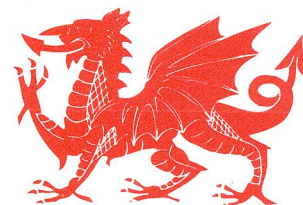


The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association



January 27, 2004

Dear friends,

Please accept this invitation to attend a planning meeting for the 2005 North American Festival of Wales. Taking place this spring at the festival site, the planning meeting will be on Saturday, March 6, 2004 at the Coronado Springs Resort in Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida.

At the meeting, we will tour the resort's convention facilities, discuss the programming and planning for the festival, organize a planning committee and assemble a body of local volunteers. While the WNGGA board of trustees will undertake much of the "heavy lifting" associated with organizing the festival, local volunteers are essential for the festival's success. We are appealing to WNGGA members who reside in Florida to consider contributing to this effort. In doing so, you will be actively cultivating Welsh culture and heritage in North America and helping to bring this unique cultural celebration to your state. Of course, there will also be plenty of fellowship and *hwyl* to share with your fellow Welsh Americans.

If you think you may be able to attend this meeting, please contact me at the WNGGA headquarters as soon as convenient. This will allow us to get an idea of how many people might attend and will ensure that you receive updates on the meeting as it becomes available. Rooms at a reduced rate at the Coronado Springs may be available for participants, so please let me know if you are interested in an overnight stay. More information on the Coronado Springs resort may be found at: <http://www.disney.ca/vacations/disneyworld/II/B/5/>

If you are unable to attend the meeting this spring but would like to volunteer to help with our efforts, please let me know.

I hope to see you in Orlando this spring and to share with you the excitement of this venture.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Ellis".

John S. Ellis
Executive Director

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From: "Ellis, John" <john@unl.edu>
To: <wngga@com>
Subject: FW: The Sky is the limit
Date: Tue, 27 Jan 2004 13:27:52 -0500

- YIC
- Orlando (1)
- SAVE EMAIL

From: Ellis, John
Sent: Tue 1/27/2004 1:26 PM
To: Kara Lewis; Sheila Day Pepper; Robert Hughes; Gerri Parry; Janet Briggs
Subject: RE: The Sky is the limit

Your email has good timing! In recent email correspondence with Jan Briggs, we both agreed that NAFOW Orlando 2005 provides a great opportunity to host an "intergenerational event" and pick up some momentum with the Youth Initiative Committee. We both feel that new and innovative events and programming aimed at families and "under 30s" should be a big part of that NAFOW.

To confine my comments to NAFOW and Orlando in particular (I think Buffalo already has a slate of youth activities planned), I suggest we think in terms of developing one or two youth related projects for NAFOW and plan to implement the first in 2005. I envision these as multifaceted events focused on a theme that carries throughout the festival weekend.

To brainstorm, two ideas that occurred to me are a "Castles and Dragons" project (focusing on medieval Wales) and a "Welsh folk village" project (focusing on folk traditions, folk tales and lore and rural life). I think both of these themes have alot of potential attraction for younger audiences (both kids, young adults and adults with families) and could generate excitement. Once such projects are developed, they have the advantage of establishing a template so that they can be more or less repeated in future years.

The medieval theme could incorporate a variety of events in a designated "medieval room". For example:

-A substantial collection of Playmobile medieval playsets (see [ww.playmobil.com/index.html](http://www.playmobil.com/index.html)) <<http://www.playmobil.com/index.html>> could provide the focus of a medieval room opened throughout much of the weekend. This could be supplemented with coloring book type materials and crafts focusing on medieval Welsh themes. We might purchase some costumes (helmets, wimples, ect) for kids to play dress up. We could extend an invitation to all the kids resident in the hotel to play in the room. I think this would be easy to implement and staffing requirements would be low.

-It would require a bit more work, but decorating the room like a castle (painted scenery) and perhaps a few interpretive exhibits on Welsh medieval history would certainly add to the room and its educational value. Perhaps we could recruit a local school or college to lend a hand. Perhaps the Wales Tourist Board could be of some assistance (posters, displays, brochures, ect. focusing on castles,

ect).

- We might have a medieval version of children's games, or a medieval themed introduction to the Welsh language class for kids.

-At different times in the medieval room during the weekend, we might schedule entertainment or a seminar. Not all of these would have to be kid focused. A professional storyteller could tell tales from the medieval Mabinogion or the legends of Owain Glyndwr. Someone from the Wales Tourist Board might be called upon to do a presentation on touring Welsh castles and we might set up a seminar or two on subjects related to medieval Wales. This could be supplemented with volunteers reading children's story books focusing on Welsh medieval legend (there are several of these available).

-We might enlist a local branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism (a medieval historical reenactment society) to visit in costume and give a demonstration.

I am sure there are other possibilities for this theme. The "Welsh folk village" theme could work the same way, with a designated space suitably decorated in which a variety of activities could take place. For example, at different times during the festival we could recreate the traditions of Calan Gaef, Calan Mai, the Mari Lwyd, ect at different times during the festival (we would need volunteers for this). A professional storyteller could be called on to tell folktales and storybooks on the theme could also be read by volunteers. We might get a folk singer or harpist (not a headliner) to entertain at different times. Traditional Welsh cooking might play a part somehow. When I was at Green Mountain, we had alot of interest in Welsh farm animal breeds- perhaps there is someway to incorporate this (perhaps a seminar if not a petting zoo!) Perhaps we could get St. Fagan's Museum of Welsh Life to play a role.

John Ellis

From: Kara Lewis [mailto:k_ew.1971@.edu]
Sent: Tue 1/27/2004 12:22 PM
To: Sheila Day Pepper; Robert Hughes; Ellis, John; Gerri Parry; Janet Briggs
Subject: The Sky is the limit

Annwyl gyfeillion,

As the National approaches, it istime for us to set some ideas in motion.

>From Johns email, it might be good to create some kind of package (which could go on the website) for Welsh societies to help them involve their local youth.

How about a press release? We could get it in Ninnau, do something in Yr Enfys, and then send it to local societies to put in their newsletters.

What about a website? We can either do that here at Rio, or can

someone do it at WNGGA HQ? I have a great student who went to Wales on our exchange who is an expert on these things, we could get him involved to create something appealing to a younger audience.

What activities can we do this year? Folk Dancing/Welsh pop music.. see Johns suggestions above.

Are we allowed to invite other people onto the committee? There is a lady who is VP of the Pittsburgh St David's Soc who I think would be good. I suppose we could have regional contacts...

Do we have a logo? Maybe we could run a design the logo competition...

I am also keen to develop a relationship between YI and yr Urdd.

Please respond with ideas... just brainstorm... you never know what we'll come up with!

How many of us will be at the NAASWCH conference?

Kara

Kara Lewis
Cyfarwyddwraig/Director
Canolfan Madog Center
Prifysgol Rio Grande
University of Rio Grande

www.rio-grande.edu/madog

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From: **Ann McFerrin** <annmc@swbell.net>
To: **WNGGA@com** <wngga@com>
Subject: **Re: NAFOW Orlando meeting**
Date: **Mon, 26 Jan 2004 01:31:08 -0600**

John:

Orlando sounds great. I'm going to look into it but I don't know that I'll be able to afford it. Do you know of any women coming who might be willing to share a room? I'm sure \$99 a night is a good rate for the place but by the time you put taxes with it, that'll add up. Right now, Southwest has a good price from Kansas City for airfare.

Ann McFerrin

[WNGGA@com](mailto:wngga@com) wrote:

> A general planning meeting for NAFOW 2005 will be held on Saturday, March 5 at the Coronado Springs at the Walt Disney World resort in Orlando, FLA. The Coronado is providing complimentary meeting space and I believe we can get rooms for the conference rate (\$99) for attendees. If anyone from the BOT thinks they can attend, please let me know and I will discuss room reservations/rates with our sales representative at the hotel.

>
> Next week, I will send out a letter to all WNGGA members in Florida inviting them to attend the meeting and participate as volunteers in the NAFOW planning committee.

>
> At the meeting, we will tour the facilities where the NAFOW will be held and will be discussing the general planning and organization of NAFOW 2005. I also hope to compile a list of local volunteers.

>
> In the near future, I believe Lynn will be asking some members of the board to serve in various capacities on the Orlando committee. I hope to see a number of you in Florida this spring.

>
> Yours truly,
> John S. Ellis
> Executive Director
> Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association

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From: WNGGA@comcast.net

To: klawns@rio.edu (Kara Lewis), luw.williams@worldnet.att.net (Lynn Williams),
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naintak@aol.com (Janet Briggs), rbaskwik@bcpl.net (Richard Baskwill)

Cc: wngga@comcast.net

Subject: NAFOW Orlando meeting

Date: Mon, 26 Jan 2004 00:28:04 +0000

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