

Minutes of the North AMERICAN Festival of Wales committee meeting, Richmond Inn, Richmond, B.C. February 9, 2003

Present: *Alan Upshall (chair), Lynne Owens Whalen (vice-chair), Neville Thomas, Gerri Baker Parry,*

Don Murray, David Lintern, Helen Steinle, Gaynor Evans

Review of the January 11, 2003 meeting.

High School: We have either McNeil or McMath schools as the venue for the Gymanfa Ganu.

Richmond Inn Contract: There is no need to open an account with them at the moment. Helen will do this sometime in April.

Program Ads. Secretary to check in minutes whether the amount charged for placement of these advertisements had been agreed on in a previous meeting. Otherwise use previous program prices as a guide line. Work on the program is in progress.

Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion: The group will not be attending the Festival due to financial difficulties. The air fares with Air Canada were too high and they were unable to get a price break from the regular air fares.

Eisteddfod: The Friday afternoon and Saturday events have been switched around to accommodate the Whitney Women's Choir.

Registration: The opening has been changed from Wednesday afternoon to 9am on Thursday. Forms will be mailed out by March 1st.

The registration form and tour forms will be on the web site and will need to be printed out and mailed to HQ. The WNGGA does not give out mailing addresses of members to any other organization.

Registration Fee: Ellis has a concern that the registration fee is lower than Harrisburg. It will be changed to \$25US. if paid before August 1st and \$30US. thereafter.

Welsh Chamber of Commerce: They have asked to change their meeting from Friday morning to the afternoon.

Ysgol Gan: All four parts will rehearse together on both Friday and Saturday.

Corgis: Lynne is liaison with Roma Stewart and Murielle Simpson Ball.

Dance Workshop: The Vancouver Welsh Folk Dancers will oversee this seminar once details are finalized.

All **Canadian cheques** will be given to Helen for deposit. It was suggested that Mary (HQ) send the cheques via Alan to avoid the possible delay of going through customs. Helen is to inform Ellen of deposits so that they can be punched into the budget

Brian's Plan:

Matches Bar is available to us for Thursday and Sunday evenings.

The Richmond Inn has made two suites available for us for the weekend; one free and the other at a minimum cost. The suites will accommodate 40 people theater style.

The dance workshop can be held in the ballroom as rooms on either side are empty.

There will be a lockable room available for volunteers.

Alan will ask Brian to look for errors and amend the plan as necessary. The updated plan will then be circulated to the committee.

Sunday Activities:

David is in charge of this program and as such would like to see the venue locations.

David and Alan will discuss and arrange to meet in the near future.

Church Service: 10.00am to 11.30am at Minoru Rooms A and B.

Rev. Ben Rees will officiate and give the sermon. He will choose the hymns from the hymnal for the congregational singing. Bronn and Katherine Journey will perform the special music.

The WNGA Executive Director will preside over the Rose Ceremony, recognizing members who have passed away during the previous year.

Rev. Ben Rees will receive 4 nights hotel accommodation and air fare.

Gymanfa Ganu: McNeil or McMann Sen. Sec. School.

Haydn James has agreed to direct both afternoon and evening sessions and will adjudicate at the Eisteddfod for a fee of \$750Can. plus 4 nights hotel accommodation and air fare.

Afternoon Session: 2.00pm to 4.30pm. The congregation will sing 16 hymns chosen by Haydn and approved by the committee and the soloist/special music will be performed by Eisteddfod winners.

An **intersessional meal** (deli buffet) will be available at the Richmond Inn at a cost of \$20Can. for adults and \$10Can. for children 12 years and under.

Evening Session: 7.00pm to 9.00pm. The congregation will sing 12 hymns (approved) and once again the special music will be performed by Eisteddfod winners.

Discussion re. the accompanist for the Gymanfaoedd. Richard Lind has asked for \$500US per session and \$125US for working with Eisteddfod soloists. He would also require 4 nights accommodation and travel expenses. **Jeff Howard**, the accompanist for Duvant Male Choir has asked for \$500(?Can.) per session and has given the impression that he would help out with other events requiring a pianist. He would need to be paid extra if he accompanies Jason Howard at the Grand Concert. Bev Ratajak and David Lepsy are other possible accompanists.

It was agreed that we should ask Jeff Howard to fill this position and Alan will contact him to negotiate a fee and advise him of functions where we will need his services, i.e. Sunday Service, Gymanfa, Eisteddfod etc.

We will offer him a package deal of \$2,500 and specify Canadian dollars.

Shuttle Bus and Contract:

We already have a contract with Gray Line stating cost of renting one coach as \$225 Can. This will mean a cost of \$450 per coach for a round trip from the Richmond Inn to the Orpheum. We will need approx. 10 coaches for an estimated cost of \$5,000. We also need to calculate how many buses will be needed to shuttle guests from the hotel to the Gymanfa Ganu location.

Poems and Pints:

Question: *What is Poems and Pints?* Alan advised that this is a relaxed, informal, organized social evening that guests can wander in and out of, free of charge. David has offered to oversee this event.

Poems and Pints will take place after the concert with the folk group Mabon and the Dylan Thomas Hour on Thursday and a local group/choir will be asked to host the evening under the direction of David.

It was suggested that Poems and Pints start a little earlier on Friday evening to run parallel with the banquet to accommodate those guests not attending the dinner. David has agreed to organize and emcee this event and song sheets will be made available. As there is a cover charge for Matches for Friday, it was agreed that we would cover the difference if \$1,500 not taken over the bar.

The informal hymn singing will also be taking place in the Garden Room every evening under the direction of Tom Gething. We should check with the hotel whether drinks can be taken from Bartholomew Lounge into the Garden Room and if so can the bar sales be added to those of Matches.

Publicity:

All old brochures should be put into circulation in the next few weeks as we need to update with current information. The new brochures will have the same format as before and Don asked permission to print 3,000 together with 1,000 posters advertising the Festival. These can be circulated in July through to the Festival date. The name for the Grand Concert is needed for the posters, tickets etc. and Alan is in touch with Dunvant regarding this. The back of the poster will show Festival information and contact numbers.

CBC radio has agreed to sponsor the Festival and will give 30 airtime advertisements spots during June, July and August.

Rob Lintern is currently updating the Festival web site.

Grand Concert:

Ticket Master will probably look after and sell most concert tickets and add on their fee. The VWMC and the Orpheus choir will be given blocks of tickets to sell and will receive a discount on ticket sales over 100. Telephone contacts for these groups should be included on future concert publicity together with Ticket Master and local numbers. The cost of tickets is \$40 as per registration form.

Seating for the concert will be by general admission and we possibly will have to supply extra ushers to work with the Orpheus ushers. Walkie Talkies will probably be needed to help with the seating of the audience.

N.B. The Dunvant Male Choir will be staying a hotel near the Orpheum Theater.

Market Place:

Gerri needs guidelines regarding non-resident vendors bringing merchandise for sale at the Festival. It was suggested that Gerri contact an organizer of a large gathering, e.g. PNE for help with this. A trade-show form has to be filed in order to bring leaflets etc. over the border without the hassle at customs. It was suggested we find out cost of having Mendelson's act as brokers for merchandise coming from U.K. and contact Richmond City Hall regarding temporary employment license for itinerant vendors.

We need a location locally where pamphlets and catalogues can be sent. Neville agreed that his address could be used and either rent a locker for storing or e-mail volunteers for use of any garage/storage space.

It was suggested we e-mail volunteers to help track down businesses that sell Welsh/British goods.

Catering:

Lynne, Kathy Thomas and Jane Byrne have agreed to head the catering committee and will bring in volunteers later on. Lynne put forward the idea of publishing a cook book with the Festival logo on the cover, as a fund-raiser for the Festival. The book would contain approx. 400 recipes and it would be sold at the Market Place for \$10Can. Lynne is to find out updated cost of this project by the next meeting.

Alan advised that we need someone to replace Brian to oversee the 'on the ground' organizing of the Festival proper. A few names were put forward for consideration and Alan will look into this.

Question as to whether we can change the meetings back to Saturday? We will decide this via e-mail as not all of the committee present at this meeting

Downtown Ceremony:

We need to find a location for the Opening Ceremony as the CBC Plaza is too expensive. Alan will check out City Hall, Richmond when he visits to look at McNeil school.

Next meeting; April 12