



Y Ddolen



Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Visit www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Special Edition ~ August 2009

Y Ddolen/The Link is a bi-monthly newsletter for the Puget Sound Welsh Association

A letter from the Board of Trustees of the Puget Sound Welsh Association

The future is in your hands...

Even though the PSWA Annual General Meeting was announced 5-6 weeks in advance there were only 8 persons at the meeting on the 15th August.

Over the last year there have been several pleas for new board members and for help in running our Welsh organization, but regrettably these have not resulted in an infusion of energy and hands on help, that are necessary to keep the Association running and providing the members with Welsh news and programs.

Our current president Brian Parry has been in this office since 1996. Gerri Parry is now producing Y Ddolen, acting as membership secretary in addition to the website, and media/event coordinating duties. At times, the two of them have held simultaneously, all the board offices of President, Interim Vice President, Interim Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, group representative and trustee. These positions, which were previously held by members who had already put in years of service to PSWA, were to be held only temporarily until they could be filled by willing and enthusiastic replacements from our membership, giving the organization the shot in the arm that every society needs to stay vital. Alan Upshall, the past president, was recycled back into office as treasurer two years ago. Current Vice President Bob Smith and Trustee Jackie Cedarholm have both been on the board for about 20 years. We have had one person, Theresa

Clark, step into the Secretary position this year, she is the first "new" officer in over a decade.

These persons have committed much time and energy to keep things running but the dedication is waning and circumstances mean less available time to spare not more. **That is, the current board cannot keep this going!**

A Society has to have, not only members and persons with an interest in what is on offer, but also persons who are prepared to be involved in the administration and running of the Association per se and its membership activities. We have the former with about 100 paid up members but not enough of the latter to make a viable administrative board.

Consequently at the AGM, it was agreed that we inform the membership of this proposal to be discussed at the next PSWA board meeting: **To discuss and plan the winding up of the Puget Sound Welsh Association in accordance with the Association constitution.** Article Seven of the Articles of Association, while somewhat lengthy is reproduced in its entirety following to allow you to understand the options when providing your comments and feedback regarding dissolution.

This is a drastic step but one which the current board members believe is inevitable given the lack of physical support at the board level.

This next board meeting is on September 22, 2009 at the home of Brian Parry president at 7:30 pm. We look forward very much to seeing as many as possible on the 22nd, but failing your personal attendance, please communicate your thoughts, ideas and areas where you would be willing to help as detailed on the form and return either by mail or electronically. However it is not so much thoughts

and strategies that are needed it is functional bodies who are prepared to spend time at board meetings and running and organizing events.

This decision was not taken lightly and is acknowledged to have significant ramifications concerning finances, storage issues, event insurance, 501.(c) (3) status for, for example, the Welsh ladies club that runs St. David's Day and our South Sound Group and these and other important issues will be considered in the dissolution discussion. However we can't go on as we are!

Thank you,

PSWA Board of Trustees

Excerpt from the 'PSWA Articles of Association' that pertain to dissolution of the society:

Seventh:

A. This Association shall continue forever unless the trustees terminate it and distribute all of the principles and income, which action may be taken by the trustees pursuant to the relevant provisions of the by-laws. On such termination, the association funds shall; be distributed at the direction of the trustees, to or for the use of eligible organizations, as the trustees shall then declare eligible; for the purpose of this distribution, eligible organizations shall be selected strictly according to the following priorities;

First, if any of the original constituent groups of the Association shall be, in the majority opinion of the trustees, still viable and active, then such original constituent groups shall be the eligible organization.

Second, if any other nonprofit organizations can be identified either locally or abroad, which do pursue a stated purpose similar to those of this association either respect to the preservation of Welsh culture and tradition, and if such organizations be, in the majority opinion of the trustees, viable and active then any such organization is eligible.

Third, if no organization can be identified as eligible pursuant to paragraph First or paragraph Second, above, then any non-profit organization may be declared by the trustees to be eligible. The trustees may form and organize a nonprofit corporation limited to the uses and purposes provided for in these articles, such corporation to be organized under the laws of the State of

Washington; such corporation when organized to have power to administer and control the affairs and property and to carry out the uses, objects, and purposes of this Association. Upon the creation and organization of such corporation, the trustees are authorized and empowered to convey, transfer, and deliver to such corporation all the property and assets to which this Association maybe or become entitled. The charter, bylaws, and other provisions for the organization and the management of such corporation and its affairs and property shall be such as the trustees shall determined, consistent with the provisions of this paragraph.

B. In these articles of Association, and in any amendments to it, references to "charitable organizations" or "charitable organization" mean corporations, trusts, funds, foundations, or community chests created or organized in the United States or in any of its possessions, whether under the laws of the United States, any state or territory, the District of Columbia, or any possession of the United States, organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures or is payable to or for the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, and no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation, and which do not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. It is intended that the organization described in this paragraph B shall be entitled to exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as now in force or afterwards amended.

C. In these articles of Association and in any amendments to it, the term "charitable purposes" shall be limited to and shall include only religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes within the meaning of those terms as used in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 but only such purposes as also constitute public charitable purposes under the law of the State of Washington.

Read the complete 'Articles of Association' on the website www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

With participation down within PSWA, it is getting increasingly difficult to plan and commit to future activities. Your involvement however large or small is crucial for PSWA to continue.

We would appreciate if you would indicate a task you would be willing to help with and return to the PSWA Board by September 22nd. Better yet attend the meeting to be part of the solution.

- PSWA Board Trustee (meet 5 times a year)**
- Newsletter (6 issues per year)**
- Website updates**
- Organizing / Planning / Coordinating Events**
- Event Media**
- Print & Mail –Media and newsletter**
- Memberships**
- Organize PSWA records and artifacts**
- Host a potluck, Christmas party or AGM**
- Supply manpower at events**
- Phone calls or contact person**
- Other skills I can offer**

-
- _____
 - _____

Please consider involvement on the PSWA Board of Trustees. The Board meets informally 4-5 times per year and as needed by telephone. Your involvement will help spread the duties and help keep PSWA a vibrant and active group, able to function effectively and efficiently

Name : Phone / email

Return to: Puget Sound Welsh Association Board

PO Box 27725, Seattle WA 98165 or bparry45@hotmail.com

by September 20th 2009

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