

# The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD

(Come, Sing to the Lord)

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

### President

MR. DAVID E. THOMAS  
Hansen Road  
Edina, Minnesota 55436

### Vice President

ATTY. PAUL E. STEVENS  
North Lima Road  
Poland, Ohio 44514

### Secretary

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### Recording Secretary

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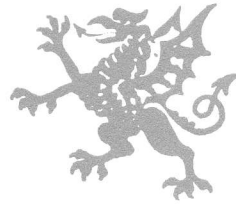
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President W.W.C. of America  
Rocky River, Ohio

### Executive Comm. at Large

MRS. GWYNETH N. CRYSLER  
Oakland Drive  
Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124



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The Women's Welsh Club of Baltimore

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The Saint David's Welsh-American Society of Baltimore

Welcome you to Baltimore

For The 57th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, September 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1988

October 12, 1988

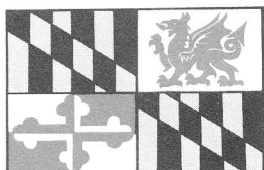
TO: Officers and Trustees of WNGGA

As I assume the Presidency of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association, I perceive the challenge before us as officers and trustees is to formulate a program to reach out to all areas of Canada and the United States and to all segments of the Welsh community. By working together we can increase our membership, gain more active participation by the members of the Association and establish a link with our Welsh youth which will provide the bridge to perpetuate our Welsh heritage and insure the future of our organization.

Organizations, like people, must at some point in their existence pause to determine where they have been, where they are now, and where they want to be. I believe we have reached that point. There is no better time than now.

As agreed upon at our last Trustees' meeting in Baltimore, I have appointed the following members of the committee to conduct such a survey and make recommendations to guide us in the future:

David E. Thomas, Chairman	[REDACTED] Hansen Road	Edina, MN	55436
Dr. Dan Mills	[REDACTED] Pentland Cresc.	Kanata, Ont.	K2K-1V5
Iwan Edwards	[REDACTED] 38th Avenue	Lachine, Montreal, PQ	
Dr. Ellis J. Jones	[REDACTED] W. Jefferson	St. Peter, MN	56082
Daniel W. Williams	[REDACTED] Broadway	Camden, NJ	08103
Thomas Brownfield	[REDACTED] Donald Ross Road	Granville, OH	43023
Nelson L. Llewellyn, Secy.	[REDACTED] Melwood Dr. NE	Warren, OH	44483
Mrs. Nancy L. Miller	[REDACTED] Concord Road	Acton, MA	01720
Miss Donna C. Davies	[REDACTED] Fillmore, Apt. 201	San Francisco, CA	94123



Correspondence

Baltimore '88 W.N.G.G., P. O. Box 21545, Baltimore, MD 21208

Chairman, Barbara A. Morgan

Secretary, Bette Davis Ermer

Memo Letter dated October 12, 1988

Page 2

Ex-Officio Members

Paul E. Stevens, President [REDACTED] North Lima Rd. Poland, OH 44514  
Miss Gwenfyl E. Jones [REDACTED] 1844 W. 7th Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6J-1S8  
Meirwyn Walters (WAY) [REDACTED] eranda Circle So. Hamilton, MA 01982

As the work of the committee progresses you will be advised of its progress.

Sincerely yours,



Paul E. Stevens  
President

PES:mjn

Oct. 24th 1988

12/3/88

Dear Paul,  
Thank you for your note and your letters re W.M. C.G.A. Survey Committee. I'm certain you'll be successful in increasing W.M. C.G.A. membership. Your letters arrived today. For what they are worth here are my thoughts re. Survey Committee discussion etc.

1. North America to be split into re-Welsh population and evaluate their activities re Welsh programmes e.g. Gymnastfa & other cultural activities
2. All societies, associations clubs groups etc to be contacted and visited by members of Survey Committee members - this is the utmost importance as it is vital - personal communication is a must regarding the push for membership.
3. Follow up or start with leaflet re-information re W.M. C.G.A.
4. Explanation on what "they" can expect as a member of W.M. C.G.A.
5. Emphasis on why it is worthwhile and what they'll get out of being a W.M. C.G.A. - it's true what one puts in to Association is what one gets out of Association.
6. Strength of enthusiasm, communication and commitment from each Survey Committee member is a must.

My good wishes to you Paul and

to all who accept your invitation to  
become a member of the Survey Committee

Have a great meeting.

Sincerely a Cofean,

Gwenfyl.

---

12/3/88

Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA, 02159  
November 27, 1988

Mr. Paul E. Stevens, Esq.  
Market Street  
P.O. Box  
Youngstown, OH 44512

Dear Mr. Stevens,

As I have indicated, I must apologize for being unable to attend the meeting of December 3, 1988. I am afraid that the week following, I will begin my fall examinations. I am sure you remember well the days of Trusts and Estates, Evidence and others!

Perhaps I could briefly outline a few ideas. I am very encouraged at your leadership in forming the committee to reflect and plan. The time has come and I am confident we will not lose this opportunity to ensure a future for the WNGGA. At least, we can give it a Welshman's three tries.

1) **Date.**

As I mentioned to you in Baltimore, one of the most serious difficulties encountering those under fifty-five years of age is the Labor Day weekend. Any persons at all involved with the academic sector are effectively blocked from attendance at the National. This includes everyone from elementary school through graduate. And their parents. We are not merely losing young people under twenty. Instead we are losing those who by age, experience, and abilities are most likely candidates for positions of leadership at the national: trustees and host committees. These people are not able to make the effort to travel to a city several hundred or more miles away while they know they are missing classes or have children who are doing so. Several WAY members missed academic requirements to attend Baltimore. Many colleges and graduate schools have a "shopping period" for the first week or so, allowing students to try different courses before committing. This, obviously, makes missing these classes all the more costly.

As for particular dates, it seems that any weekend in July or early August would work. One important exception would be July 4; American patriotism will unfortunately overpower most Welsh hiraeth! The long

weekend, while a help in terms of work, does not have as much effect as some might think. Those who attend the national now are, for the most part, retired and a holiday on Monday is not a significant help. Those who work would probably not mind saving the hotel fare and flying out on the Sunday night anyway.

## 2) **Events.**

As you know, with the help of the national and local sponsoring committees, WAY has made good steps in providing new events with slightly different appeal than original standard events. In particular, the folk dance continues to be a success attracting many new young people and a few of the older ones who slip out of the banquet to spin a few Welsh dances. The attendance has grown each year. The dance is a fine example of an event which captures much of the meaning of the national. It is fully Welsh in orientation and purpose. Participants learn more of their heritage while getting to know one another.

For the past ten years, I have listened to various suggestions by folks for various means to change the national to make it of greater interest to younger generations. On several occasions I have had to stand strongly against some ideas which included discos or pizza bashes. While these events might have increased attendance, they have no place in a Welsh national. I do, however, believe that there may be some additions or even changes we could make to the schedule that would be of some benefit. What is needed is creativity, courage, and wisdom.

## 3) **Money.**

This has always been a concern for younger persons, those with young families, and even those in middle age. The concern is threefold: travel, lodging, events.

In terms of travel see #4 venue.

In terms of lodging, any efforts that hosting committees can make in terms of B & Bs and cheap hotels would do much to aid those watching expenditures carefully. It would be a help if these options were on the registration sheets. Those who want to stay in the host hotel will be able to do so. But the opportunity for cheaper lodging will help a great deal. One of our first scholarship winners, to my chagrin, spent several hours of her time in the city walking from a YWCA to the headquarters through a dangerous section of town!

In terms of events, a tender balance must be kept. One of the enjoyments of the national is the high class entertainment, events, food, etc. To lose this would, I think, mean losing a great deal. The concert is a

grand event which will always cost money. Most people recognize and are willing to pay for that. On the other hand, the folk dance has been an example of a first rate event (live music and caller) for a cost lower than the contemporaneous banquet by around fifteen dollars.

Lest you believe me partisan I will point a few words at the WAY Luncheon. The event has become much more fancy and mature than the days when Gwenfair and I had to drop plates on the floor to win the attention of the attendees in Utica! Unfortunately, the past few years have seen a dramatic increase in the price (from \$5 to \$15) while an attendance drop from 330 in Utica to just over 100 in Baltimore. WAY and the host committee get less and less money and hotels are getting richer. Perhaps some reevaluation needs to be done.

One of the successes WAY has had has been in making the national financially accessible to a number of its members. It is no secret that WAY is entirely dependent on the national and other generous sources (including Youngstown) for the finances. Already the investment has paid off. A few scholarship winners have gone on to greater contributions to Welsh endeavors. For instance, since Columbus, Tim Boyle has become a trustee in Ottawa.

#### 4) **Venue.**

Moving host cities each year or so from coast to coast has been a tradition. The benefits are obvious: people from each side of the US and Canada are able to attend at least one national every three years, no one city/region must host more than once every decade or more, a new city offers new interests. I understand that it may be impossible to get any region to host more often.

It is clear, however, that certain North American regions are more densely populated by those of Welsh ancestry than others. Over the coming years, the success of the national may mean focusing our efforts in these regions. PA, OH, NY, Ottawa, and others provide the greatest profits. We can not overlook the fact that Wilkes Barre had 3300 at the afternoon and evening sessions. As a region became more accustomed to the national, say every four years, attendance would grow then stabilize, continuity would beget continued support, and committees would develop systems for hosting.

I did some gardening this summer and had to learn the toughest lesson of caring for plants. In order for any plant to grow in health it must be trimmed at times drastically. I am conservative by nature and would rather keep things the same than risk disaster by change. There come times, however, that call for zealous gardening. For the national, it seems that that time may have arrived.

These are just a few brief ideas I offer for your consideration. Please feel free to raise them at the meeting as you see fit. As well, please accept my best wishes and forward them to the others. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Meirwyn Walters', written in dark ink.

Meirwyn Walters

SUGGESTED AGENDA

WNGGA SURVEY COMMITTEE

12/3/88

A. Contact with Membership.

1. Copies of minutes of trustees and membership meetings mailed to all members.
2. Press releases - Y Drych and Ninnau.
3. Newsletter or direct letters to members reporting progress and asking for suggestions, etc.
4. Direct approach to individual members and organization members by individuals (trustees) in different geographic areas.
5. Should member organizations have a seat on the board?

B. Membership Drive.

1. Demographic approach (Welsh regions).
2. Rapport among Trustees, officers and members.
3. Have chairperson (Trustees?) and committees in each area (with award for achievement).
4. Stress advantages of membership.
5. Inducements given to join (tapes, hymnals?)
6. Public relations - prizes - contests, such as essays, etc.

C. WAY.

1. Labor Day weekend annual meeting date changed? (survey?)
2. WAY events at National supported by WNGGA membership attendance.
3. Support for travel to and expenses at National Gymanfa.

D. Intermediate Age Groups (30 to 50)

E. Inter-action with other Welsh organizations (joint executive committee meetings).

F. Should local WNGGA clubs be established (Dr. Islyn Thomas).

G. Miscellaneous.

1. Venue - see Meirwyn Walters' letter - page 3, paragraph 4.
2. Projects - Seminars for Gymanfa conductors.
3. Regional Gymanfas sponsored by National WNGGA.

*Canada*

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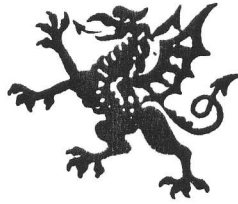
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*12/13/88*

The Women's Welsh Club of Baltimore  
and

The Saint David's Welsh-American Society of Baltimore

Welcome you to Baltimore

For The 57th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, September 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1988

December 12, 1988

TO: Members of Survey Committee

Six of the Committee met in Cleveland, Ohio on December 3, 1988. David Thomas chaired the meeting and a tentative outline of ideas and procedures was developed. You will be receiving more detailed information.

A meeting of the Survey Committee has been set for January 28, 1989 in Cleveland, Ohio. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. in a room to be reserved in a hotel on the airport grounds by Nelson Llewellyn. Luncheon will be served. You will be notified as to the location of the meeting room.

If you will need hotel reservations, please let Nelson Llewellyn know as soon as possible and he will make the reservations for you.

If you are unable to attend, you will be filled in as to the details of the meeting by mail. Your suggestions and opinions will be welcomed.

Sincerely,

*Paul Stevens*  
Paul E. Stevens  
President

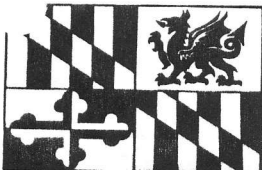
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Enc. - Copy

Please indicate whether you will be able to attend.

Yes / /  
No / /

Signature

*COPY OF LTR  
Rtn to Paul  
12/15/88*



Correspondence  
Baltimore '88 W.N.G.G., P. O. [Redacted] 5, Baltimore, MD 21208  
Chairman, Barbara A. Morgan  
Secretary, Bette Davis Ermer

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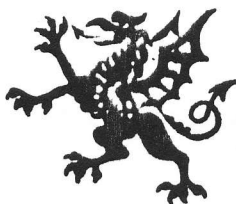
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For The 57th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, September 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1988

December 15th, 1988

Paul E. Stevens  
[REDACTED] Market Street  
Youngstown, Ohio 44512

Dear Paul,

Here is what I had hoped to get to you last week but got pretty busy after returning from Cleveland and so am running behind schedule. I had intended to include a budget and time-line but have not completed those yet. The goals are the starting point so will send these now to get the process moving and will send the rest next week, hopefully.

While flying over Toledo, I realized that I had not chipped in for the lunch. Since I am not sure if Nelson or you picked it up, I will settle with whoever next month at the next meeting.

As I told you at the meeting, I really admire you, not only for undertaking this project, but for the way you are doing it. Hopefully, it will be a success and can be used as an effective tool by the Board.

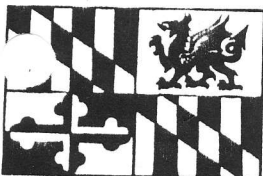
Thank you.

Sincerely,

David E. Thomas

DET/lg

Enclosure



Correspondence

Baltimore '88 W.N.G.G., P. O. B. [REDACTED], Baltimore, MD 21208  
Chairman, Barbara A. Morgan

Secretary, Bette Davis Ermer

Copy  
1/8/89

## Survey Committee

### Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association

#### Goals and Objectives

##### Background:

At the Board of Trustees meeting on Sunday, September 4th, 1988, in Baltimore, Maryland, there was a long discussion regarding the suggestion from college-age members that the National Gymanfa Ganu should be held at a time other than during the Labor Day weekend. Colleges are beginning their terms earlier which makes it difficult for these people to attend. The question was raised as to whether there might be sufficient interest among the members to explore other weekends. It was decided that a survey should be conducted to answer this question and it could also be used to determine other facts about the organization and its membership.

President Paul Stevens appointed a committee with nine members and three ex-officio members. This committee met on Saturday, December 3rd, 1988, in Cleveland, Ohio.

It is intended and anticipated that this survey will be a "snapshot" of the membership during the organization's sixtieth year. Hopefully it can assist the Officers and Board of Trustees in guiding the organization into the coming years and through the future.

The principle objective for undertaking this survey is to determine if the organization is adequately and effectively meeting the needs and fulfilling the expectations of the membership and the North American Welsh community.

Non-members of the WNGGA will also be asked to participate in the survey by completing a questionnaire. The intention here is an attempt to answer the uncertainty as to why these people participate in the activities of the WNGGA but do not become members. Perhaps this information will help attract non-members to become members.

1/28/89

Survey Committee  
Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association

Provisional Time Line

January 28th, 1989

- 12/3/88 First meeting in Cleveland
- 1/28/89 Second meeting in Cleveland @ Sheraton Hopkins Hotel @ 11:00 am.
- Agenda:
- Approve Goals & Objectives
  - Approve time line
  - Decide who will receive the questionnaire.
  - Decide on procedure, structure, and format.
- ~~2/18/89~~ By this date each member submits questions which he/she feels should be included in the survey's questionnaire.
- 2/25/89 The final format and specific questions are submitted to a person experienced in designing questionnaires and writing questions (the name of Ellis Jones was mentioned at the first meeting in Cleveland).
- 3/24/89 Questionnaires are mailed to each member of the WNGGA and all others that the committee
- 4/28/89 Deadline for receiving completed questionnaires back.
- 8/1/89 Deadline for delivering compiled results of the survey to President Paul Stevens and the Survey Committee members.

Survey Committee  
Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association

*from  
David*

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Goals:

- I. To design and conduct a survey of each member of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association that will provide as high a response rate as possible.

This data will be used to -

1. Construct a demographic profile of the membership (such as age, sex, marital status, percent of Welsh lineage, etc.)
  2. To gauge the members' interest in the current and traditional structure of National Gymanfa Ganu weekend and to see if any changes should be made.
  3. To determine the level of interest among the membership in certain ideas that are regularly discussed by the Board of Trustees, at the Annual Meeting, and by individual members (such as moving the National Gymanfa Ganu to a weekend other than Labor Day).
- 
- II. To determine the image of the organization among members and non-members. Among other things, this will be a measurement of how members and non-members perceive the organization's roles, tasks, effectiveness, etc.
- 
- III. To conduct the same survey among non-members of the WNGGA, especially those persons who regularly participate in events of the WNGGA and/or activities of local Welsh organizations.  
  
The goal here to gather the same type of statistics from non-members as well as members. It may be used, among other reasons, to determine why these people are not members and what must be done to attract them into the membership.
- 
- IV. To compare the profiles of members and non-members to determine the existence of similarities.
- 
- V. To gather data that can be used by Organizing Committees in planning a National.

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A DDYRY GYCHWYN

The Saint David's Society Of Pittsburgh

Welcomes you to

The 58th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu

August 31, September 1, 2 and 3, 1989

February 2, 1989

David E. Thomas  
 Hansen Rd.  
 Edina, MN 55436

Dear David:

With reference to projected cost to mail out Phase I of our survey, I have developed the following: Cost of printing, paper, envelopes and postage for approximately 1900 pieces would be -

Approx. % return	Total Cost	Cost per Piece returned
10%	\$1,090.00	\$5.73
15%	1,148.00	4.03
20%	1,204.00	3.17
25%	1,261.00	2.65

Percent expected return would be for U. S. only considering that the Business Reply method would be used which involves a \$60.00 annual fee plus 65¢ for every piece returned.

Also considered in the cost would be pre stamped survey forms with Canadian first class postage which would be on each of the 125 sent into Canada even though not all would be returned.

Each envelope containing a letter of explanation & the survey form with the return address would be mailed with first class postage of 25¢ U.S. and 30¢ Canadian.

I trust this information will give us an approximate idea of the cost to carry out Phase I of the Survey.

Let me know if I can supply any further information.

Sincerely,

Nelson L. Llewellyn, Secretary

cc Paul E. Stevens

Correspondence

Pittsburgh '89 W.N.G.G. [redacted] Weirton, WV 26062

Chairman, J. C. Williams [redacted] Co-Chairman, David R. Lewis [redacted]

[redacted] (112) 467-800 [redacted]



Received on  
Feb. 8  
ED

Fillmore, Apt. 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
5 February 1989

Dear Ellis,

What an excellent Survey you have put together. I was so intrigued that I started to fill in some of the blanks! I couldn't believe it; I've attended 16 National Gymanfoedd. I got carried away with trying to figure out which 5 hymns I liked best, however...it's up to 14 so far!

My only suggestion - and it's a minor one - is to switch around the wording of the third paragraph of the letter, but I do not have a strong feeling about this:

The reasons for this survey are to secure suggestions as to what the WNGGA should do in the years ahead, to know more about the members of our organization, and to get reactions to what the WNGGA has been doing in recent years.

I loved under "Age" - "90-plus"!

The Survey is so well set-up - easy to read, easy to circle answers, and you hit every angle and phase.

Sincerely,

*Donna*

(Ms.) Donna C. Davies

Professor Ellis J. Jones  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
St. Peter, Minnesota 56082

P.S. Our weather is cold enough, but Minnesota is really feeling that Cold Alaska Air!

*Ed*

Broadway  
Camden, NJ 08103  
February 6, 1989

TO: NWGGA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY COMMITTEE

FROM: Daniel E. Williams

RE: Draft Copy of Survey Form

Sorry, I was unable to be in Cleveland on January 28 to express my opinions in person, but it appears those present did an excellent job. I feel, however, that two of the various concerns that prompted this survey were not really addressed.

Question 6 is fine, but that could range from fluency to remarking about the weather. In view of the controversy in the Welsh-American newspapers, another question needs to be inserted:

CAN YOU SING THE HYMNS IN WELSH? ALL....., MOST....., A FEW....., ONE, TWO, THREE OR MORE.... .

Of course, this may be partially addressed by question 14. I certainly wouldn't be in favor of provoking an outright dichotomy by asking if we should use more Welsh or that other language; At every Cymanfaeodd I've attended, (local & Natl.), the conductor quickly gets the feel of the congregation and sets the pattern. Although this is not a problem for me since I know enough Welsh to appreciate the words I am singing, perhaps we are reaping the fruits of a practice in the Welsh churches of this country: As a young boy, myself and many others were members of junior choirs; We were taught to pronounce the Welsh words and sing them, but most had little concept of the meaning unless it involved a close translation as in Calon Lan.

Accompanying parents and family to services and Cymanfaeodd, the same thing was true, and the Welsh of the hymns was memorized. If asked to sing in English, one had to then read the words rather than watch the music and the conductor. Because of rhyme and rhythm, it is not difficult to learn to sing in another language -- a device long used by language teachers. Here in Philadelphia at our Welsh Guild meetings, we have had success in teaching our non-Welsh members to sing in Welsh, however, we have tried to provide an English translation of key words and thoughts so the singing is more than memorized words. The Ysgol Gan at the last two Natl. Cymanfaeodd worked on this and familiarity breeds happiness.

As an illustration of the prevalence of the above, I will cite a recent experience we had here in Philadelphia. Every year on the Friday before our St. David's banquet we have a special ceremony at the Welsh Plaque on Philadelphia's City Hall. Aside from the other purposes, one object is to let the non-Welsh know that we are alive, well, and a vital part of the community. There is always a large crowd in attendance, and it attracts many onlookers. At the conclusion each year, those present always lustily sing Hen Wlad Fy Nhaddau. Two years ago the conductor asked the Welsh to sing this in English for the benefit of the bystanders. Since we had no song sheets or hymnals, the results were embarrassing. No one knew the English words! (Of course, in view of the nature of the Welsh words, I think this should always be sung in Cymraeg unless it is being translated for the benefit of non-Welsh present.) Another example is in the change of the Welsh words for Aberystwyth in the new hymnal. Although the meaning now closely follows the familiar English words, it was a disaster to those at Cymanfaeodd who had been singing, "Beth sydd imi yn y byd ----" for more years than they could remember and relegated this wonderful and always requested hymn to one used less and less.

Secondly, one of our concerns was increasing membership in NWGGA. Although the survey would give us clues as to those for whom we should be looking, perhaps some of our members have better ideas on this than the committee has collectively. How about a question 16?

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO WAYS NWGGA MIGHT INCREASE MEMBERSHIP?

Oddiwrth,

  
Daniel E. Williams

(Incidentally, (and it doesn't bother me), my middle initial is E. not W.. The first time I noticed this I decided it was a typographical error, since they're next to each other on the keyboard, but it keeps being repeated.)

DYMNIAIDAU GORAU A'R DYDD GWYL DEWI SANT!

# The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD

(Come, Sing to the Lord)

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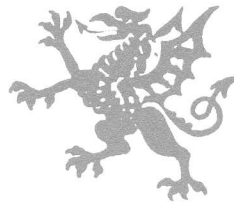
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A DDYRY GYCHWYN

The Saint David's Society Of Pittsburgh

Welcomes you to

The 58th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu

August 31, September 1, 2 and 3, 1989

February 7, 1989

Dr. Ellis J. Jones  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
St. Peter, MN 56082

Dear Ellis:

I want to compliment you on the excellent draft of the survey questionnaire.

I have the following suggestions:

As to question 5 - I think it would be difficult for people to figure their Welsh descent in such fractions. I would suggest that question 5 read:

If you answer to No. 4 above was yes, what proportion of you is Welsh?

100%

50% or less.

Dr. Islyn Thomas suggested that the WNGGA establish local chapters. Perhaps this additional question could be added:

A suggestion has been made that the National Gymanfa Ganu Association establish local chapters.

Do you agree?

Yes

No.

I would also recommend that when the revised form is complete it be sent to the Past Presidents in addition to the Board of trustees. A list of the names and addresses is enclosed.

Best regards,

Paul E. Stevens  
President

PES:mjn

Enc.

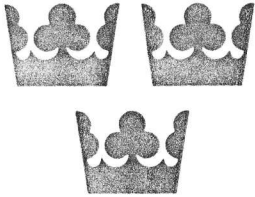


8090 Market Street  
Po Box 3361  
Youngstown OH 44512

Correspondence

Pittsburgh '89 W.N.G.G., P.O. Box 3361, Weirton, WV 26062  
Chairman, J. C. Williams

Co-Chairman, David B. Lewis



GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082

[REDACTED] 931-8000

2/27/89

RECEIVED  
3/13/89

DATE: February 28, 1989

TO: WNGGA National Board of Trustees  
National Past Presidents, WNGGA

FROM: Ellis J. Jones, Member *Ellis J Jones*  
NWGGA Membership Survey Committee

SUBJECT: Pilot Study

Enclosed with this note from me is a copy of a letter from President Paul Stevens, the survey form which has been prepared, and an envelope.

In order to doublecheck the appropriateness of the letter and survey form, as a pilot study group, you are asked to respond to the questionnaire and return it as soon as possible in the enclosed stamped envelope. Since this is a pilot study, feel free to add any personal comments you might have concerning the letter or any of the items on the survey form.

After reviewing the results of the pilot study and making any additional changes, the next step will be the printing of the materials and sending them to all members of the WNGGA.

tbe

Enclosures

# The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD

(Come, Sing to the Lord)

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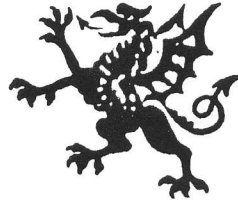
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The Saint David's Society Of Pittsburgh  
Welcomes you to  
The 58th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu  
August 31, September 1, 2 and 3, 1989

2/28/89

February 27, 1989

Mr. David E. Thomas  
5980 Hansen Road  
Edina, MN 55436

Dear Dave:

I have reviewed the material you sent me which would supplement the previous suggested material. I concur with your thoughts as to doing a complete a job now as possible. However, I share your concern as to making the questionnaire so involved that it will discourage the recipients from completing and mailing it.

I certainly would be in favor of taking as much material out of what you suggested and blending it into the final questionnaire.

I am going to be out of town this week, but will get in touch with you and Ellis Jones upon my return.

I certainly appreciate the time and effort you have spent on this.

Best regards,

  
Paul E. Stevens

PES:mjn

c: Ellis Jones

bc: Nelson Llewellyn (w/attachments)



Correspondence

Pittsburgh '89 W.N.G.G. [redacted], Weirton, WV 26062  
Chairman, J. C. Williams

Co-Chairman, David R. Lewis

[redacted] (412-746-8775) (Contd)

# The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD

(Come, Sing to the Lord)

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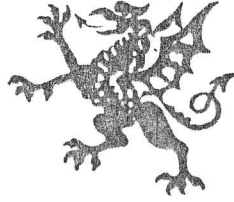
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MR. LEONARD T. WYNNE  
Rensselaer, New York

The Saint David's Society Of Pittsburgh

Welcomes you to

The 58th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu

August 31, September 1, 2 and 3, 1989

May 26, 1989

Mr. David E. Thomas, Chairman  
Survey Committee  
[redacted] Hansen Rd.  
Edina, MN 55436

Dear David:

Just thought you would be interested as to the status of the Survey Forms mailed out and the return to date.

The mailing to Canada took place on April 10th and those for United States were posted April 14th. Total Surveys mailed was 1,689.

The return as of today is; Canada 22, United States 206. Percentage wise it looks like 13.5%.

I will be mailing the 228 returns to Ellis this afternoon.

If the return rate continues, we just may hit 20% or more.

I want to give you a big Diolch for the nice little gizmo you sent along recently. I've given it a short run and it works well. Please let me know the cost.

Sincerely,

  
Nelson L. Llewellyn, Secretary

cc Paul E. Stevens  
Ellis J. Jones



Correspondence  
Pittsburgh '89 W.N.G.G., [redacted], Weirton, WV 26062  
Chairman, J. C. [redacted]  
Co-Chairman, David R. Lewis  
[redacted] (417) [redacted]

[redacted] Broadway  
Camden, NJ 08103  
March 2, 1989

TO: NWGGA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY COMMITTEE

FROM: Daniel E. Williams

RE.: Pilot Study

Annwyl friends:

I was pleased to note with the pilot study survey form that my prior suggestions had been incorporated into the survey.

Inasmuch as I had not tried to complete the questionnaire on the first submission to the committee, I did find myself stymied on a few questions:

Question #5

There should be a 75% or a more than 50% choice. (My father was entirely Welsh as was my mother's father, however, my maternal grandmother was a "Heinz 57 Variety.")

Question #11

I think this was meant to say the answer to # 9 above???

Question #16

I needed more space than provided.

Question #17

Very difficult to answer since I'm fond of most of them, and each one evokes a different memory or a spiritual awareness.

As a matter of curiosity, I'm enclosing a program from the Annual Divine Service of the Philadelphia Society last Sunday. I asked the Rev. Dimick to be the guest preacher because he had recently joined the Society, and we like to encourage active participation of new members. His Welsh ancestry is very remote. Much to my surprise, he has quite a command of the language, was able to intersperse this in his sermon, and knew all the hymns in Welsh including those planned to be sung in English where he insisted upon a Welsh verse. Interestingly, during his sermon, he quoted some hymn lines in Welsh and asked the congregation to give the next lines in Welsh, which they readily did. The entire service was so moving that some were brought to tears on the final "God Be With You." Perhaps, this illustrates some directions for WNGGA.

Yr eiddoch yn ffyddlon,

*Dan*

Daniel E. Williams:

*P.S. Also suggest to Paul that it might appear more seeking more Cymraeg in our activities if the cover letter used Cymraeg for the date, salutation, close, or even threw*

in a "Droeth yn Fawr." It adds a distinctive  
Welsh touch, and I find it effective in  
Society correspondence. These little  
phrases need no English translation  
for even our most monolingual  
members.

Question 11: Most of the questions in this section are expressed in such a way as to invite a positive answer (i.e. use of the phrase 'should be continued'), which strictly speaking is a no-no in questionnaire surveys, but since the answers are likely to be overwhelmingly positive no matter how the questions are asked I don't see any great harm done. Questions g, h and k are of course exceptions. Question h should possibly be on the same page as question g, since they are closely related and I think people should know that h is coming up before answering g. I'm not too happy about question k, since it's difficult to answer without knowing what the level of support is at present, what WAY's needs are and what money the WNGGA has to spare.

Question 15: Again a difficult one to answer, without knowing what local chapters would do. I'm not sure anyone on the Board has a clear idea, let alone the ordinary rank and file member. Trouble is, this question is likely to produce a positive response, simply because it sounds like a 'good idea'. **Then** what is the WNGGA going to do? Is the Board going to feel bound by the results of this survey? If so, it's got problems, because I don't think local chapters are a good idea at all.

Question 16: The essential problem is that there is nothing to gain from being a member, except perhaps a nebulous satisfaction from supporting a worthy cause and being part of a like-minded group. I mean, one doesn't even have to be a member to receive information about the upcoming National, since if my understanding is correct, everyone who has ever attended, member or not, is on the mailing list. Hold it right there—I'm starting to answer the questionnaire now instead of commenting on it. Since I assume I get my chance to answer later with everyone else I'll just say that it's a valid question, and leave it at that.

Question 17: Why are we asking this, unless it's just out of interest? Are future conductors going to be told what they have to sing? Be that as it may, why not offer a prize to anyone whose selection of hymns matches the winning selection, i.e. who not only selects the most popular hymns but gets them in the right order? If nothing else, this would act as an inducement to respond. The question of course would have to be changed to ask for a ranking of hymns instead of just a list. This is a **serious** suggestion.

Question 18: I think the WNGGA should be very wary about getting into too many new areas. My experience with Cymdeithas Madog is that it's far better to do one thing really well than strain your resources by diversifying. The WNGGA does one thing very well at present, as I'm sure that the survey will confirm, and I seriously question the wisdom of trying to do too many new things, especially if they impinge on what others are doing. Hymnals and folk song

books are fine, since they fill gaps, but things like newsletters and local chapters necessarily duplicate the efforts of existing groups. Furthermore, the organizational demands would be enormous, and I don't think the WNGGA is set up to handle the extra load.

Additional questions: There should be a question somewhere about the extent to which the hymns at the gymanfa ganu sessions should be sung in Welsh. This is quite a contentious issue, and I think it should be addressed. Why not ask also about the possible reprinting of the phonetic hymnal? And about the 'continuation' of the Market Place and Banquet, the two major components in the weekend that are missing from question 11?

That's all about the survey. Best of luck with it!

We'll soon be receiving scholarship applications from Nancy, and I'm enclosing copies of the letters I wrote to the other committee members (Nancy and Paul) when reviewing applications last year and the year before. I've not been at all happy at the way the process has gone, and I'd like you to be aware of my reservations. I don't have time to go into details now, but I think my concerns are fairly clear from the 1987 letter in particular. I'd be happy to expand over the phone if you like.

Remember my 'speech' (harangue?) at the last trustees meeting? I still think the points I raised are important and I'd like to make a number of motions at this year's meeting in the hope of getting some of them adopted. I would circulate notices of motion in advance, with supporting arguments, and my question to you is, would you be willing to act as seconder? In doing so, of course, you would not be committing yourself to voting in favour, but at least they'd get on the floor and people would know about them in advance. I haven't given a great deal of thought to this, but the following are the sorts of things I have in mind:

Moved/seconded that:

1. the minutes of the trustees meetings be circulated within so many weeks of the National. [This is absolutely essential in my opinion.]
2. the president prepare regular progress reports during the year to keep trustees informed of developments. [I'm not thinking of anything elaborate—the enclosed sample is the kind of thing I have in mind.]
3. reports to be presented at the trustees meeting (e.g. secretary's report, committee reports) be circulated to trustees in advance. [We should not have to waste over half an hour listening

to the secretary's report being read! An exception might have to be made in the case of the treasurer's report, which needs to be as up-to-date as possible.]

4. wherever possible, advance notice be provided of motions to be made at the trustees meeting, together with sufficient background information to enable trustees to be reasonably well-informed about issues before they are discussed.

5. the nominating committee issue a call for nominations so many weeks in advance of the meeting, and circulate a slate of candidates so many weeks in advance. [The slate can of course be added to by nominations from the floor.]

One final point, and it's about the survey again. When you send out the final version, I hope you don't intend sticking US stamps on the return envelopes that go to Canada! I can use the one you sent me, because I happen to be popping over to the States later today, but most Canadians don't live ten miles from the border...

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alun Hughes', written in a cursive style.

Alun Hughes.

1989

As to business meetings I strongly suggest that the sponsors do not have tours at the time we hold our annual business meeting. I have seen this many times and get very few people to the meeting. During the Gymanfa Ganu in Milwaukee we made sure that there was nothing of interest to the visitors during business time and I believe that there were over 200 at the meeting.

As to the inquiry on membership numbers I am sure that there are many false members registered. When we went to Wales the first time and I assume that the second would be the same story Meadows signed up between 300 and 400 new members none of which probably never even heard of a Gymanfa Ganu. The scheme was that his buddy had a tour planned and Meadows got a big cut which you can bet never went to the WNGGA. I had quite an argument with him on this and he walked away as he did on other occasions such as on his own he called an executive meeting. Ha, ha! He came into the room and quickly stated "We've got to do something about these damn Canadians". I stopped him and said "This is not an executive meeting and you know it". There were two men other than officers in this room and one of them quickly stood up "Let's call this an executive meeting and I call for an adjournment". I agreed to that. It would look better than not recording the facts as we knew it. I hate to say this but Meadows and Edwards were the worst thing that ever happened to the WNGGA. Every president at least up to my time agreed.

My predecessor and past president, Owen Roberts, did a wonderful job as president and we were in constant touch--in fact when we were in Wales Owen and his niece, my wife Edna and myself were always together on some work or other.

Question 15 on local Welsh organizations. We should establish local chapters wherever possible but some arrangement should be made with each one so that it is thoroughly established. On regional Gymanfoedd we come to Meadows again. To him regionals were a pain in the neck and he automatically banned them without authority of any kind. It is in the constitution that we have regionals, that if a Gymanfa Ganu was in the east a regional would be held in the west at a time of their choice and if a Gymanfa was held in the west a regional would be held in the east with the Mississippi River as a dividing line. During my presidency I violated Meadows' law and we had a regional in San Francisco and everybody enjoyed every minute of it. Given more time I am sure that I can offer other suggestions because I am so deeply interested in the WNGGA. I think a discussion should be planned with the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu who I understand are getting stronger and see if we cannot work more closely with them and share ideas.

I am very sorry, gentlemen, that I did not get this questionnaire back to you but you can see why.

*Gwynfa I Tani*