

WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION, INC.

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2009 ~ PITTSBURGH, PA

1. CALL TO ORDER, CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM, OPENING PRAYER

President Robert Hughes called the meeting to order at 09:13. A quorum was certified and Rev. Richard Price Baskwill offered the opening prayer.

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Mona Everett made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Roger Hughes seconded and the motion carried.

3. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Robert Hughes greeted the members, noting with approval the increased attendance at the AGM and a letter to the Festival from HRH Prince Charles, inspired by Trustee Donald Hughes and lecturer Olwen Hughes.

4. MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

After a brief review of the minutes,

Dick Donohoe made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. Barbara Jones seconded and the motion passed.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

In the absence of David Jones, the Treasurer, Dr. Stacy Evans, Executive Director, spoke to the Financial Report, prepared by David and a copy of which is on file.

Alan Upshall, noting the omission of information from the Restricted Funds section about three other prizes sponsored for the Eisteddfod, requested that the section be corrected to include sponsorship of \$100 each from Ninnau (Youth Dance), the Cambrian Benevolent Society of Chicago (Adult Dance) and the 2009 Eisteddfod Committee (Recitation).

Barbara Jones, Chair of WNGGA Revenue Generation, confirmed that the Committee is working on fundraising initiatives similar to suggestions made by members during discussion of the Financial Report. She distributed copies of a letter from WNGGA requesting a special donation and the new membership flier.

Roger Hughes moved to accept the Financial Report, amended with the missing information. Nancy McKinless seconded and the motion passed.

Stacy Evans noted that Sue Richards has volunteered to work with Dianna McCarty on an internal Audit Report.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Nominating Committee & Election of New Trustees

Roy Morris presented an oral report, noting 3 vacancies for US East, 1 for US West and 4 for Canada. The committee's nominations were as follows:

US East: Barbara Jones, IL for a second three year term and Trudy Howells, FL

US West: William Jones Fanning, CA.

Canada: The Committee had no nominees.

Nominations from the floor were:

US East: Pat Kwasigroch, IL nominated by Barbara Jones, seconded by Myfanwy Davies.

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US West: Gerry Baker-Parry, WA nominated by Dick Donohoe and seconded by Roy Morris, after it was confirmed that another vacancy would exist, if Mona Everett's tenure was changed back to US East, as it should be based on her place of residence.

Canada: Myfanwy Bajaj, nominated by Martha Davies, seconded by Beth Landmesser and in Myfanwy's absence, subject to her agreement.

Charlotte Henderson moved that the slate of nominees be accepted. Myfanwy Davies seconded and the motion carried.

12 RECOGNITION OF RETIRING TRUSTEES

Roy Morris and President Robert Hughes presented a certificate of appreciation to Hywel Davies, in thanks for his service to WNGGA.

7 INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS REPORT

Dr. Stacy Evans noted highlights from his report, a copy of which is on file. He confirmed modest gains in membership and good publication sales, despite the lack of statistics in these areas, because of a corrupted memory stick. He confirmed his wish to continue as a servant for WNGGA and to see the implementation of the recommendations made in the Strategic Plan, which had been adopted by WNGGA at Buffalo in 2004 but not yet put into action.

Hywel Davies made a motion to receive the International Headquarters Report. Roger Hughes seconded and the motion passed.

8. GREETINGS FROM EX OFFICIO GROUPS

8.1 Walter Wilde, President, offered greetings on behalf of the Women's Welsh Clubs of America. He reminded the meeting that the Welsh Home now accepts residents of any national background. A building expansion, to increase the number of rooms from 38 to 90, is underway.

8.2 Edward Morus Jones, Chair, offered greetings on behalf of Undeb Cymru a'r Byd, T Elwyn Griffiths and Ieuan Wyn Jones, for a successful Festival.

8.3 Dr. Arturo Roberts conveyed greetings for a successful Festival on behalf of the National Welsh-American Foundation and also from Ninnau and the Welsh American Genealogical Society.

9. CREDENTIALS REPORT

It was confirmed that 56 Life members were present, including 13 representing Associated Welsh Organizations.

10. OLD BUSINESS

A question from the floor brought up an apparent violation of the WNGGA Constitution, specifically Article 6 (e), because of the Board of Trustees' selection of Bryan Jones, as a fully vested Trustee from Wales in April 2009, not as a non-voting Ex Officio Vice President as might be expected from his connection with Undeb Cymru a'r Byd. Discussion of the constitutional issues followed. Points made covered the need to follow the Constitution and its provisions for change; the intent and wish to recognize increasing participation from Wales. Myfanwy Davies reminded the meeting that voting rights had been removed from Ex Officio Vice Presidents about 15 years previously.

President Hughes ruled that this matter be tabled, pending further investigation by the BoT and the Constitution Committee.

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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

After the AGM, research discovered that

1 Only part of the motion, proposed by the Constitution Committee to change Article 6 (e) of the WNGGA Constitution and considered at the 2008 AGM, had been quoted in the unofficial Minutes for that meeting.

2 The full motion approved by the membership does include provision for one resident of Wales to be elected a Trustee.

An Addendum to the 2008 Minutes will be distributed at the 2010 AGM.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Dic Baskwill commended the work being done by David Parry, a volunteer, to promote the Festival on Facebook, now with some 800+ followers. He noted Facebook's potential as a recruitment tool.

11.2 Iris Reese, volunteer from the Welsh Society of Pittsburgh, urged the Board to keep local folk and societies very closely involved in arrangements for future Festivals.

11.3 Walter Wilde, President, Women's Welsh Clubs of America asked the BoT to reconsider voting rights for Ex-Officio Vice Presidents.

11.4 The Registration Desk was confirmed as the place to which completed forms, offering views about changing the Festival date, should be returned.

11.5 Charlotte Henderson, Washington ME, shared a letter, dated 20 October 1957, from George Bundy, Executive Secretary, welcoming Blaine E Davis as the first WNGGA member from Maine. Charlotte urged members to promote membership in WNGGA among family, friends and acquaintances.

11.6 Don Hughes invited members to attend the Associated Welsh Organizations summit meeting that afternoon.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mona Everett reminded the meeting that anyone with a red ribbon on the name badge ought to be thanked, as a donor to WNGGA.

14. CLOSING PRAYER, ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Stacy Evans offered a prayer to close and the meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted

Jenny Hubbard Young
Secretary

Documents on file with Minutes:

- 2 Agenda
- 4 Official Minutes of 30 August 2008 AGM
- 5 Financial Report
- 7 International Headquarters Report

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT FOR BOARD MEETING

The Program Committee had lined up the orchestra, Y Glerorfa, for the Festival in Cleveland, 2011. I was informed in the middle of July that they would be unable to come due to finances.

The North Wales Male Voice Choir, Hogia'r Ddwylan, was suggested by Bryan Jones. Committee approved, so I contacted them and have a verbal agreement with them to come to the Festival in Cleveland. Hopefully, by the board meeting in Portland, I will have signed contract.

I also, talked to Calan as a possibility for the Opening Concert and Pub Night. They would be hard pressed to come unless all of their expenses were paid. If we could get a concert or two set up for them that would pay their airfare, then the expenses at the hotel would be approximately \$3000. We could keep them in mind for the future.

Because I feel that money will be tight for Cleveland due to the poor turnout in Portland, we are pursuing Megan Morris and Moch Pryderi for the Opening Concert and Banquet. Ild Anne Jones, director of Hogia'r Ddwylan, has agreed to conduct the Gymanfa sessions.

I am thinking about trying to get Only Men Aloud for the Festival in 2012. I do realize that we can not afford them on our own, but I am going to try to work something out with them. Also, I would like to consider asking Cerwin Davies's son to do his one-man show for the Opening Concert. Then, maybe asking Beth Phillips Brown (storyteller) and Jody James (folk singer) to do the banquet and Pub Nights. They work together.

It has also been suggested that we have a back-up for Alan Thomas, in case there is a year that he is unable to come. I will have a chat with Alan and get his ideas and talk to others for ideas.

**ADDENDUM TO
THE OFFICIAL MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

SATURDAY, 30 AUGUST 2008 ~ CHICAGO, IL

The purpose of this document is to clarify and restate the amendment to *Article 6 (e)* of the WNGGA Constitution, proposed by the 2007/2008 Constitution Committee and approved by the membership at the 2008 AGM. The Article is reproduced in full below, with the approved amended language in uppercase.

ARTICLE 6 ELECTION AND ELIGIBILITY OF TRUSTEES

e) Six trustees shall be residents of the Western United States west of the Mississippi river. Nine trustees shall be residents of the Eastern United States east of the Mississippi river. Five trustees shall be residents of Canada. IF THERE HAS BEEN A VACANCY OR VACANCIES ON THE BOARD FROM ANY OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS, A MEMBER OR MEMBERS MAY BE ELECTED FROM ANY OTHER REGION, TO FILL THE VACANCY OR VACANCIES FOR A THREE YEAR TERM, TO FILL THE BOARD. THE ASSOCIATION SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO CONTINUING TO RECRUIT MEMBERS FOR THE BOARD FROM ANY AREA THAT IS UNDERREPRESENTED. ONE RESIDENT OF WALES MAY ALSO BE ELECTED A TRUSTEE.

Respectfully submitted

Jenny Hubbard Young
Secretary

STRATEGY AND LONG-TERM PLANNING COMMITTEE (SALTPC) RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of this committee fall into three broad areas. Two of these are incorporated in the committee's name – Strategy and Long-Term Planning, while the third relates to vital documents –developing and maintaining the Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures of the Association. While the SALTPC will undertake a portion of the associated work directly, the remaining portion will be assigned to other committees with the Executive Committee coordinating all efforts.

STRATEGY

The strategic environments within which the Association functions need to be reviewed periodically (as the Board did at mid-year in Portland, Oregon) with key outputs translated into plans and actions items for implementation. In addition to organizing wholesale reviews, the SALTPC should constantly monitor strategic factors, both internal and external, that need to be brought to the attention of the Board. In general, strategy articulates why the Association is doing something.

LONG-TERM PLANNING

Long-term plans are developed to improve the operational functioning of the Association. A plan articulates; goals - what has to be done, who is responsible for the outcome, which committees or individuals are involved in the process, what resources are needed, a timeframe for completion, and measures of success. A number of plans can be in progress at the same time subject only to resource availability.

VITAL DOCUMENTS

The constitution, by-laws, policies and procedures of the Association are vital documents that form part of a Board Members Handbook. The SALTPC is custodian of these records and is responsible for obtaining approval from the Board and/or the membership of the Association for any required changes to their content. A current version of the documents should be available on the password protected portion of the Association's website.