

The monthly meeting was held at Red Dragon Brewery in Fredericksburg.

The meeting was called to order at 8:25pm. In attendance were: Bob and Cindy Roser, Trip Wiggins, Tom Evans, Rik Rice, Bill Reese and Jeannette Episcopo. A quorum was present.

The president read the minutes of the April 23 meeting. There was no quorum and no business meeting.

The president read the treasurer's report. It was approved as read.

Old Business

The president passed around photographs sent from Lara McDonel, a social worker from the Caton Merchant Assisted Living Facility in Manassas, Virginia. The photos showed a jubilant Beverly Button enjoying the special "Welsh Day" celebration in her honor. Our society sent Welsh Tourist Board publications and a bright green, Welsh festival tee shirt sporting the red dragon. Our president sent an old Welsh cookbook which the resident chef, Jakob, and the social worker, Lara McDonel, used to create a sampling of Welsh dishes, including Welsh Cakes. Members were happy to know that our society could bring some joy to a sweet woman who is so proud of her Welsh heritage.

The president gave a glowing report of the first annual Scottish-Welsh Harp Day, held on May 6 at Homewood Suites in Fredericksburg. Seven regional harpists played and each won a certificate. The Welsh tune "Ar Hyd Y Nos" was played by three of the participants, each a bit differently. Judge Sue Richards, award-winning Celtic harpist from Asheville, North Carolina, hosted a question and answer session after the competition. The day concluded with all seven competitors playing various tunes with Sue Richards and event host Marilyn Griffiths Newman. Our society received a certificate to acknowledge its sponsorship and a warm "thank you" from Marilyn.

New Business

For several months, attendance at the regular business meetings has fallen off. Some members have had serious health or family issues to deal with, but our group is so small that low attendance can result in a lack of a quorum so that no votes can be taken. A change in the by-laws to lower the quorum might be prudent.

A second issue requiring a change in our by-laws is clarifying our meeting dates. According to current by-laws, the “regular meetings of the Society shall be held on the third Sunday of each month except July, unless changed by the majority affirmative vote of all members present at the monthly meeting... The regular meeting on the third Sunday in January shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other purpose that may arise... the “Welsh Festival will constitute the September meeting”.

Traditionally, the annual St. David’s Day potluck dinner has been held in late February or early March, whichever date is closest to St. David’s Day (March 1). If the potluck is held in February, the March meeting is not held. If the potluck is held in March, there is no February meeting. Eliminating one of those meetings needs to be addressed in the by-laws.

It has also been traditional to move the date of the May or June meetings to the fourth Sunday when the third Sunday falls on Mother’s or Father’s Day. This must be handled with a majority vote.

That led to a discussion about whether the society needs to hold as many meetings as are now required. Members agreed that the October meeting is critical for critiquing the festival while it’s fresh in everyone’s minds. The spring St. David’s Day potluck, the August picnic and the December Noson Lawen/ potluck are very important social events. The need to hold business meetings in April, May, June and/or November needs to be discussed further.

The president will appoint Myra Wiggins to look at the by-laws and make recommendations regarding the changes we’ve discussed, as well as any other issues she feels should be addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by acting secretary Jeannette Episcopo