

TOUR OF HOTELS AND CONVENTION CENTER

The 1999 Gymanfa Ganu Steering Committee met on February 6, 1997, to tour the Hilton Hotel, Hyatt Regency Hotel, and Minneapolis Convention Center in preparation to make a decision about where housing and many gymanfa events would be held. Present: Mary Mergenthal, Ellis Jones, David Edwards, Kay Thomas, Frank Siegle, Judy Zachary, Mae Anderson. Marveen Minish joined the group at the Hyatt Hotel.

After the tours, the group convened for brief comparison of impressions.

Frank - He was unable to stay, but before leaving indicated that the Hilton and Hyatt were about equal in his choice, and the final decision would probably rest with the rate they offered. The Convention Center was #3 priority.

Ellis - He thought the Hyatt might rank as #1 because the gymanfa would be less a small fish in a large pond, but also said the Hilton is gorgeous. The Convention Center was #3, as it is so big and so separated, too much so for a group as small as ours.

David - His feeling was that the Hilton would offer a very special experience to the attendees and would give the event a feeling a being out of the ordinary. Both hotels could give what is needed in meeting space. There is creative space use at the Hyatt, though it appears a bit cheap and run down. The Hyatt is more flexible regarding availability of food. If the Hyatt is not cheaper than the Hilton, his #1 choice would be the Hilton.

Kay - She discussed the fact that the Hilton could contain all our activities on one floor, which would create a nice feeling. The Hyatt outside space has great appeal. The Hyatt has more cash and carry eating space. Hyatt appears more flexible, but there is a question of where the focus point would be - the Hilton is strong there. She attended a banquet at the Hyatt and had difficulty hearing at the side of the room. She rules out the Convention Center as too impersonal.

Marveen - She had not seen two of the facilities, but knew that the Hilton is superb. The question will probably come to cost, and whatever the event, the gymnasium itself is the most important thing rather than the surroundings. Felt the Convention Center is too impersonal and large. Hilton would be #1 choice of the hotels, though either would do and both have strong points.

Mae - She felt that the Hilton is beautiful and #1 choice, but the price may be a concern. At the Hyatt, one feels fragmented. If the prices are the same or only a slight difference, the Hilton is #1 and Hyatt #2. If the Hilton is selected, it should be asked that the gymnasium group have the entire floor so as to make the common area exclusive to our group.

Mary - The Hilton is gorgeous, but its cost could be the problem. The eating space in the Convention Center is a big plus, but it is much too cold, big and too much walking involved. Hyatt's outside space was wonderful, but the space was fragmented, and she had a question as to how it would look in 2 years, if its worn appearance would be rejuvenated or worse.

Judy - Although the Hyatt has many athletic facilities which could be useful to attendees, the Hilton is across from the Y. She would rate the Hilton as #1. The singing might be held on Peavey Plaza across from the Hilton. There are also several casual restaurants close by the Hilton.

The general agreement was that the Convention Center was definitely eliminated. The preference between the hotels was for the Hilton if the price was right. Christine, the rep who was with the group, will do the follow-up with both hotels. She felt there might not be much difference in price between the two.

Mary Mergenthal stated that she would have the State Theatre "pencil us in" for the Saturday concert, as it was felt this was the best venue.

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 10:00 A.M. prior to the St. David's Day Luncheon. Meet on the balcony at Luther Seminary where the banquet is being held (Olson Center). The hotel selection will be finalized and there will be discussion of selection of the church.

APRIL MEETING - THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 7:00 P.M., HOME OF MARVEEN MINISH, 331 PEARSON WAY N.E., FRIDLEY. Finalization of the invitation and further organizational personnel.

Directions: Go to I-694 (Highway 100, 35W, 35E, 94.) Exit 694 onto East River Road going North - East River Road is East of 100, 94; West of 35E and 35W. Take East River Road north about 3.1 miles. There is a traffic signal by a small shopping mall called Riverboat Plaza on 79th Way. Turn left on 79th. Take immediate left again on Firwood Way. Take immediate right on Pearson Way. 331 is the middle house of three on the right side. Presumably by April you will be able to see without the drifts of snow that the house is tan and has large numbers on the garage. MAP ENCLOSED. Phone 571-6162

Marveen Minish
Secretary

Gymanfa Ganu National Welsh Association 1999 Annual Convention

January 25, 1997

TO: 1999 Gymanfa Ganu Steering Committee Members
Mary Mergenthal Frank Siegle
Dr. Ellis Jones Marveen Minish
Kay Thomas David Edwards

FROM: Judith Zachary

RE: Tour of Potential Venues

I have arranged our venue tour for Thursday, February 6th -- please see the attached schedule.

We will meet for lunch (*we pay for our own*) at the Hilton along with Christine Skwarch of the Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association (GMCVA). She is our key contact person who will explain all the services that they can provide for the task force.

There are lots of places to park in this area -- one is the underground garage between Marquette and 2nd on 12th Street (enter from the right lane) or you could try the Orchestra Hall ramp on Marquette between 11th & 12th or some surface parking lots. Parking at a meter is not a good option as we may go past the 4 p.m. limit.

Please call me if you have any questions about the tour -- (612) 338-1111 (ext. 2111) (home: 612-338-1111) (fax: 612-338-1111) (cell: 612-338-1111) (pagers: 612-338-1111) (e-mail: jzachary@minnetel.com) (web: www.minnetel.com/jzachary) (mailing: 1000 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55402) (ings).

Gymanfa Ganu National Welsh Association 1999 Annual Convention

Venue Tour Schedule

Thursday, February 6, 1997

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 12:00 Noon | Meet in lobby of Minneapolis Hilton Hotel & Tower
1001 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis

(Mary Mergenthal, Dr. Ellis Jones, David Edwards, Marveen Minisch, Kay Thomas, Frank Siegle, Judith Zachary and Christine Skwarek of the Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association) |
| 12:15-1:00 | Light lunch and discuss criteria for selection of venue

(note: no free lunch -- we are each responsible for our own) |
| 1:10-1:50 | Tour of Hilton meeting rooms, banquet rooms and sleeping rooms. |
| 1:55 | Depart Minneapolis Hilton Hotel & Tower |
| 2:05 | Arrive Minneapolis Convention Center |
| 2:10-2:50 | Tour of Convention Center meeting rooms, exhibit hall and banquet rooms. |
| 2:55 | Depart Minneapolis Convention Center |
| 3:05 | Arrive Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis |
| 3:10-3:50 | Tour of Hyatt meeting rooms, banquet rooms and sleeping rooms. |
| 4:00 | Coffee in Taxxi restaurant at the Hyatt Regency
Review findings |
| 4:45 | Depart |

(Please wear comfortable walking shoes – we will be walking extensively throughout each venue. The venues are within a few blocks of each other.)

Some Discussion Items

Actual Date for the Gymanfa: _____

Realistic number of people expected to attend: _____

Singles: _____

Families (double beds): _____

Children: _____

Need space available for set-up and take-down -- dates? _____

Need some hotel sleeping rooms available prior to the event?

Maximum number of rooms on peak night? _____

Could we / Should we provide a room sharing registration service -- people who can't afford a single room but could share a 2-bed room with another guest of the Gymanfa?

Should we also provide information (in our registration packets) on other hotels that are in lower price ranges but convenient to downtown?

If we book all of our sleeping rooms and meeting rooms at the Hilton or Hyatt we can probably get additional concessions that we would not receive if we only book sleeping rooms and use the Convention Center for meetings.

- Complimentary rooms for the Executive Director and National President
- One complimentary room for every 50 rooms booked (we expect a max of 400 rooms that will give us 8 complimentary rooms to give to special guests, etc.)