kansas City was terrible--chicken was tough, rice was hard as well as the green beans--dessert was terrible sweet. The salad and rolls were good as well as

beverage. For \$25 I want to enjoy my food--I do realize that the food is not the only thing that goes into the cost of the banquet. If we have to have chicken all the time--let's have it prepared so that it can be eaten. (I like chicken.) A choice of meat, chicken or turkey, and fish would be desirable. Many of my friends say they will not come to the banquets anymore if they do not know what will be served. The chicken in K.C. was pressed and formed into uniform shapes--not a leg in sight! I strongly support the seating arrangements for the banquet so that we do not have the pile up at the door and the mad dash when the doors are opened. The conductor was marvelous--I feel the Welsh newspapers should give him more recognition.

I will always feel that we will attract more young people, particularly of my age group if we do two things: have the Gymanfa at a better time--preferably summer when children are not in school--in order to attract elementary, secondary students, college students, teachers, professors and parents. We also need to do more to reach those who are "unaware" of their Welsh heritage--through non-Welsh media and publications.

I like it all but usually some parts could be done better. Examples are the tea room and some of the seminars and workshops. The tea cakes were delicious this year and plentiful but not all years. The cooking seminar was great but didn't have enough sausages to go around and there weren't enough handouts for folk singing. Vacation should delete some of the travel agency details.

Banquet--too expensive. Especially when you factor in the other expenses--travel, lodging, workshop fees, etc. Suggestions: make directions to Gymanfa hotel location much more specific for those driving to the event--i.e. describe specific exits from interstates by number of name--state specific blocks to travel and street names to use. Make event more accessible for people to economically afford to attend--use a more moderately priced hotel (as Ramada, Holiday Inn, etc.) and one that isn't isolated from economically priced motels (i.e. Days Inn, Motel 6, etc.) I know several people who would love to attend but cannot afford it. Sites chosen so far make you travel a great distance from an inexpensive motel to the event site. Provide maps showing workshop and other area locations in the meeting facility--make more signs noting where events are to be held. Hosting chapter should man an easy to find informational booth constantly throughout the event. Hosting chapter members should be distinguished by wearing same hats, jackets, etc. so they can be sought out easily for information. Larger Tea Room facility accommodating large groups for seating in one area (i.e. several chapter members together) and definitely--lower prices on the tea and Welsh caked! Overall I enjoyed my 2nd Gymanfa--but was disappointed the excellent Welsh choir was asked to sing in such a room with such awful acoustics--the choir and audience deserved to hear them under the best possible conditions--not a ballroom with a low ceiling and all types of sound absorbing furnishings. The choir was cheated and audience as well (\$15 admission fee with those conditions?) really! P.S. I learned that next year's event does not plan to have a choir from Wales--for that reason I won't attend--that's the highlight of the whole event--beautiful Welsh voices that no matter how good an American choir is, cannot be duplicated!

Please furnish a bulletin board for persons to contact friends out of state.

PARTICIPANT SURVEY RESULTS, page 33

It was good to do several of the new hymns. It seemed refreshing not to do the same familiar ones. Thanks for venturing into new territory!

Acoustics were poor. Banquet food was poor. Rooms where workshops are held should be larger--it is dangerous to jam so many people in one small room.

Move cave with the sound system. Not good for the Noson Lawen. Too many people in some conference rooms--i.e. Welsh Tourist board sessions. Banquet food was poor.

I would suggest a list of participants. I think we should have something other than a poor chicken dinner at this price.