



HWYL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION

VISIT THE WNGGA AT www.wngga.org

Volume 10

March 2001

Number 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

My goal is to contribute to every issue of HWYL with an update to keep you all informed of the direction the Association is taking and how we are changing to meet the needs of the North American Welsh.

It is now established that the WNGGA co-sponsors the Labor Day Weekend gathering and therefore takes a measure of financial and organizational responsibility. It is not yet decided exactly how the two groups, the local society and the WNGGA, will divide the responsibilities for the weekend.

Traditionally, the WNGGA has had some responsibility for the Sunday services but has chosen to delegate those to the local group. The local group has taken full responsibility for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday events. In the new structure, since the WNGGA has fiscal and legal responsibility (we co-sign contracts) we must become more intimately involved in the overall structure and organization. Exactly how this will be achieved will be the main topic of discussion at the May mid year meeting of the Board of Trustees at Waterloo, Canada where we will be guests of the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association.

Already we have changed the structure of our meetings to ensure that there will be enough discussion time for this important topic. The Board of Trustees has agreed that all committee and officer reports will be circulated to the whole board two weeks before the meeting. At the meeting, these reports will not be orally delivered by the chairperson or officer. Rather, questions will be asked, if necessary, to clarify or discuss specific points in the report. In this way, we intend to free considerable time so that we can discuss the issues of restructuring to take advantage of the new role that the WNGGA will play in our annual gathering.

Having cleared the decks so to speak, then let us look forward to continuing and improving our festival and Gymanfa Ganu so that we can flourish and hopefully attract and keep the new members that we will need for the future continuance of our Welsh heritage in North America.

If any member has any contribution or comment to make, please contact me by telephone at 425-488-7288, by e-mail to aupshall@lhotmail.com, or by letter to 7049 NE 163rd St., Kenmore, WA 98028

Alan Upshall
President, WNGGA

SEVENTIETH ANNUAL WELSH NATIONAL
GYMANFA GANU
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA
30 AUGUST-2 September 2001

Registration packets for the San Jose 2001 Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu will be mailed to all members of the WNGGA in the near future. This is one of the most important advantages of being a member. If, in the future, you hear of someone who has not received a packet, the odds are that they are not a member. Take the opportunity to encourage them to become a member.

Complete details are provided in the registration packet. The national will include traditional events: noson lawen, eisteddfod, grand banquet, grand concert, Sunday morning bi-lingual church service, and two sessions of the gymanfa ganu. An additional separate event, a Celtic Musical Evening, has been scheduled for Wednesday, 29 August, at the Villa Montalvo, in the Santa Cruz Mountains. However, be sure not to miss significant other items in the packet.

- The headquarters hotel will be the San Jose Fairmont Hotel at 170 S. Market Street. A special accommodation rate, \$109 plus 10% tax, has been arranged. Reservations may be made through (408) 998-1900, toll free (800) 527-4727, or Fax (408) 287-1648. Mention that you will be attending Festival of Wales 2001 to receive this special rate.
- The Grand Banquet will take place in the Fairmont Hotel. The Rt. Hon. Rodri Morgan, First Secretary, National Assembly of Wales will be the guest speaker.
- The Grand Concert, featuring the Llanelli Male Voice Choir (Cor Meibion Llanelli), will be held in The San Jose Civic Auditorium.
- Both sessions of the Gymanfa Ganu will be held in the San Jose Civic Auditorium. Rhiannon Evans Acree of Los Angeles will conduct the afternoon session. Eifion Thomas, conductor of the Llanelli Male Voice Choir, will conduct the evening session.

NOMINATIONS

One of the advantages that accrue to members of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association is that of making nominations to the Board of Trustees responsible for the management of the Association. Elections to the Board of Trustees occur at the Saturday WNGGA Annual General Meeting (AGM) held during the National Gymanfa Ganu Weekend.

Members of the Board of Trustees serve for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election for one additional term. A trustee completing two consecutive three-year terms is not eligible for re-election for the following two years.

Slots to be filled during the 2001 AGM include two trustees from Canada completing first terms; one from the US West completing a second term; and two from US East, one completing a first term and the other completing a second term. Only persons who have been members of the Association for at least three preceding their nomination at the AGM are eligible for election.

The WNGGA Constitution provides that the Nominating Committee shall consist of the three most recent and available Association Past Presidents with the chairperson being the Immediate Past President.

Nominations to the WNGGA Board of Trustees to fill the above slots may be submitted to any of the following members of the Nominating Committee:

Col. Alfred J. Reese, Jr., USA Ret.
 PO Box 485
 Lehighton, PA 18235

The Rev. Dr. R. Cerwyn Davies
 8 Bellhaven Crescent
 Scarborough, ON M1M 1H3, Canada

Dr. Wm. John Lewis
 5719 Red Coach Road
 Dayton, OH 45429

The deadline for submission of nominations prior to the meeting is 1 August 2001. Nominations may be made from the floor during the AGM.

MEMBERSHIP

As of 1 March 2001, there were a total of 2,903 members (Life-2747, Annual-156) in the WNGGA. This includes 60 for whom addresses need updating.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP STILL THE WAY TO GO

During the last four months of 2000, 228 individuals took advantage of the opportunity to join with a \$30 life membership prior to the 1 January 2001 increase in life membership dues. There were also 30 new annual memberships during the same period.

The fact that there has not been a single new life membership since 1 January 2001 does not diminish the bargain of the life memberships. The present \$150 life membership represents what seems to be a standard, 15 times annual membership dues, and payment provisions are liberal. Many local Welsh Associated Organizations have annual dues in the \$15-30 range. This may indicate that WNGGA annual dues should be reviewed.

Life memberships are good for all. Administrative costs are reduced, check writing and postage become a thing of the past, and a full commitment made to the work of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association is most satisfying.

NEEDS OF THE WNGGA

As you would expect, there are many needs that have to be addressed by all non-profit organizations dedicated to carrying out difficult missions. The most difficult mission is raising money.

Commitments of the WNGGA that require financing include:

- Arranging for and presenting the annual National Gymanfa Ganu weekend. As with everything worthwhile, costs associated with this weekend are increasing. It is not always desirable or practical to pass on all costs to the attendees. There are individuals who have provided additional support within their means. A solution, in the form of corporate sponsorships, has been discussed and needs help from its membership.
- Preparing and publishing publications (hymnals, songbooks, conducting and singing aids) for sale at reasonable cost.
- Providing scholarship and grant assistance to individuals studying and producing works of interest in preserving and advancing Welsh culture, heritage and language.
- Preparing visual evidence of the importance of Welsh culture, heritage, and language in North America. Without being emotional, one only has to compare events surrounding observance of the Saints on 1 and 17 March to realize the need for this. The WNGGA has taken a leadership step by establishing a reserved endowment account (currently containing \$13,000 from individual contributions of \$8,000 added to \$5,000 from its treasury) for the purpose of producing a video documentary on the Welsh of North America. The National Welsh American Foundation Executive Committee established a similar account during a recent meeting and committed \$10,000 for this purpose.
- Managing its activities with efficient and effective administration. While this cost is not always visible, it is extremely important and the keystone to all of the good accomplishments of the WNGGA. Without the many free services provided, it would be an impossible task.

THERE IS NO WAY THAT DUES, ALONE, CAN BE HIGH ENOUGH TO COVER ALL OF THE ASSOCIATED COSTS WITHOUT DISCOURAGING NEW MEMBERS. THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE WNGGA

BECOME A WNGGA BENEFACTOR

Encourage new members.

Make special contributions to the General Fund used to finance all operations.

Make special contributions for one or more of the purposes listed on page 3.

Use the provisions of PLANNED GIVING covering gifts of securities, real estate and personal property; or life insurance, testamentary bequests, and trusts.

WNGGA INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

**The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association
International Headquarters
Gustavus Adolphus College, Box 47
800 West College Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082-1498**

**Phone: 507-933-7540
FAX: 507-933-6284
e-mail: ellis@gac.edu**

**and for the 70th Annual Welsh National
Gymanfa Ganu
Tel.-831-479-0331
FAX-831-464-8868
e-mail: info-request@walesfest2001.org
San Jose, CA 2001**

MEMBERSHIP

Memberships may be arranged through the WNGGA International Headquarters.

Individual Life Memberships payable in annual increments of \$50.

For those over 65-----\$100

For all others-----\$150

Annual Memberships-----\$ 10

Organizational Memberships----\$ 50

WNGGA HYMNALS AND WELSH FOLK SONG BOOKS

Publications are available from the International Headquarters at the following prices which include handling and postage. All payments are required in U.S. dollars and may be made by credit card (VISA or MASTERCARD)

Reformatted Hymnal (6 x 9) singles are \$12.00. For quantities of ten or more--\$10.80 each.

Large Reformatted Hymnals (8 ½ x 11) are \$17.00. For quantities of ten or more the price is \$15.30 each.

Songs of the Dragon (8 ½ x 11), the Welsh Folk Song Book are \$11.00.

The Phonetic Hymn Book will sell for \$11 when it becomes available.