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Lynn M. Owens-Whalen  
President  
Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association  
[REDACTED] Dunbar Street  
Vancouver, BC, V6N 1W8

Dear Lynn,

I'm sorry that my first letter to you as President of the WNGGA has to be one expressing great disappointment over the use or misuse or nonuse of the Welsh National Gymnafa Ganu Banner. I know that you have had nothing to do with this problem but, I hope you will see that something is done to correct the situation.

I went to a lot of trouble seeking approval of the Board for the purchase of what I hoped would be the Official Banner of the WNGGA. From the day this was done, the Banner no longer was my Banner, it was, or I thought it was, the Official Banner of the WNGGA. I hoped that it would be displayed with dignity approaching that accorded the National flags at the Grand Banquets, Grand Concerts, and both sessions of the National Gymanfa Ganu. If you saw the way that the NWAFF used the Banner to tie their display together in Harrisburg, you will know what I mean by an undignified display. If it is not going to be displayed with dignity and is only taped to a wall like an afterthought, the Banner might as well be consigned to the Archives and forgotten. After all, it is the only visible evidence that the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association has anything to do with the National. Mae Howells Anderson worked hard to come up with an appropriate design that was, again, approved by the Board of Trustees. Other than a somewhat casual announcement at one of the dinners, there has been little if any acknowledgment of the contribution of Mae and myself. I noticed, while working of the history, that on page 29 of the Kansas City 1992 Program there was a nice acknowledgment of Nancy Miller's contribution of the National Flags and it may have appeared in other Programs. Recognition is not that important overall. The appropriate use of the Banner is what is important.

I purchased the rod and lanyard(?) needed to display the Banner and a shipping case for it. While I think I have done everything that is appropriate, there nothing more I can do to see that it is used properly. There may be something that someone else can do. I think someone could design and procure a light weight stand that would hold the Banner by its rod so that it could be located on the stage or dais without having to jerry-rig it on a wall. It would be ideal if the stand could be disassembled and included in the shipping container.

I think the WNGGA Banner should be accorded recognition and use similar to the National Flags. This should be a requirement laid on the venue committee with their assurance that the instructions will be carried out.

I have supported the WNGGA and will continue to do so. I have been consistent in carrying out my commitments. I hope that the WNGGA makes use of their Banner in a consistent manner worthy of the effort, time, and expense that went into producing it.

I am deeply at work with the history, putting in 3-5 hours daily, and finding it very interesting. Inclosed is the tentative Table of Contents which will give you some idea of the direction I am taking. Any comments, suggestions, and/or recommendations you may have will be appreciated. As mentioned in Harrisburg, it became obvious that I needed a summary type document condensing all of the information from minutes and the individual National Programs and eliminating boilerplate and other non-essential information. The product of this first reduction of minutes and the National Programs, titled a Compendium, will appear, year by year, easily available to anyone interested in what went on at specific meetings and Nationals. In Chapter 7, I will bring together all of the information relative to the beginning and development of specific subjects. For example, if someone wants to follow the WNGGA Constitution from the original version approved in 1935, becoming in 1936 its first Constitution and By-Laws, through the process of amendments and reissues, they will find it all in one place without having to dig through the individual minutes. The same applies to the other subjects in Chapter 7. I have completed working through 1997 on this first product which now is around 200 pages. The Compendium, the title suggested by Ellis, should be a valuable document for the WNGGA Archives and for libraries that should be interested in activities of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association. This institutional memory would also be valuable for officers and trustees interested in getting background on the organization they are charged with managing. In developing the Compendium, I have found numerous instances where actions were taken at Board meeting that never were acted on or that died a death only to be repeated in following years. And, inevitably, there are always instances of reinventing the wheel.

I will have a continuing need for minutes of all meetings, financial reports of all kinds, Programs for the Nationals, reports of the Offices and Executive Director, reports of the Grants/Scholarship Committee along with any other committee reports, and anything else of interest for the history. I have asked Ellis for this and would appreciate reminders during meetings after he has gone. It is my intention to prepare the Compendium and History covering the years 1929-2003 and to have both ready for early in 2004 with the History ready for review shortly after the first of the year 2003. Since the Compendium follows the minutes and National Programs, I do not think a review is necessary. In addition to facts, the History will include my comments, analyses and conclusions and should be reviewed by knowledgeable people.

In recent weeks, I have received a flood of literature from organizations touting the benefits of Planned Giving in the form of Charitable Gift Annuities either single or two life agreements. In most cases, a minimum of a \$5,000 gift is required and there are some very attractive rates of return based on the size of the gift and the age of the donor(s). In my report on WNGGA fund raising, I failed to go to any length on this way of raising funds. While I recognize that our primary effort seems to be the Annual Fund, it may be worth looking into

Charitable Gift Annuities as a way for individuals to make a more lasting and rewarding contribution to the WNGGA.

I also hope someone will assume responsibility the Documentary on the Welsh of North America. David Williams and I are the only ones I know of who have made personal contributions to what we both recognize will be a long-term effort. You will recall that the Board of Trustees earmarked \$10,000 for this purpose and I understand that the National Welsh-American Foundation did the same. At least one other person is interested in that a letter on the subject from Jim Bird, of New Jersey, appeared in Y Drych. (Page inclosed) Notice the response. Did anyone contact anyone in the WNGGA on this subject? My fear is that, unless someone on the Board of Trustees takes on interest, the idea will fall by the wayside. The first step in falling by the wayside started since there was nothing in the financial reports on the fund. That is why, on two occasions, I have asked that an entry be carried in the WNGGA financial reports. Frankly, if interest isn't maintained in the WNGGA, nothing will happen since the NWAFF is in such disarray that little help can be expected there.

All our best wishes to you during your term as President of the WNGGA and for continued success of that great organization.

Sincerely,

Alfred J. Reese, Jr

A PRECISE DRAWING

