

First brainstorming meeting regarding the National at Bob & Pat Matthews, on Tuesday, July 23rd at 7:15 pm.

Present:

Jean Sullivan; Paul Bauck; Tim Dyck; Bob & Pat Matthews; Alan & Gretta Upshall

Tim proposed a theme for the weekend as - "WALES IN NORTH AMERICA"

Proposals

Thursday Evening - a Seattle evening:

Opening ceremony, President of the National speaks, organizing chairman speaks. This is followed by entertainment provided by Seattle - items from the band, choir, a poetry reading, dance followed by audience participation - singing. This would essentially be a short evening.

Friday evening:

1. Instead of the traditional dinner, a buffet supper was proposed. The buffet could run from approximately 6:00 - 8:00 followed by a Noson Llawen. This would be a balance between singing, poetry, comedy and instrumental music. The Noson Llawen could be organized in two parts a) some people would be invited to take part and b) provision could be made on the registration form for interested parties to sign up to perform. The aim would be to have a varied, entertaining evening.

Paul Bauck suggested that people should be given a choice. At the same time as the Noson Llawen, rooms could be set up for people to wander around - e.g. a pub, a poetry reading room, music room, the idea being these are participatory.

2. Instead of the traditional dinner, it was proposed to have a Luncheon and have the Noson Llawen as a separate entity.

Saturday Evening:

All present agreed they would like to have a Welsh choir perform. Do we bring personnel over from Wales or do we look for an alternative - a North American Welsh choir? We could draw on North American talent for soloists, etc.

Ask Nelson Llewellyn for his recommendations here.

Sunday:

Gymanfa - directors? recommendations?
venue - St. James Cathedral - Bob & Alan said they would visit to find out its suitability - seating, acoustics

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Day time events:

1. Seminars

- a. Jean Sullivan suggested we had someone to talk about Eisteddfods - history, what happens, why we have them etc. Award Eisteddfod by mail prizes at Gymanfa?
- b. Genealogy
- c. Welsh culture - folk music, dance etc.
- d. Welsh tourist board
- e. Gymanfa singing rehearsals
- f. Welsh history of Puget Sound
- g. Instrumental sessions
- h. Others? suggestions?

2. Youth

Bringing WAY into it as one of the participants - changing emphasis to Welsh cultural experiences. Suggest that we provide a workshop for children rather than getting them to perform on stage.

3. Tours to be determined (Friday, Saturday)