

# COVENANT OF THE GODDESS NEWSLETTER



SAMHAIN 2019  
VOLUME 44  
NUMBER 8



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*As is consistent with the values and beliefs of our religion, the Covenant affirms our belief in the spiritual and social wisdom of peace in the world. We aspire to stand in fellowship with the people of all religions, cultures, and ethnicities in our shared desire for peace. We do this for the sake of our shared love of the Earth and all living things that dwell upon it.*





**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE AT YULE**

Mabon renewals are due on **Dec 22, 2019**. The Drop-dead date is **January 2, 2019** after which your membership will lapse and you will need to reapply. Renewal forms are emailed to the email address on file from your last renewal. If you have NOT received this form, please contact the National Membership Officer immediately (membership@cog.org).

- CALAFIA LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE
- CHAMISA LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE
- EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE
- HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE
- NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE
- ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL:**
  - ❖ Rt. Rev. Denise Dumars
- SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:**
  - ❖ Moon Birch Grove
- TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:**
  - ❖ Circle of the Blood Moon
- TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL:**
  - ❖ Zenah Smith
- NATIONAL COVENS:**
  - ❖ Circle of the Lavender Dragon
  - ❖ Circle of the Mystical Merkabah
  - ❖ Prodea
- NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:**
  - ❖ Gus diZerega
  - ❖ Orion Foxwood
- FRIENDS OF CoG:** NONE

**FORMATION OF OUR GOVERNING BOARD**

Greetings to the entire CoG Membership:

We are excited to announce the formation of CoG’s new “Governing Board.” This new Governing Board will consist of Representatives selected by each Local Council and National Member covens and individuals (formerly called Solitaries) to fulfill the duties of oversight and long-range planning for the Covenant, while handling the governance of CoG between our Grand Council meetings.

It is important to note, that the new Governing Board will be working in observational mode for this first year, but will have a constructive voice during all National Officer Meetings. When selecting your Representative to serve the Local Councils or National Members, they should be aware that they shall serve a two year term, since this first year of their term will be observational only. This is to assist and prepare them to take over full governance of the Covenant the following year at Samhain.

Therefore, we are requesting that every Local Council and the National Member covens and National Individual Members begin the process of selecting your representative(s) to begin their first year with the new incoming National Board of Officers. We are pleased to say that several Local Councils have already selected their Representative and a couple of those LC representatives have already participated in the transitional meeting between the two National Boards of Officers (outgoing and incoming).

For those needing some additional clarification of the new Governing Board, we are essentially creating a quasi “House of Representatives” to function as Legislators. In the forthcoming year the Governing Board shall be fully empowered to govern and oversee the needs of the Covenant, while the National Officers handle the administrative needs of the organization.

Additionally, we have an immediate plan to assist National Member covens and individuals to begin this same process of selecting a Representative to serve on your behalf. The National Membership Officer(s) will be working with you on this important matter of selecting your representatives. We will be sending out this email blast to notify the National Members and then creating an e-List for open dialog between the national members, so you too can select a Representative for the Governing Board.

Please feel free to reach out to me or the National Membership Officer(s) to assist you if you have any questions and/or concerns you would like to express and share with us on this matter. We are looking forward to assisting the membership in this





important selection process of representatives for the Governing Board.

We believe that the new Governing Board is a great and dramatic change that was created to better serve the entire membership of the Covenant of the Goddess. We thank you for your participation in this important endeavor. We look forward to a year of growth, while increasing clarity, visibility and communication.

Brightest Blessings to all our members!  
 In Service,  
 Lord Verderius  
 Incoming National First Officer

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**FIRST OFFICER**

No report given.

**SECOND OFFICER**

No report given.

**MEMBERSHIP OFFICER**

Well, the 'new normal' in California is turning off the power proactively to prevent the seasonal high winds from starting fires. While this may have prevented some fires, it hasn't prevented all of them. At the time of this writing, at least one CoG member of Touchstone Local Council has lost her home and all her belongings. Please consider donating to the link here: [Diana Davis Fire Fund](#):

Please read the Local Council admission variances published in this Samhain issue, and note how each LC handles TRANSFERS into that LC.

Grand Council minutes are on the website! Kudos to our National Recorder, Faelind, who did an outstanding job turning that around so quickly!

Please welcome Dee Proctor the incoming National Membership Officer and Brandon Proctor the (very first) National Outreach Officer!

Dee and I have updated all the application and renewal forms, and they should be appearing on the website shortly. Stachia has to work her magic to make them fillable forms, which is a tedious process.

2<sup>nd</sup> reminder re: Individual Membership – "Solitary" and "Solitaries" have been renamed "Individual" or "Individuals", and the "Assembly of Solitaries" is renamed the "Assembly of Individual Members." Additionally, applicants for Individual Membership are no longer required to be eligible for Clergy credentials. ANYONE WHO IDENTIFIES AS A

WITCH OR WICCAN MAY APPLY FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP. Eligibility for Clergy credentials (Ministerial or Elder) is still required for Local Council and National Officers, and it continues to be required that at least one person in an Individual Members' Caucus must be eligible for Elder credentials in order for the Caucus to be registered for Grand Council.

The Website password change and elist purge has not yet happened this year, and after the passage of two of the Tech Committee's proposals which will positively affect our email lists (move to new servers and move the elists to forums), the Board has decided that the purge and password change WILL happen to pave the way for the upcoming changes. Much more information to come from the Board and the Netco about this soon. Keep your eyes on the AIR elist for the announcement, and instructions. Additionally, the DD elist will be opened to the Friends of CoG, and Moderators will be appointed to facilitate an appropriate atmosphere for discussions and debate to occur within the guidelines of the existing etiquette rules.

I'm extending the grace period for Samhain renewals to 11/25/2019 because I was late sending out renewal reminders. Your renewal is not final until both the signed form and the tithe have been received. Our ByLaws require a signed statement at renewal, and the current method is the renewal form. Paying the tithe is not sufficient to keep your Membership.

Grace of the Goddess and Tithe payment flexibility Please know that there is money in the Grace of the Goddess fund to assist those who might need it, and the NMO is willing to work with you for deferred tithe payments. A temporary difficulty need not stop you from renewing! However, Grace of the Goddess funds may not be used to pay for Credential renewals.

**APPLICATIONS:** Please read these statements and letters! Please remember, as of Grand Council 2019, Individual Members no longer need be eligible for Clergy Credentials in order to apply.

- Friend of CoG
  - none at this time
- New Member:
  - Circle of the Moon and Sun applying to Texas LC as a Coven
  - Michele Vochosky applying to Chamisa LC as an Individual Member
  - Miss Debi applying to Texas LC as an Individual Member
  - Q'Est – applying to Texas LC as an Individual Member
- **Welcome New Members!**
  - Witches of Aradia (Hills & Rivers)
- **Transfer Requests**



- Dragon Weyr’s Circle (National) has transferred to Southern California Local Council effective at Samhain.
- Grove of Gaia (Hills & Rivers) has changed their name to Hekate's Wheel.
- **Cancelled/Lapsed Members**
  - Priestess Mata Moerae – has lapsed as of Mabon, but intends to join to Greenwood Glen (Orange County), awaiting confirmation.
  - MD Talyn Ray – has lapsed as of Mabon.

**Membership Status:** We currently have 125 Members total, consisting of 65 Covens, and 60 Individual Members; and 3 Friends of CoG. Because things can change quickly between the Newsletter publishing deadline and the actual date of publication, this may have changed by the time you read it.

There are no **overdue** members!

The following members are due at **Samhain** and have until **11/25/2019** to renew:

Roster Name	Local Council
Marla K. Roberson	Everglades Moon
Spelcastor	Everglades Moon
Circle of the Solitary	National
Lady Pythia	National
Lord GoldenOak	National
Our Lady of the Prairie	National
Our Lady of the Trinity	National
Circle of the Unicorn	Texas
Coven Firemoon	Texas

The following members are due at **Yule** and have until **12/31/2019** to renew:

Roster Name	Local Council
Circle of the Lavender Dragons Coven	National
Coven of the Mystical Merkabah	National
Grace Moonhawk	National
Gus diZerega	National
Orion Foxwood	National
Prodea	National
Rt. Rev. Denise Dumars	Orange County
Moon Birch Grove	Southern California
Circle of the Blood Moon	Texas
Zenah Smith	Touchstone

The following members are due at **Imbolc** and have until **2/12/2020** to renew:

Roster Name	Local Council
Circle of the Cauldron	Chamisa
Our Lady of the Woods	Chamisa
Amber Moon	Everglades Moon
Coyote Morningstar	Everglades Moon
Qabal	Everglades Moon
The Sylvan Forest	Everglades Moon
Coven of the Wooded Vale	Hills and Rivers
Hekate’s Wheel	Hills and Rivers
HearthFire Coven	Hills and Rivers
Aracos Arendel	National
Church of the Earth	National
Dragonweyr	National
Eibhlean	National
Jerrie Hildebrand	National
Kirk White	National
Raniananda	National
Waxing Moon Circle	Northern California
White Buffalo Clan	Southern California
Anastasia Lankford	Texas
Circle of the Star	Texas
Dragan	Texas
Glenda Phillips	Texas
Ecclasian Fellowship	Touchstone

In Her Service,  
Thea Bristlebroom

**PURSEWARDEN**

No report given

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

I have already been approached by members to use funds for event program ads, sponsorships and suggestions how to promote our organization. Working with the new membership and outreach officer, along with LC-PIOs, a budget will be created based on our vision & mission



statements, annual goals and KPIs increasing exposure and membership. Part of that will be the promotion of Friends of CoG once the new level of partnership has been established. There are several events throughout the U.S. that CoG can participate and promote our organization. But we should be strategic in our involvement (and funds).

I am grateful to have worked with such knowledgeable, and considerate board members. I look forward to developing new connections with the incoming board and working together in our next journey. 2020 will be an exciting year and I am thrilled at what the future will bring.

**PUBLICATIONS OFFICER**

It has been an honor to serve as the publications officer even if there were a few times I was ready to pull my hair out. Both Jack and Zenah were my not-so-secret secrets to success. However, I am soooooo ready to take a break. I'm looking forward to actually implementing the CoG workshops idea with Webex. It's something I've wanted to do for quite a while, so send some magick towards this project please and lets make it happen!

As always, please send any articles, poetry or minutes to [newsletter@coq.org](mailto:newsletter@coq.org). If you have an obituary for Beyond the Veil, training material, or past MerryMeet rituals for the website (or anything else really) please send it to [coqweb@coq.org](mailto:coqweb@coq.org).

Blessings & Farewell,  
~Stachia Ravensdottir

**CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER**

No report given

**NATIONAL RECORDER**

No report given.

**NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER**

Hello fellow COG members,

My name is Brandon Proctor, and I am your brand new national outreach officer!

I am excited to be working closely with the national membership officer, the national public information officer, and the first officer, and of course all of the membership of COG. The purpose of my position is to build and maintain a thriving membership. I will be emailing everyone in the coming weeks my plan of action for the next year

or 2, but ultimately, from what I can gather from my few meetings with colleagues, my first year as outreach officer will focus on helping the current membership and potential membership to understand what COG can do for them, and also what they can do for COG in their own communities, and how we can make a lasting impact. This is also a time for revival, rekindling, and/or creation of local councils, new and old. Now that we have worked hard on the creation of our new "Friends of COG" program, we are able to use this next year to implement the program. With this option, we will be able to bring back members we have lost who did make a positive impact for COG, and at the very least to reach out to understand what COG can do to build and maintain a sustainable following.

There are many plans in my head that I hope to implement. We will use this time to not only outreach to areas where local councils have faded, but to also outreach to other groups within the Pagan community to become "Friends of COG," or even become new members. This includes outreach and having presence at Pagan Pride Day events all across the US, attending CUUPs (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) events and meetings, reaching out to metaphysical shops, and having a unique and welcoming presence of support alongside the many other religious groups for LGBTQ Pride events across the US, and using this as a means to network with other organizations and groups at these events. These are all the ideas that I am able to process in my head for the coming year, and I am always open to hearing other suggestions and figuring out what works in your local communities and what we can do to really boost membership. For this first year, it just makes sense to focus on building or mending bridges within our Pagan communities and moving forward from there to expand our outreach outside of the Pagan community. This will take time, and I believe we can do this together for the future of COG. I look forward to working with all of you to build lasting relationships for COG!

Brandon Proctor  
Coven of the Silver Moon  
Chamisa Local Council, New Mexico

**WELCOME TO COG**



Please welcome:

- ❖ Witches of Aradia (Hills & Rivers)

**TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY**

**NONE**



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**



**CIRCLE OF THE MOON AND SUN**

Texas Local Council  
Dallas, Texas

**STATEMENT OF PRACTICE**

Circle of the Moon and Sun is applying for membership to the Texas Local Council of the Covenant of the Goddess. Our Circle was formed September of 2018. I am Ruby, the High Priestess and currently have 3 Initiates. I circled out of Bastion, High Priestess, of Coven Firemoon in May of 2018. I became a Witch and an Initiate of the American Tradition of the Goddess in November of 2013. The Tradition is a Matriarchal Tradition that follows the Wiccan Rede where we believe in harming none and the rule of 3. We follow the path of the Goddess and the God. We celebrate at the Full Moon, the New Moon, and at the eight Sabbats.

I have been a part of the Texas Local Council for several years under Bastion and Coven Firemoon. I found my path to the Goddess thanks to the Texas Local Council and their public classes and rituals. The local council is a very big part of my life as a Witch. I was PIO for 3 years. I have been helping as back up coordinator for the Arlington classes and have taken regular shifts at the Registration/Information table at the public rituals. My coven now meets the requirements to apply for membership in the Texas Local Council. I hope to continue serving the community along with my coven and help them grow in Her service along with the wonderful people that are a part of this community and a part of the Mighty Texas Local Council.

Blessings to all,  
Ruby Rose  
HPS Circle of the Moon and Sun

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:**

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Lisa S, also known as Ruby Rose, and her coven, Circle of the Moon and Sun, to membership in CoG. In the last seven years that I have known her, Ruby Rose has shown her dedication to the Path time and time again. During her time in Coven Firemoon, she wrote and performed many private and public rituals. She also helped organize events both in our Tradition and with our local council. For the last six years she has been a co-coordinator of the Arlington Pagan 101 classes that our local council presents and has held local officer positions for several times in the last several years.

Ruby walks the Path of the Old Ones and follows the Wiccan Rede. She has taken her dedication and passion and nurtured her members of her coven with it, and all her members have

shown the same level of dedication and passion as Ruby. It is my belief that Circle of the Moon and Sun will be an excellent addition to the Texas Local Council and CoG as a whole.

Blessings,  
Bastion, HPs Coven Firemoon,  
American Tradition of the Goddess

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:**

Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Ruby and her coven: Circle of the Moon and Sun to join the Texas Local Council of the Covenant of the Goddess. I've known Ruby over six years. She circled out of Bastion's Coven Firemoon and has been an active member of our local council for over three years now. Her positive energy and constant willingness to step in and help out at classes, Sabbats, and other TXCoG related activities, all the while always smiling, has been a bright part of the community for me as I have often worked with her in these endeavors. She has proven herself to be a reliable person in our community who when she says she'll do something – she's there and does a great job. I believe she has a lot to continue to offer our local community and will make an excellent addition to the Texas Local Council.

Blessings & Peace,  
Gaelen Ananat,  
HPS Circle of the Serpent



**Q'EST**

Texas Local Council AoIM  
Dallas, Texas

**STATEMENT OF PRACTICE**

Greetings,  
I am Scott also known as Q'est.

I have been a solitaire for years before joining Amethyst Dragon Coven in 1999/2000. I was made Initiate, then Elder, then Priest and then finally High Priest. I was in Cog as part of Amethyst before I moved to San Antonio. I am now back in Dallas and wanting to rejoin CoG.

I follow the Celtic Dragon tradition and believe in both the Lord in His many Names and the Lady in all of Her Names. I recognize and do personal worships on the Sabbats as well as trying to attend public Rituals for the faith and fellowship.

I firmly believe in the Rede of "As it Harm None, Do as you will".

I do identify myself as Wiccan and Witch,  
I pledge to abide by the Codes and Conducts of Cog.

Thank you for allowing me to present myself.

Q'est / Scott



**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:**

Greetings

It is with pleasure that I recommend Scott to join the Texas Local Council of the Covenant of the Goddess. I've known Scott for many years. Prior to his recent move to San Antonio, he was an active part of our local community and a member of the Texas Local Council as a part of Amethyst Dragon. He's attended and participated in many of our local events over the years. He is back in the DFW area and seeks to join the Texas Local Council again. He has proven himself to be an active member and I believe he will continue to do so.

Blessings & Peace,  
 Gaelen Ananat  
 Gaelen Ananat, HPS  
 Circle of the Serpent

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:**

I Glenda P have known Scott L (Q'est) for approximately 20 years. I have circled with him. He achieved 3rd degree with Amethyst Dragon has taught, and accepted high priest when asked to step up.

He has been very supportive of COG and done many rituals for the open circles at CCDS. I believe he will be a good asset to COG

Sincerly, Glenda P  
 Amerhyst Dragon

Covenant of the Goddess. I've known Debi for over twelve years. She is a McFarland Dianic High Priestess from my Dianic Coven – Dark Veil Grove. She has volunteered at our Samhain Carnival a few times in the past and joined us most recently at our Witches Ball as a tea leaf reader. She has expressed her desire to increase her involvement with the local council and the community. I believe she will make a positive addition to the Texas Local Council.

Blessings & Peace,  
 Gaelen Ananat, HPS  
 Circle of the Serpent

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:**

Dear TXLCOG,

With faith and confidence, I recommend Miss Debi for membership. I first knew her in my mundane world, then found out a few years ago that she had joined a dianic coven. We bonded further over our devotion to goddess energy, and through the years she has shared and shown her outlook on her spiritual practice. Specifically, to follow a moral ethical code, and to show and tell her character with honor. I trust that once she becomes a member, she will exhibit the rede in her word and deed, and continue to be of service to the community.

Sincerely,  
 Christal



**MISS DEBI**

Texas Local Council AoIM  
 Texas

**STATEMENT OF PRACTICE**

Dearest Texas Local Council of the Covenant of the Goddess,

I am Miss Debi, I am a McFarland Dianic High Priestess, from Gaelen's Dianic Dark Veil Grove. Prior to joining Gaelen's coven I was a solitaire. My first teachings were from my Grandmother, when I was much younger.

Crones have always been an important part of my journey.

I still circle with Dark Veil Grove, which meets monthly. I look forward to being more involved in the local community.

I live my life as a witch in honor and respect. The Wiccan Rede is near and dear to me and I take my pledge to the Goddess seriously.

I pledge to abide by COG's Ethics, Charter, Bylaws and policies.

Blessed Be,  
 Miss Debi

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:**

Greetings,

It is with pleasure that I recommend Debi aka Freyja to join the Texas Local Council of the



**DRU**

Chamisa Local Council AoIM  
 Los Alamos, NM

**STATEMENT OF PRACTICE**

Dear brothers and sisters of CLC and COG,

My name is Dru (formerly Tehom and initially Raven). I am an initiated 3rd degree priestess in the Ladywood Tradition and an alumni member of Our Lady of the Woods in New Mexico. As I am no longer associated with a coven, I would like to apply for solitary membership to the Chamisa Local Council.

While in OLW (1992 to 2015) I held several offices, Recorder, Quail Mother (a person in charge of curriculum), and High Priestess. I have mentored several others in the Ladywood Tradition, taught for Ardantane, and held workshops at Dragonfest and Magickal Mountain Mabon. I have remained in touch with OLW and have friendly relationships within the coven and community. I am currently the Recorder for CLC, though not a member.

My personal practice is rooted in eclectic Wicca, seasoned with Druidism and a devotional practice to the goddess and gods that manifests most often as chant, music, ritual, and sound. Being of service has always been of great importance to me, and I consider it a large part of



my path. I follow the Wiccan Rede, am ethical in my life, agree to the ethical guidelines as described by CoG, and am always interested in expanding my knowledge and sharing it. I celebrate the Wheel of the Year with local covens or on my own and take time each week for personal mediation, chant, and ritual.

Attached are letters of recommendation from Mychos, Lady of the Woods and Amberlisis, Circle of the Winter Moon.

Blessed be and thank you for your time,  
Dru

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:**

To My fellow members of Covenant of the Goddess,

I would like to recommend Dru for solitary membership in Covenant of the Goddess. I have known and circled with Dru over many years. She was a member of Our Lady of the Woods when we first met in the 90's and served in many capacities in that CoG member coven. Dru worships the old Gods, follows the rede and is actively engaged in service. She is an honored elder and a third degree Priestess in the Ladywood Tradition who has led excellent public rituals I have attended. She volunteers actively in Chamisa LC and is well known to many of us. We will be lucky to have her!

Sincerely,  
Amberlisis  
Founding Elder Priestess of Circle of the Winter Moon

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:**

It is with a feeling of great honor that I write this letter of recommendation for Dru known by the maglckal names of Dru and Tehom. I have known Dru since 2010 when I first joined the coven of Our Lady of the Woods. Dru agreed to be mentor to me for my Dedlcant year and a day. She again agreed to be my mentor In transitioning from Dedlcant to First and then Second Degree Initiate in the Ladywood tradition.

Dru was essential to my training on all levels. She was not only thoroughly comprehensive In her teaching of the ways of Wicca, but communicated her deep and rich understanding of what It truly means to be a Witch. I am thankful to the Goddess for the guidance, friendship and sisterhood Dru continues to share with me. Dru is a Witch of wisdom, empathy, and experience. I have known her to be an ethical Witch of the highest standard, always in adherence of the Wiccan Rede. She Is a gifted ritualist, musician, writer and communicator.

I fully recommend that her application for Solitary membership to CLC be approved.

Blessed Be.  
Respectfully,  
Mychos

**NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES**

~ October 26, 2019

**Invocation:** Outgoing First Officer Canu invoked Coventina to bless the Outgoing Officers and the Incoming Officers.

**Roll Call** (Quorum was reached):

**National Officers (Outgoing/Incoming):**

- First Officers – Canu / Lord Verderius – Both Present
- Second Officers – Azrael / Morgana – Both Present
- Membership Officers – Thea / Dee – Both Present
- Publications Officers – Stachia Ravensdottir / Jack – Both Present
- Pursewarden – Qabal – Absent
- Public Information Officer – Janine – Present
- Outreach Officer \*new\* – Brandon – Present
- Correspondence Officers – Amber K / David – David Present
- Recorder – Faelind – Present

**Governing Board Representatives:**

- Calafia Local Council – Catherine is primary and Karen is the alternate
- Chamisa Local Council – Ryan is primary and Tiffany is the alternate – Ryan present
- Everglades Moon Local Council – Riekin is primary
- Hills and Rivers Local Council –
- Northern California Local Council – Thea is primary – Present
- Orange County Local Council –
- Southern California Local Council –
- Texas Local Council – Orin is primary and Willow is the alternate – Orin present
- Touchstone Local Council – Jack is primary – Present
- National Covens –
- National Individual Members –

**Officer Reports:**

**First Officer Outgoing (Canu):** Canu reported that he got the agenda out and has been researching server hosting companies to prepare for the website conversion.

**First Officer Incoming (Lord Verderius):** Lord Verderius reported that he is excited for the new year and to work with the new board and felt that attending the prior meeting was very helpful to learn how the meetings are organized. His goal is to grow the Covenant and he looking forward to working with our new Outreach Officer to do that. He welcomed everyone.

**Second Officer Outgoing (Azrael Arynne K):** Azrael offered that she would be sending a very short Second Officer Manual to Lady Morgana early in the next week. It will mostly go over how to keep



the Grand Council monies separate from the Merry Meet monies and separate from the Leadership monies as these were difficult. Canu thanked Az and Chamisa again for hosting Grand Council and said he felt very supported by Chamisa. Azrael responded that she and Chamisa had fun hosting Grand Council/Merry Meet.

**Second Officer Incoming (Lady Morgana):** Grand Council will be held August 6-8 in Santa Ana with Leadership Institute on the 6th and GC on 7th and 8th. The Recorder noted that the early date may enable teachers to attend, while the outgoing membership officer noted that it makes it very difficult for the membership officer to process renewals when it is held earlier than the 10th of August because it is within the grace period for Lughnasadh renewals. Lady Morgana noted that the hotel was not available later. It will be held at the Holiday Inn near the John Wayne Airport. Lady Morgana met with the hotel and sent the Officers a price list for the tech menu offerings of the hotel.

**Membership Officer Outgoing (Thea Bristlebrook):** Please see full report on page 4. Thea will submit her report to AIR and the Board directly after the meeting. She wanted to remind the Covenant that LCs need to send variances, which include LC's process for transfers to the newsletter for publishing in Samhain newsletter. We currently have 125 members consisting of 65 Covens and 60 Individual Members. We also have 3 Friends of COG (not included in membership numbers). We also have 1 new Coven application and 3 new Individual Member applications.

**Membership Officer Incoming (Dee Proctor Lady K):** Dee has been training with Thea and learning the database. Dee has ordered lip balms for welcome packets for new members at Lord V's request. Dee reported on the Covens in Georgia that want to join and noted they still need two letters of recommend. Lord Verderius plans to attend their full moon on Saturday, November 9 to meet them and has reached out to Heather, a CoG member in Georgia so she can potentially meet them to provide a second letter.

**Publications Officer (Jack/Lord Soec):** Please see full report from outgoing NPO Stachia Rvendottir, on page 6. Jack provided directions to the Officers for submitting reports to the newsletter for publication and asked for poetry and artwork for the newsletter. We need content and he includes the Blast from the Past articles because there are some gems. He reported that we have a Local Council about to go provisional because they have not submitted a report since last Samhain. Faelind asked Jack whether he would have enough time to include the Bylaws and Policy Manual updates if she published them on Monday, He responded he would be able to make that work. Jack also provided the newsletter deadlines for 2019/2020:

- 12/8/19
- 1/19/20
- 3/1/20
- 4/18/20
- 6/14/20
- 7/18/20
- 9/12/20
- 10/17/20

**Pursewarden (Qabal):** Qabal is out of the country. His report will be coming during the week.

**Public Information Officer (Janine):** Please see full report on page 5. Janine provided her report to the board list. She will be securing the base-line analytics from the Covenant's Social Media and will be reviewing the marketing plan. In November, she will begin working with Dee (NMO) and Brandon (Outreach) to establish goals and KPIs (key performance indicators) for the new ad campaign for 2020. She is Beta testing a facebook group that will be for members and affiliates/Friends of COG only. Lord V also wants to begin doing facebook live feeds for our COG facebook page to help with growing COG.

**Outreach Officer (Brandon Proctor):** Brandon is really excited to be meeting and is currently in learning and planning mode. He shared an outline of his ideas and would like to begin a dialogue with Covenant Members. He asked us to bear with him while he learns our processes.

**Correspondence Officer (David Legare):** David has received the manual from Amber and will be receiving the electronic archive information shortly. His email needs to be updated to include the *info@cog.org* emails so he can respond to requests. He also needs to get email addresses for all the Officers. Canu plans to update all the email aliases for the Officers by Samhain and remove the outgoing Officers. Thea asked if she could continue with Dee on the membership email alias through the transition period.

**Recorder (Faelind):** Faelind mentioned attending training to minister and hold ritual in a Federal Bureau of Prison facility about an hour from her home. She noted that any book donations had to go through the Chaplains and be registered on a National Database. Azrael offered that Ardantane had duplicates of books and she would be willing to send these once Faelind learns how it can be done. Canu also mentioned that if Andocentyn or Ardantane does not need the books one wants to donate, to also reach out to Ivo Dominguez for the New Alexandrian Library. Faelind said these minutes are the Recorder report.

**Governing Board Notes:** Ryan and Orin were asked if they wanted to say a few words. Ryan said he was glad to be on the call and liked what he was hearing. He hoped more LCs send Reps for the next calls to get ideas for their own Local Councils.



Orin said he was very excited for the coming year and looking forward to the growth.

### **Call for Additions to the Agenda:**

Stachia added an item to discuss removing the renewal forms from the newsletter since they are no longer used and folks are securing them from the website now. The National Officers agreed they should be removed and suggested links to the forms be included instead.

Dee read a letter from an Individual Member who has virtually attended Grand Council and felt as if their voice was not heard as they could not vote (without an Individual Caucus) at GC. Thea will follow up as she had communications with the member and Dee and Thea will also follow up with perhaps more information for Individual Members and how much they mean to COG.

### **Old Business:**

**Choose a hosting company** for COG Website and implementation plans (to include communication) 1&1 IONOS, An Honest Host, or Siteground? Canu did further research into the following three companies.

1&1 IONOS Hosting is managed WordPress hosting and is \$9.00 per month

Siteground has more flexibility for other than WordPress hosting and about the same price with a sale price of \$6.00 per month going to \$20.00 after the first invoice and would give us personnel to help us convert the website.

An Honest Host is small and pagan so you can talk to the people who run the place. Allows ssh access to the server and may be able to help us convert. \$22.00 per month.

An Honest Host was selected. Very little down time should be expected, but communication is forthcoming. Janine asked that Google Analytics be linked to the new website and the Board agreed.

**Email eList clean-up/move to a forum and implementation plans (to include communication):** The National Officers determined to move to wpForo Forum as soon as the website is ported to a new server using the Word Press plug in. Communication will be forthcoming. Lord V suggested that we will need technical people in each Local Council to help their members transition.

Grand Council A/V equipment (speakers, projector, switch, etc.) sell speakers? Buy a second projector? Due to the high cost to ship the large speakers, which we did not use this year because we had a smaller solution, the Officers determined to Not ship them to the next Grand Council but offer the speakers to the CoG community by putting them on eBay and/or Craig's List. The Officers will buy a new and smaller solution to speakers and a

microphone for the next Grand Council and may not purchase a projector because of obsolescence, instead ensuring the hotel can provide.

### **New Business:**

**Set Meeting Board dates** in advance to coincide with Newsletter publication so the National Officer Meeting minutes are included – Next meeting is scheduled for Nov 23. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled when Manny is present.

**Create Lists for National Covens and National Assembly of Individual Members** so they can participate in Governing Board selection process – could be sent by membership officer to individual emails if the forums are delayed, but propose to create two new forums as soon as the WP Foro Forum is implemented.

**Discuss necessary updates to COG website** and all forms for the change from Solitaire/Solitary/Solitaires to Individual Member(s) – Thea showed changes to the application and renewal forms and received feedback.

Refund of fees/tithes in the event an application is not accepted or is withdrawn. Continue to refund as we have in past and perhaps write a policy proposal for next GC to add to Purswarden/Policy manual.

NCLC request for financial support for the CoG hospitality suite at Pantheon in Feb 2020 (14th – 16th) Authorized for \$350

**Communication to Covenant for the Governing Board implementation** in observation mode – should go out asap, written by NFO.

Request for \$500 in Interfaith funding for Rachel and Greg to go to NAIN Annual Board meeting in Boulder, CO. Rachel is CoG's rep to NAIN. Authorized.

**Boy Scouts of America Recognition of CoG Awards** – David will follow up with Forrest, who sent in the information about securing approval from Boy Scouts of America and perhaps the Girl Scouts too.

Lord Verderius, our National First Officer incoming, purchased a full-page ad in the Reclaiming Advertisement for their annual Samhain Spiral Dance and the Board proposed that COG reimburse Lord V. We have strongly encouraged him to submit a reimbursement form.

Upcoming Work for the New Officers from Grand Council:

Open e-Lists to Affiliates and Appoint at least one Moderator

Publications Officer update of COG materials

**Publications Officer, Outreach Officer, and PIO create an information packet** by Litha 2020 for those attending Major Pagan Events



PIO and Outreach Officer Public Information and Ad Campaign

Create a process to document how a Local Council should work with the Pursewarden to ensure monies are returned to COG in the event the LC dissolves or withdraws from COG

Establish a Committee to present a proposal in Grand Council 2020 that details the process of dissolution of the Covenant and how assets should be distributed prior to dissolution. (Or in lieu of a Committee, appoint Governing Board or National Officer point persons for said Committee)

Establish a Governing Board fine tuning Committee and secure legal advice

Establish a Harassment/Consent Committee and secure legal advice

Meeting Adjourned –

**LOCAL COUNCILS**



**CALAFIA**

~ No Report

Last published minutes Mabon 2019



**CHAMISA**

~ September 14, 2019

Meeting came to order at 10:00 am, Cedro Peak, NM

**Roll Call:** Circle of the Cauldron, Coven of Silver Moon, Circle of the Winter Moon, Crowymn, Our Lady of the Woods, Silver Moon Health Services, Lady Athena, Brandon; and Dru, Ryan, Jude, Gaia, Charlie Crowman, Pyramid, Lord Verdarius (guests).

**Officer Reports**

**First Officer (Lora):** No report.

**Second Officer (David):** Please clean up the site; pick up all trash. David appreciates all the help he got for this year’s festival. Difficult to get portable toilets in place; not cleaned out as promised on Saturday. 186 people in attendance.

**Membership:** Written report (attached at end). Dru submitted an application for individual membership at the meeting.

**Recorder (Dru):** Thanks to Lora for distributing minutes to the list and submitting them to COG. Anyone wanting to send me written reports prior to the meetings can mail them to [TehomOLW@aol.com](mailto:TehomOLW@aol.com).

**Pursewarden (AmberIsis):** Written report submitted. At the end of the third quarter (July 31, 2019) finances are good with about \$6,000 as balance. In the fourth quarter CLC will

have numerous debts from MM and MMM. Estimated income from MMM is about \$7,000.

**Special Agenda Item (Lord Verdarius addresses CLC):** Lord Verdarius, incoming First Officer of CoG addressed Amber K and CLC to apologize on behalf of CoG regarding communication issues that occurred at MM. Change causes fear and at MM there were major proposals presented asking for significant change. They passed and now we need to work together. He will be serving with three members from CLC: David, Dee, and Brandon. He requests a year to get on track and work to unite CoG to move forward as a community and organization. It is important to be united. In 2020, COG is 45 years old and it has been assuring pagan rights since 1975. CoG has a voice on the national stage and in a time of chaos and sometimes anarchy, our safety is in our numbers. We need to stand up and make a difference against zealots. Also, we must envision the future of CoG, share wisdom of how to work through difficulties. We need vision to grow the covenant. Lord Verdarius needs our guidance and support. We can pull it together and grow the covenant. He also mentioned his personal commitment to reach out of former members and find out their reasons for leaving, asking what CoG might do to bring them back and if local councils can reform. He mentions that Amber K’s proposal for the new governing board is a major tool to bring us together. Amber K and CLC accepted the apology. Amber K will be summarizing changes and will distribute.

**Friendly Reports**

**Ardantane:** Dome is repaired. Need to finish common room, Hecate retreat in the fall. About to put together program for 2020. October 13, 2019 is the visioning day 10 – 4 pm. Workshops are described on the Ardantane website: <https://www.ardantane.org/courses/>.

**Silver Moon Health Services:** CLC agreed to upgrade donations made for these services. SMHS will receive a donation of \$4 per attendee with fees for registration free for up to 10 persons. Beginning this year, we will donate \$600, plus \$4 per head. Estimated donation is about \$1,100.

**Other festivals:** Beltane Southwest: No report; ABQ Pagan Pride is low on nonprofits. Always held last Sunday in September (9-29-19); Las Cruces Pagan Pride Day, Lora (Saturday, October 5): All set.

**Old Business**

**MMM (David):** The drummer we expected to lead drumming circles and do a workshop on etiquette did not arrive, due to misunderstanding or miscommunication. Going forward, CLC will write memoranda of understandings for anyone who is



formally donating time for a specific task for the festival.

### CLC Elections

- First Officer: Lora (second term)
- Second Officer: Brandon (first term)
- Membership Officer (second term)
- Pursewarden: Sylvia, assisted by Manny
- PIO/Interfaith (merged office): Rowan (second term), Lady Athena (first term)
- Recorder: Dru (second term)
- CoG Representative: Ryan and Tiffany

**Honorarium amounts** for MMM special guests Kerr & Casandra and for Ardantane were agreed upon at \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

### New Business

**Denver Pagan Pride:** Lady Athena volunteers to make a presence at this event. Would like to have CLC and CoG also present. It's second weekend in September.

**Integration Ritual:** David mentions that suicide rates are high and gun violence is increasing. There are 22 vet suicides per day. By having an integration ritual at each MMM, we would be reaffirming that those who feel on the fringe or forgotten would be welcome and others would be reaffirming community. We need to reaffirm bonds. Would like CLC to dedicate some time at each MMM for this activity on a regular basis. Rowan suggests we also discuss this sat Yule.

**MMM setup:** Falco has set up ritual grounds for many years and needs help in future years. Amber suggests we make it an early work shift, and also make it possible to sign up for this task ahead of the festivals.

**Guests for Mabon 2020 (Sept 16-20):** Crows volunteer. Decision will be made at Yule.

### Proposed dates

Yule: Dec. 1, 2019; 11:00 potluck, noon starts meeting, Sylvia's in ABQ

Ostara: March 1, 2020, at south NM, Las Cruces

Litha: June 5-7, 2020, Los Alamos, NM (Rowan researching possibility)

Mabon: Sept. 16-20, 2020; Cedro Peak?

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

The next meeting will be held at Sylvia's Dec. 1, at 11:00 a.m.

Attachment: CLC Membership Officer Report

Coven Applications: None

Solitary Applications: None

Transfers In or Out: None

Lapsed members: None.

Thea is extending the grace period for Mabon renewals to 10/10/2019 because she was late sending out renewal reminders. Your renewal is not final until both the signed form and the tithe have been received. Our ByLaws require a signed statement at renewal, and the current method is the renewal form. Paying the tithe is not sufficient to keep your Membership. If your Membership is canceled due to lack of a renewal form, your tithe will be returned.

**National:** Thea has provided the National Membership Officer report for Mabon. There was quite a bit of news and should you like to read this, I will be more than happy to forward those minutes to you which were posted on the AIR list. A few important items:

We will be publishing our decision to the new responsibilities regarding transfers from other councils or National. Last meeting it was decided that membership transfers will be handled as "new members" submitted for local council approval before advising National of the transfer. Our decision will be posted in the Samhain newsletter per Thea's request.

The Website password change and elist purge hasn't happened this year, and after the passage of two of the Tech Committee's proposals which will positively affect our email lists (move to new servers and move the elists to forums), the Board has decided that the purge and password change WILL happen at the end of this year, to pave the way for the upcoming changes. Much more information to come from the Board and the Netco about this soon. Keep your eyes on the AIR elist for the announcement, and instructions. Additionally, the DD elist will be opened to the Friends of CoG and Moderators will be appointed to facilitate an appropriate atmosphere for discussions and debate to occur within the guidelines of the existing etiquette rules. Cherie Snyder and Amber Honor-McKeen have volunteered to take over this duty.

Important changes affecting Membership from GC2019 - Dee Proctor will step into the NMO job officially at Samhain, and she'll begin training with Thea just as soon as they can schedule that time. Brandon Proctor, was elected to fill the new National Outreach Officer (NOO) position, and his task is to grow our membership! Brandon is a young adult and has experience working with college age people in different organizations. He'll bring new energy into the Covenant, and work with the PIO and others to spearhead a marketing campaign, using social media, to actively grow the membership, and facilitate the growth of new Local Councils, with a starting budget of \$5,000 and an additional \$5,000 available as progress is made. The affiliate program, Friends of CoG, will fall mostly under his responsibilities, although the NMO



will process the Friends' applications and renewals just as the Associates' were handled. Much of the details of this are yet to be worked out, but exciting changes are in the works!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cherie Snyder, LMO  
Chamisa Local Council



**EVERGLADES MOON**

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Lammas 2019 edition.



**HILLS AND RIVERS**

~ No Report

Last published minutes in the Samhain 2018 edition.

**Annual Report**

Hills and Rivers remains a thriving and active Local Council. Our members actively seek out opportunities to serve the Witches and Wiccans that reside herein.

We held our Third Annual Lammas Fest, as part of our annual meeting.

Lammas Fest is a traveling Festival, this year visiting the home area of member coven Coven of the Wooded Vale. The festival was attended by over 150 people, and featured vendors, speakers, and a musical performance. It was decided that our 4th Lammas Fest will be held in Central PA, both to ease travel of our members and to help establish a COG presence in this area.

Members of Hills and Rivers officiate weddings and we have active Prison chaplains among our members.

Circle of Diana celebrated Nemoralia, honoring our patron goddess Diana, with an open ritual on August 12, 2018. Members also attended and helped with a children's table at the 2018 Pittsburgh Pagan Pride Day. Members also assisted with the Hills and Rivers raffle fundraiser, so generously hosted by Lady Annabelle at Grove of Gaia Fest 2019. We now have four priestesses holding ministerial credentials. Circle of Diana members have performed weddings in the past year and are looking for more ways to reach out to the pagan community.

Coven of the Wooded Vale has continued to support the Pagan community of the Lehigh Valley. We offer free classes on Wiccan and Pagan subjects, the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley. We hold open circle for each of the Sabbats

and on Samhain held a public procession and ritual in Sun Sun in Court Yard in Bethlehem. In June we held our 5th annual Pagan Pride Day in Bethlehem. We have also assisted a neighboring group, Reading Pagans and Witches with their annual Witches Ball. Our shop continues to provide information on Hills and Rivers and COG to individuals looking for information on Paganism. We have one new coven member Rita Sullivan-Smith.

Grove of the Ancient River continues to work in the community of North Eastern Pennsylvania by holding public Sabbat rituals, Wiccan Basics courses and even a lecture at the public library in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. We have recently partnered with the CUUPS chapter of Wyoming Valley to expand the reach of our public rituals.

Our High Priest, Jamie Dana continues to represent the Covenant as a Chaplain at three State correctional institutes, and has even been named "Volunteer of the Year" at SCI-Retreat.

Grove of Gaia/Circle of Heckate held its 14th annual Grove of Gaia Beltane Fest in April 2019, and held an open Midsummer Ritual in June 2019. In addition GoG recently elevated one of its apprentices to First Degree Priest. Lady A, HPS of Grove of Gaia, continues to get calls and FB messages seeking her counsel every week. In late 2018, a prospective student for Grove of Gaia nominated Lady A as his spiritual role model. Lady A maintains positive relationships outside CoG with covens, groves, and solitaires in the greater Pittsburgh community. This year GoG welcomed back into the coven one its former 3rd degrees. At Samhain 2018, Grove of Gaia held its fourth annual coven retreat. As of Samhain 2019, Grove of Gaia is to be known as Circle of Heckate.

First Officers Report: First officer has continued efforts to involve the members of the local council in community and outreach efforts. Over the past year, we have hosted open rituals and public classes on Witchcraft and Wicca. I look forward to the growth of Hills and Rivers as we serve our community.

Pursewarden: \$4334 total \$379.85 in PayPal and \$3954.15 in PNC Bank



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

~ No Report

Last published minutes in the Mabon 2019 edition.



**ORANGE COUNTY**

~ No Report

Last published minutes in the



Mabon 2019 edition.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**~ No Report**

Last published minutes in the Ostara 2019 edition.



**TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL**

**~ October 20, 2019**

**Invocation to Coventina by Gaelen**

Present: Circle of Danu: Bonnie, Jason, Donna, Jenny & Joy. - Circle of the Star: Rae, & Richard. Circle of the Unicorn: Christal. Circle of Shadow and Light: Willow M., Thistle, Allura. Circle of the Wild Wood: Rhys Breila. Coven Firemoon: Bastion. Circle of the Serpent: Gaelen, Tree of Knowledge: Faelind. AoIM: Anastasia, Draga -

Absent: None

Phone In: None

Proxies: Circle of Earth, Sea and Sky, Circle of the Blood Moon, Glenda - AoIM

Guests: Miss Debi, Q'est, Duane, Circle of the Sun & Moon - Ruby, Ashlyn, Rue &, Koko

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum: Quorum Met

**Quorum determined by Recorder**

Quorum is determined by at least 25% of the membership is present (virtual included) and at least 50% represented (present or proxy).

**Call for additions to the agenda - none made**

**Officer Reports**

**First Officer: Gaelen**

Many thanks to Dragan & Ruby: the owners of Crossroads Holistic for allowing us to meet in their space for this year.

My yearly report was submitted for Grand Council and has been posted to our local list.

Elections will be held under New Business.

**Public Information Officers:** Willow McKenna (present) & Arrwen Datura (absent)

Willow has several ideas for posting on social media on different days of the week to get interaction from people through different social media formats and activities. She is being selective about what things are being posted to our social media and who she engages with so our Local Council sends a clear message about who we are. Her ideas include:

- Monday Mantra - affirmations and such posted each Monday.

- Tuesday Tarot - a tarot or oracle card with meaning posted each Tuesday.
- Wisdom Wednesday - share a book each Wednesday.
- Thumbs Up Thursday - post one thing you're happy for each week.
- Featured Friday - feature a coven, individual member, &/or officer 4th Friday each month.

She asked for local council members help in liking, sharing, and commenting across our social media.

**Pursewarden:** Michael L.

Bank Balance: \$3,045.83

PayPal Balance: \$1,723.96

Cash App Balance: \$20.00

Cash: \$916.00

**Total Balance:** \$5,705.79

**Mabon:**

Donations received: \$249.00

To CCDS: \$147.00

To TXCOG: \$147.00

**Witches Ball:**

**Income:**

Online ticket Sales PP: \$1,775.00

Door Ticket Sales: \$350.00

Silent Auction Sales: \$576.00

Cash Sales: \$916.00

Total: \$3,617.00

**Expenses:**

Venue: \$300.00

Food: \$339.26

Decorations/Waivers: \$63.54

Vendors: \$300.00

PayPal Fees: \$65.00

Square Fees: \$26.20

Total: \$754.74

**Net Profit:** \$2,862.26

**Membership Officer:** Faelind - We are the Mighty Texas Local Council! We are still one of the biggest Local Councils in the Covenant of the Goddess counting the number of Covens we have, but we did lose one Individual Member at Mabon. Talyn decided not to renew as her poor health prevents her from participating in any events. Other Local Councils have many more Individual Members than we do. Perhaps that is an area that we could look into growing over the next year.

**10 Covens**



1. Circle of the Star
2. Circle of the Serpent
3. Tree of Knowledge Coven
4. Circle of the Wild Wood
5. Circle of Earth, Sea, & Sky
6. Circle of Danu
7. Circle of the Shadow and Light
8. Coven Firemoon
9. Circle of the Unicorn
10. Circle of the Blood Moon

**3 Individual Members (the new term for Solitaires)**

1. Anastasia Lankford
2. Dragan
3. Glenda Phillips

2 covens are due for renewal at Samhain: Coven Firemoon and Circle of the Unicorn. Due to the changeover of both the National and the Local Membership Officers, please get your renewals in quickly! All other Members are current in their membership.

- 1 Coven due for renewal at Yule: Circle of the Blood Moon

**Recorder:** Allura

Last meeting minutes were posted to the Lammas newsletter by Gaelen.

2019 Remaining Newsletter Deadlines: Samhain-October 21

**Wicca 101 Classes:**

**Arlington: Bastion & Ruby:** Classes are going well with new people each time. Bastion is aware they need posting on social media, especially Facebook and will work on that in the future. It's been reported to our PIO that these classes have a homey feel to them.

**Addison: Faelind & Breila:** Classes are going well here too with new people all the time. In November, Breila and Faelind will begin requesting teachers and classes for 2020 so start thinking about classes you might want to teach in Addison. Second and Fourth Wednesday evenings. We have classes scheduled into January 2020 with Gaelen teaching Spellwork on Jan 8 and need to fill up our 2020 roster.

Some new class attendees expressed to our PIO that they felt unwelcomed at the Addison classes and the people feel a bit clique-ish. Breila said that they would redouble their efforts to make more feel at home and welcomed.

**Motion by Faelind:** Seconded by Bastion. Rent is increasing at the Ananda Dallas location to \$60.00 per class, \$120.00 per month beginning

January 2020. This is a rise in cost from \$25 per hour to \$30 per hour.

**Webweaver: Faelind** is begging for content for the TX Local Council Blog site. If you have photographs you want to share, poetry you write, stories to tell, please send them to Faelind to be uploaded to our blog. She may also take some things off the PIO's facebook posts to fill this gap.

**Sabbats: Gaelen**

**Completed since our last meeting:**

**Lughnasadh** – Saturday, August 3 – Circle of the Star

**Autumn Equinox** - Sunday, September 22 – Circle of Earth, Sea, & Sky

**Upcoming:**

**Samhain** - Sunday, October 27 – Tree of Knowledge

**Samhain Carnival** - people can arrive as early as 11 am; Carnival is 12-2 & ritual at 2:15 pm

\*Everyone is encouraged to dress up! Thank you for all of the carnival booths! It looks like it's going to be a great day!

**Yule** - Sunday, December 22 – Circle of Danu

❖ **Sabbat Sub-committees:**

❖ **Vending** – Allura

Allura will send the vendor agreement out to the TX LC COG eList for everyone to review and approve or suggest changes. Mabon had three vendors and made a total of \$30.00 in new vendor fees.

❖ **Grounds** – Essynce will be getting together and sending out an email a few weeks out to ask for help with groundwork. Allura has a pole saw that could be used to help trim trees.

**Parking** – The signs have been acquired by Dragan; however, he now needs to make a base for them as the ground there has been covered and they can no longer be put there. He does not require reimbursement for material used.

**Youth Activities** – Guinevere (absent) Report by Gaelen: everyone loves the Moon School and it will continue; however, it will not be available at Samhain due to the carnival. It will start up again at Yule. Guinevere does not want donations unless she asks for them. The PIO mentioned that the posts about the Children's Moon School have been the most popular and commented on.

**Community Table & Food** – Bastion will continue take care of these items and will make copies of our flyers and classes lists.



She asked for additional materials for the community table from organizations we support or from Individual Members or Covens.

## Old Business

### Pagan Unity Day

While the day was very hot and we had few volunteers, it was a successful day. We are looking into getting a vendor booth next year, which is only \$50 so we can sell hand fans or give them out for a donation. Jenny is going to take a look at our logo and see if she can modernize it and update it to a Vector Graphic. Pagan Unity Day may be moving to the first weekend in November we will know after their committee has met and made a decision. We plan on being there again next year.

Witches Ball, did excellent! The registration was more work due to not having a third vendor (Event Brite) match up payments and ticket info; however, Gaelen and Willow are willing to continue putting it together. The Witches Ball committee will have another meeting for wrap-up and make and recommendations to the local council for changes at that time.

Bonnie went over in her spending for the food and requested that we cover the additional \$39.20. Gaelen seconded it and it was passed unanimously.

### Post Grand Council Stipends: Faelind

Faelind made a motion that all who attended Grand Council receive a stipend of \$350. Rae seconded it. Discussion ensued and the motion passed unanimously. Bonnie & Jason stated they only needed a single stipend of \$350 not per person, and Faelind will wait until she is reimbursed by National before submitting any request.

## New Business

**Merry Meet/Grand Council** – Faelind explained the changes in the bylaws. She spoke to the new term Individual Members instead of Solitaires. She also explained the governing board and how a local council member is selected, not elected. Through discussion, the local council selected Jason as our Texas representative for the National Governing Board position. Gaelen mentioned the incredible speed at which Faelind got the minutes out to the Covenant and Faelind was applauded for it. Faelind mentioned the bylaws should be out shortly too.

**Yahoo:** Yahoo is going away. There was a discussion on where to move our folder and all of our e-groups. Faelind explained groups.io and Gaelen explained Google groups. Discussion ensued. Rae proposed we use Google Groups and Bastion seconded it. The Local Council determined to move all of our e-groups and information in our Yahoo folders to a Business Level Google Suite that

has our First Officer and Webweaver listed as owners/users so they can add, remove and add moderators. We agreed that everyone who wanted access to the folders would get a Gmail address so we did not have to give a link that anyone could use for access to maintain privacy.

We also discussed asking Micheal to look into a credit card from our PayPal to pay for the Business Level Google Suite.

### New member applications:

Miss Debi read her Statement of Practice. Christal, Bastion, & Gaelen read their letters of recommendation.

Ruby of Circle of the Moon and Sun read her Statement of Practice. Bastion & Gaelen read their letters of recommendation.

Q'est read his Statement of Practice and Glenda's letter of recommendation. Gaelen read her letter of recommendation.

All potential new members exited the room.

There was discussion and voting.

Potential members returned and Miss Debi & Q'est were accepted as Individual Members and Ruby & Circle of the Moon & Sun were accepted as a Coven. The council grows mightier!

**Terms of Office: Pursewarden, PIO, & Recorder** – There was a discussion as to whether or not we needed to extend these terms of office to two years on the local level as the National Officers have. No one felt it was necessary at this time.

### Elections:

Gaelen asked for two people to count the ballots. Faelind and Miss Debi offered.

Gaelen called member names and Essynce helped hand out the ballots.

### Our local council officers for 2020 are:

**First officer:** Gaelen

**PIO:** Williwow

**Pursewarden:** Micheal

**Membership officer:** Dragan

**Recorder:** Allura

At the end of elections, Gaelen congratulated everyone who was elected and thanked Bonnie for running. Bonnie stated she thought it was unfair that Gaelen did not allow her to talk about her qualifications to be Membership Officer. Gaelen apologized and said it had been at least ten years and probably more since we had an election where more than one person ran for a position. She also thought everyone in the local council and voting today knew each other well and did not consider having them speak to their qualifications. She apologized again and suggested Bonnie should have spoken up sooner.



**Volunteers for the Federal Bureau of Prisons** – Faelind has been in contact with Holly Johnson from the Ft. Worth office and they need male mentors for parolees newly released as well as people (gender doesn't matter for this) willing to volunteer and conduct rituals for currently incarcerated folks who are Wiccan. Faelind is volunteering to do rituals; however, she and anyone else interested has to go through a training program first. She will send out information on our list for people who are interested.

**Gaelen thanked Coventina.**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm.**

➤ **The following was decided at our meeting on March 17, 2019; however, has been requested by the National Membership Officer to be re-posted with our Samhain newsletter minutes:**

**Regarding a Member changing their Tradition -**

A member, be it Coven or Individual Member, who changes to a new Tradition (regardless of how long such a tradition has existed) is not required by the Bylaws to reapply for Membership in CoG.

In order to inform the Membership and provide clarity, the member making the change should submit to the newsletter ([newsletter@coq.org](mailto:newsletter@coq.org)) and to the AIR elist ([air@coq.org](mailto:air@coq.org)), at least 10 days prior to your renewal date (which is the deadline for newsletter publication), a statement of the situation that includes:

- The (current) coven leader or solitaire's signature
- As much or as little detail as the leader or solitaire wishes to share
- An affirmation that the Coven continues to meet all the requirements for Membership in CoG (spelled out in detail)
- That the group's members (existing and new) agree to abide by the CoG Bylaws.

Then, when this group or person fills out their renewal, they should update both the Name AND the Tradition fields and **include the above documents with original signatures.** (The Tradition matters when a Local Council is forming or is in danger of dissolving, so it's a mandatory question.)

## **TOUCHSTONE**

~ **September 9, 2019**

Location: WebEx

**Attending / quorum confirmed:** Ecclasia Fellowship (Stachia), Circle of the Obsidian Oak (Lari, Chad), AoS (Zenah)

1. Review of the proposals from MerryMeet:
  - Grand Council was productive and historic.
  - No rituals, but great drum circles.
  - Next year will be hosted by OCLC.

2. TLC will be hosting a Spiral Dance on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the Yucaipa Regional Park. Information has been posted to our Facebook page and will be sent to the TLC website and email lists again.

3. Nominations for Touchstone Officers. Further nominations will be taken over the TLC email list during September and before next month's meeting. Zenah noted we can reduce some of the positions and only go with necessary positions. Stachia requested we bring back Summoner. They would be the person to make sure folks can attend the in-person meeting or set up a virtual back up options for those times we cannot meet in-person.

-Chad has offered to be PIO and Second Officer

- Stachia offered to be Membership Officer
- Both Zenah and Lari said "will think about it"

4. Lugh sent his love to everyone.

Val would love to get together in-person for hugs and dinner, but is not interested in virtual meetings.

JoAnne said she was not planning on participating virtually. Lari & Chad said they would invite her over to their place the next time there is a virtual meeting.

5. Discussed the pro and cons of using WebEx as a virtual meeting space.

6. Approved July's minutes.

7. Lari & Chad have room in their car for one more person when going to P.Con in February 2020.

8. Wendy Rule will be having a mini-concert on Sunday in Idyllwild this weekend.

9. Candle being lit and hugs to our friends and families for all the items they are going through at this time. May everyone be held gently in the arms of the Lady. With strength and gentleness, may you be blessed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.



**LOCAL COUNCIL VARIANCES**

**TOUCHSTONE**

1. For All New Applicants Touchstone Local Council requires that:
  - a) One of the letters of recommendation be from a current member of Touchstone Local Council; and
  - b) Prospective applicants attend a minimum of three council meetings in a nine month period prior to the submission of their application. The purpose of this requirement is to provide the prospective applicant an opportunity to become familiar with the Council and vice versa.
2. Current members who are in good standing with CoG at either the National level or who belong to another local council within the Covenant may apply for membership in Touchstone Local Council by:
  - a) Providing a letter of recommendation from a member of TLC;
  - b) Submitting a letter of intent detailing the reasons for joining TLC;
  - c) Attending three TLC meetings; and
  - d) Making an effort to engage as a member of the local community by socializing or attending local council events. When the above criteria are met, TLC will then endeavor to come to consensus concerning the applicant’s request for membership within Touchstone Local Council.
3. Touchstone local council allows member covens and Assembly of Individual Members to assign their proxy verbally or by electronic means.
4. Current members of Touchstone Local Council who are in good standing may transfer their membership from Coven to Individual Member by:
  - a) Attending three TLC meetings; and
  - b) Making an effort to engage as a member of the local community by socializing or attending local council events if they have not already been doing so. TLC will then endeavor to come to consensus concerning the applicant’s request for Individual Membership within Touchstone Local Council.

**TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL**

**Regarding a Member changing their Tradition -**

A member, be it Coven or Individual Member, who changes to a new Tradition (regardless of how long such a tradition has existed) is not required by the Bylaws to reapply for Membership in CoG.

In order to inform the Membership and provide clarity, the member making the change should submit to the newsletter ([newsletter@coq.org](mailto:newsletter@coq.org)) and to the AIR elist ([air@coq.org](mailto:air@coq.org)), at least 10 days prior to your renewal date (which is the deadline for newsletter publication), a statement of the situation that includes:

- The (current) coven leader or solitaire’s signature
- As much or as little detail as the leader or solitaire wishes to share
- An affirmation that the Coven continues to meet all the requirements for Membership in CoG (spelled out in detail)
- That the group's members (existing and new) agree to abide by the CoG Bylaws.

Then, when this group or person fills out their renewal, they should update both the Name AND the Tradition fields and **include the above documents with original signatures.** (The Tradition matters when a Local Council is forming or is in danger of dissolving, so it's a mandatory question.)

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL**

Compiled by Thea Bristlebroom and Anna Korn *approved 9/7/2019*

**MEMBERSHIP POLICIES:** We conduct all business through consensus decision of the Membership, not by executive action of a limited group. The Local Council Membership Officer’s actions consist of bringing new applications and transfer requests to the Membership for consideration and helping the applicants to assemble the paperwork and to negotiate the process.

**PROCEDURES FOR JOINING THE COVENANT OF THE GODDESS THROUGH THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:**

To join Covenant of the Goddess through the Northern California Local Council, the prospective coven representative(s) or individual must:





1) Come to a Local Council meeting to introduce the Coven or individual applying.

2) Become familiar with the Local Council and allow the Local Council to become familiar with the applicant.

3) Present the application to the Local Council, with completed application form, tithes, statement of practice, and two letters of recommendation. Ideally, at least one recommendation should come from a member of our Local Council. This is a preference, rather than a requirement.

4) Current annual national tithes are \$110-170 per coven, or \$50-90 per individual. Local Council annual tithes are \$25 per coven or \$10 per individual. If the tithes are a hardship, it is possible to arrange for them to be reduced or waived, or to apply for National or Local "Grace of the Goddess" funds. Tithes cover the expenses of CoG projects.

5) Await a discussion of your application at subsequent LC meeting(s) until an opinion is formed. The decision on your application must take place at a meeting following the meeting at which you applied, once your paperwork is completed.

Admission takes, at a minimum, about 3 meetings. There have been a few applications where discussions went on for several meetings, or applicants were asked further questions. We understand that some meetings will be quite distant for some prospective members and would not ask you to be present at all of them. We prefer physical presence at least one meeting, but exceptions will be considered, and virtual attendance may substitute on a case-by-case basis.

There are rare admissions where application occurred at one meeting and admission at the next, but in practice, this is rare, partly because paperwork takes time to gather. This paragraph is intended to allow prospective applicants to understand that admission (and subsequent credentialing) is not possible in just a few days. We've had many inquiries in which the person wants a credential by next week.

**EVERGLADES MOON**

These 3 variances were affirmed by the LC membership at the EMLC annual meeting on September 28.

1. A Coven or Individual Member that applies to Everglades Moon Local Council for membership needs two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a member of the Local Council.
2. Any person who is a former member of an EMLC member coven, needs to have one of their letters of recommendation be from their

former HP or HPS or designated CoG coven contact. This does not apply to a solitary member of a member coven who wishes to hold dual status as a solitary member also. The Local Council Board can waive this requirement on a case by case basis at the Board's discretion.

3. New applicants must attend 3 EMLC meetings or events, one of which must be in person, before membership application materials will be forwarded for National publication.

Process for transfer of current CoG members to Everglades Moon Local Council:

In the event that a current CoG member wishes to transfer membership to Everglades Moon Local Council, the following process will be followed:

1. The CoG member will forward to the LCMO a letter of introduction, outlining their intention to join EMLC and explaining why.
2. Upon receipt, the LCMO will share the membership request with the EMLC board and general membership and invite feedback.
3. Discussion of the membership request will be placed on the next appropriate LC meeting agenda
4. The LC board will determine if membership is approved, not approved, or if the LC needs more time or information to make a decision.
5. Details of the decision will be forwarded to the applicant and the NMO, and in the event the LC needs additional information, steps 3-5 will be repeated

**CHAMISA**

Membership transfers will be handled as "new members" submitted for local council approval before advising National of the transfer.

**MACHA NIGHTMARE HONORED**

Aline O'Brien, also known as M. Macha NightMare, was today [Oct 12, 2019] awarded a Master of Divinity, *honoris causa* (honorary) by Cherry Hill Seminary in recognition of her many years of service and leadership to the Seminary. The surprise



Aline O'Brien and Holli Emore



announcement took place at the October 12 South Carolina Upstate Pagan Pride Day (Greenville area) at the end of a ritual led by O'Brien. Holli Emore, longtime Executive Director of the Seminary, presented an honorary Master of Divinity on behalf of the Board of Directors, acknowledging the vital role O'Brien has played for at least fifteen years.

Originally invited to participate in an online class by co-founder Cat Chapin-Bishop, O'Brien went on to develop and teach "Call of the Dark Mother," a course addressing issues around dying and death. She recruited many individuals who became faculty, served on the board, or chose to support the Seminary as donors. O'Brien served as a director from 2008 to 2011, chairing the governing body for two of those years.

"Being a living legend within American (and indeed, global) Craft and feminist causes, Macha's contributions have inspired countless people who need spiritual sustenance during challenging times," said Jeffrey Keefer, Board Chair. "Macha has been a steadfast supporter of Cherry Hill Seminary's educational mission and vision over the years, previously serving on our Board of Directors, and it is with great honor that we present this honorary degree for her many contributions to Pagan and Nature-Based spiritualities."

Emore noted, "While Cherry Hill Seminary is an organic creation which has emerged from the vision and work of a great many people, including our students, it is difficult to imagine where we would be without Macha. She has been phenomenal."

As a token of appreciation for her many years of dedication, the Seminary gifted O'Brien with a red silk stole embroidered with the Seminary logo which is reserved for graduates.

[To read more comments by Pagan leaders about O'Brien, visit this page](#) at the Cherry Hill Seminary web site.

A reception with local Pagans and interfaith representatives was held on October 13 at the home of the director.

### GROVE OF GAIA COVEN NAME CHANGE

Merry Meet,

Our Pittsburgh, PA coven has been known as Grove of Gaia for 15 years. Recently, all coveners in Grove of Gaia were ready for a change and have come to consensus that we would like to change our coven's name to Hekate's Wheel. Our tradition has not altered, as we continue to maintain our eclectic Gardnerian approach. We always worship Goddess and God in our rituals and devotions. Our ethical tenets remain the same and this passage from Doreen Valiente's "Charge of the Goddess" embodies it: " Keep pure your highest ideal, strive ever towards it; let naught stop you or turn you aside. . ."

We still educate the community with classes and maintain an initiatory path, so that our coveners may develop their spiritual leadership and grow through initiations in the coven. We periodically hold open rituals, and our annual Pagan festival will now be known as Gaia Fest, instead of Grove of Gaia Fest. We have a coven of seven, of which five are initiates, with three being either second or third degrees. We have two distance coveners, and have had two covens hive off of Grove of Gaia.

Prior to being HPS of Grove of Gaia, I had been HPS of Grove of Diana in Syracuse, NY, and at that time, we were members of the former Northeast Local Council. My mother coven, the former Grove of Aphrodite, with which I had my training, was a member of the former Chicago Area Local Council. As such, my connection to CoG spans nearly 30 years. In addition, I had the privilege to serve as CoG's National Correspondence Officer, a number of years back.

Hekate's Wheel will maintain its coven membership and credentials of HRLC just as Grove of Gaia did.

Thank you and Many Blessings,  
Lady A

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

#### HALLOWEEN JOKES AND GROWNS

Vol. 34 Issue 8

Samhain 2009

Q: What do you call 13 Witches in a hot tub?

A: A Self-Cleaning Coven

Q: What is a witch's favorite snack?

A: PAN pizza

Q: What's a witch's favorite subject in school?

A: SPELLing

Q: What do you call a ghost in a torn sheet?

A: A holy terror

Q: What do you get when you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its radius?

A: Pumpkin pi

Q: What do you call a dating club for unattached Wiccans?

A: Craft singles!

Did you hear that Kraft was so offended by that last joke that they moved their macaroni plants to Israel? Now they're called Cheeses of Nazareth!