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.
OUR GOVERNING BOARD

- National First Officer – Lord Verderius
- National Purse Warden – Manny
- Calafia Representative – Catherine
- Chamisa – Ryan C.
- Everglades Moon – Raven
- Hills & Rivers – Lady Annabelle
- Northern California – Macha
- Orange County – Janine
- Southern California – Lady Mariah
- Texas – Orin
- Touchstone – Lord Soec
- National Covens – Open
- National Individual Members – Open

LETTER FROM THE FIRST OFFICER

Healthful Greetings CoG Members,

May the Joy of the fullness of Spring find you and lift your spirits during this difficult and concerning time, as we cope with consequences of the Covid-19 Virus pandemic. As we all face the challenges of adapting to a new way of life without our normal social structure, we must be vigilant to staying safe and out of harm’s way from the threat of the Coronavirus. Now is the time to take shelter in the safety of our homes, during this global crisis.

We look to our leaders for guidance, and with that in mind, I want to assure you that the National Officers and the Governing Board Representatives have been meeting monthly to implement the leadership of the Covenant for the future of our amazing organization. We are hearing the details from the Local Councils on what things are going on in their LC and local areas. Additionally, we are hearing both the needs and struggles that we are all facing as we move to new and differing forms of communication to stay connected with family and friends at this time. Social distancing is a must! However, sharing the sentiment of Love and Compassion verbally is also needed in greater measure as we all work through this alarming predicament together.

The usage of online media is paramount at this time for virtual meetings and basic social gatherings of our Local Councils, member covens and individuals to keep informed and to share some basic socialization amongst their contemporaries. Reach out to the national officers if you need guidance and support in obtaining a usable virtual meeting platform. The national board uses Zoom for our meetings and it’s easy to use, and very user friendly. Zoom offers a free basic that allows you to host up to 100 participants to up to 40 minutes and unlimited one-on-one meetings.

An important message recently was made by CoG national from our NPIO. We are asking all Local Councils to suspend personal and community gatherings at this time and to use some form of virtual meeting. This will significantly help to decline the spread of this dangerous and life threatening virus. Remember, we are all responsible to flatten the curve!

May the Joy of the fullness of Spring find you and lift your spirits during this difficult and concerning time, as we cope with consequences of the Covid-19 Virus pandemic. As we all face the challenges of adapting to a new way of life without our normal social structure, we must be vigilant to staying safe and out of harm’s way from the threat of the Coronavirus. Now is the time to take shelter in the safety of our homes, during this global crisis.

We look to our leaders for guidance, and with that in mind, I want to assure you that the National Officers and the Governing Board Representatives have been meeting monthly to implement the leadership of the Covenant for the future of our amazing organization. We are hearing the details from the Local Councils on what things are going on in their LC and local areas. Additionally, we are hearing both the needs and struggles that we are all facing as we move to new and differing forms of communication to stay connected with family and friends at this time. Social distancing is a must! However, sharing the sentiment of Love and Compassion verbally is also needed in greater measure as we all work through this alarming predicament together.

The usage of online media is paramount at this time for virtual meetings and basic social gatherings of our Local Councils, member covens and individuals to keep informed and to share some basic socialization amongst their contemporaries. Reach out to the national officers if you need guidance and support in obtaining a usable virtual meeting platform. The national board uses Zoom for our meetings and it’s easy to use, and very user friendly. Zoom offers a free basic that allows you to host up to 100 participants to up to 40 minutes and unlimited one-on-one meetings.

An important message recently was made by CoG national from our NPIO. We are asking all Local Councils to suspend personal and community gatherings at this time and to use some form of virtual meeting. This will significantly help to decline the spread of this dangerous and life threatening virus. Remember, we are all responsible to flatten the curve!

May the Joy of the fullness of Spring find you and lift your spirits during this difficult and concerning time, as we cope with consequences of the Covid-19 Virus pandemic. As we all face the challenges of adapting to a new way of life without our normal social structure, we must be vigilant to staying safe and out of harm’s way from the threat of the Coronavirus. Now is the time to take shelter in the safety of our homes, during this global crisis.

We look to our leaders for guidance, and with that in mind, I want to assure you that the National Officers and the Governing Board Representatives have been meeting monthly to implement the leadership of the Covenant for the future of our amazing organization. We are hearing the details from the Local Councils on what things are going on in their LC and local areas. Additionally, we are hearing both the needs and struggles that we are all facing as we move to new and differing forms of communication to stay connected with family and friends at this time. Social distancing is a must! However, sharing the sentiment of Love and Compassion verbally is also needed in greater measure as we all work through this alarming predicament together.

The usage of online media is paramount at this time for virtual meetings and basic social gatherings of our Local Councils, member covens and individuals to keep informed and to share some basic socialization amongst their contemporaries. Reach out to the national officers if you need guidance and support in obtaining a usable virtual meeting platform. The national board uses Zoom for our meetings and it’s easy to use, and very user friendly. Zoom offers a free basic that allows you to host up to 100 participants to up to 40 minutes and unlimited one-on-one meetings.

An important message recently was made by CoG national from our NPIO. We are asking all Local Councils to suspend personal and community gatherings at this time and to use some form of virtual meeting. This will significantly help to decline the spread of this dangerous and life threatening virus. Remember, we are all responsible to flatten the curve!

May the Joy of the fullness of Spring find you and lift your spirits during this difficult and concerning time, as we cope with consequences of the Covid-19 Virus pandemic. As we all face the challenges of adapting to a new way of life without our normal social structure, we must be vigilant to staying safe and out of harm’s way from the threat of the Coronavirus. Now is the time to take shelter in the safety of our homes, during this global crisis.

We look to our leaders for guidance, and with that in mind, I want to assure you that the National Officers and the Governing Board Representatives have been meeting monthly to implement the leadership of the Covenant for the future of our amazing organization. We are hearing the details from the Local Councils on what things are going on in their LC and local areas. Additionally, we are hearing both the needs and struggles that we are all facing as we move to new and differing forms of communication to stay connected with family and friends at this time. Social distancing is a must! However, sharing the sentiment of Love and Compassion verbally is also needed in greater measure as we all work through this alarming predicament together.

The usage of online media is paramount at this time for virtual meetings and basic social gatherings of our Local Councils, member covens and individuals to keep informed and to share some basic socialization amongst their contemporaries. Reach out to the national officers if you need guidance and support in obtaining a usable virtual meeting platform. The national board uses Zoom for our meetings and it’s easy to use, and very user friendly. Zoom offers a free basic that allows you to host up to 100 participants to up to 40 minutes and unlimited one-on-one meetings.

An important message recently was made by CoG national from our NPIO. We are asking all Local Councils to suspend personal and community gatherings at this time and to use some form of virtual meeting. This will significantly help to decline the spread of this dangerous and life threatening virus. Remember, we are all responsible to flatten the curve!
The health and wellbeing of all people is vital for the preservation of life. We can get through this immense challenge together. Finding light and balance is the key!

I am wishing you all a Happy Vernal Equinox and a Blessed Ostara!

With Love & Perseverance,

Lord Verderius

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

FIRST OFFICER

February’s report highlights our presentation done at PantheaCon. We were thrilled to be able to do our first featured presentation “Live” on Facebook while we were at the final PantheaCon gathering. Although we had some minor technical difficulties with my PowerPoint presentation not working properly, we were still able to host our appearance and give our membership and outreach talks to the guests who had joined us in the Tree of Triads, shared hotel suite.

While we were broadcasting “Live” we had 165 online attendees watching from many differing locations throughout the world, such as Brazil, England, France and Australia to name a few. After we finished our presentation and the video posted to our CoG Facebook page, then the number of views quickly jumped to over ten thousand in a matter of hours. By the time we had our next National Board Meeting that number had jumped to over 75 thousand views. This amazing news made us all feel ecstatic! What a great sense of accomplishment and success we felt for our first attempt of doing a professional broadcast presentation for the Covenant of the Goddess.

We are now making plans on how to improve our future live productions. We hope to have an even better and updated presentation for the Mystic South convention in July. We will be sure to send out an announcement once we get closer to the actual convention.

March’s report and concerns over the Coronavirus issue. I am sure that many of you share the same great concern that folks have with the news of the Coronavirus becoming an international pandemic. This topic will be discussed at our next national board meeting on Saturday, March 14th. We will set some contingency plans in place, in the event that one or more of us (National Officers or Local Council Reps) falls ill to this virus.

Additionally, we will discuss how to keep us safe during our future travel plans to other events and to our Grand Council meeting in August. I am putting off some of my personal travel plans for CoG in the months of April and May, until we get a better idea on the continual spread of the virus.

Many flights and events are being cancelled in many areas. Everyone please stay safe, wash your hands frequently and keep informed of what new stats are being announced in your local area, city, county, state, etc.

During this concerning time, we will keep the membership informed of our continued progress as we add another group of LC Reps to the next set of board meetings. The final group of Rep selection remains for the national member covens and individual national members. We will be working specifically with them over the next few weeks via Zoom teleconference to help them establish their Reps to complete this Governing Board task that we have been working diligently on. Great things are in store for the future of CoG! Be well and stay safe!

In Service,

Lord Verderius (Your on the go - NFO!)

SECOND OFFICER

Due to scheduling of local events and Pantheacon, OCLC did not have a monthly meeting in February, but some of our members had a meeting online with Lord Verderius to go over our action plan for Grand Council and MerryMeet. We are in the process of determining fees for the various levels of registration and still plan to have the registration site up and running by May 1st. As usual, this report is being submitted several days before the March OCLC meeting. We expect to have intense discussions about the event plans at that meeting and if there are any significant updates, a supplemental report will be presented to the National Board meeting.

Morgana RavenTree

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Things have certainly been busy for me over the last several weeks. A trip to Arizona to be with my mother during her back surgery and finishing up things for membership. Spring Cleaning is on the horizon and there is a change in the weather here in our neck of the woods to a warmer day while the nights are still a bit chilly.

Mailings of Charters, Credentials, Wall Certificates and New Member Packets has been completed for Litha 2019-Imbolc of 2020. I had to choose a Sabbat to backtrack to and it was Litha. Packages will continue to go out when renewals happen. Of course, Ostara is due this month with Beltaine pre-filled forms being mailed on the 21st of March. If you have not received what you need, please contact me ASAP!

Applications and Renewal forms have been updated, created, and just all around spiffed up!
These can be found on the website (when it’s been updated) and when downloaded are in fillable pdf format! Thank you so much to Stachia for all your hard work in converting these! Be on the look out for the NEW CoG YouTube channel for tutorials on how to fill these out and how to create your own digital signature!

The Friends of CoG program is shaping up quite nicely and Welcome/Card packets have gone out to the four members we have. We have sent out an announcement to Facebook, AIR and DD on how the new program works and the benefits of joining. If you are interested in connecting with our new Friends, check out the new AIR and DD forums and say hello and WELCOME! 😊

The migration to the new website/server continues and this is an exciting time! New forums, YouTube channel, and other fancy new doodads! As a reminder, the AIR & DD elist (now Forums) 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 Netiquette rules. Also note: IF YOU ARE A COVEN, YOUR MEMBERS WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE FORUMS IF THEY ARE NOT ON YOUR COVEN REGISTRATIONS WITH VALID EMAILS! It is important for each and every member of CoG to be recognized and we can only do that with the proper information.

We have launched our new YouTube channel and content will be uploaded as it becomes available. Right now, there are only a few videos from other sources and a tutorial on how to fill out our renewal application. There will be additional videos on how to fill out our other forms which will be loaded in the coming weeks. SUBSCRIBE to the YouTube Channel to see when new content is uploaded!

That being said, renewals for Ostara are due by April 1st! 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. Just follow the YouTube Tutorial for renewing and you’ll be all set!

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. Please do not let a temporary situation keep you from your membership in CoG! We are here to help! However, Grace of the Goddess funds may only be used for tithes and cannot be used to pay for Credential renewals.

APPLICATIONS:

Please read these statements and letters! If there are any objections, please contact me at membership@cog.org

- **Friends of CoG**
  - Aspen May (National)

- **Covens and Individuals**
  - Scott Lamont (National)
  - Lady Avera Vreeland (National)

- **Welcome New Members!**
  - Coven of Diana’s Moon (Texas LC)

- **Transfer Requests**
  - Dragon (Individual Member) from Texas LC has joined Circle of the Moon and Sun (Effective Imbolc).

- **Overdue/Lapsed Members** (Contact me immediately to avoid cancellation!)
  - Church of the Earth (National)

- **Cancelled Members**
  - Moon Birch Grove (National)

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS:**

It is with a heavy heart that I announce that Moon Birch Grove will not be renewing as a Coven. Their representative has stated that there was not an issue with CoG, but that they will offer their members the information to join CoG as individuals, if they so choose. We wish them all the best and hope that they may consider returning one day!

We currently have 130 Members total, consisting of 69 Covens, and 61 Individual Members; and we now have 4 Friends of CoG. While it seems that our numbers are remaining steady with no growth, I would like to remind everyone that several of our individual members have recently renewed/joined as Covens!

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. We have one overdue member who has not contacted me.

The following members are due at **Ostara** and have until **4/1/2020** to renew:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roster Name</th>
<th>Local Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circle Angkur</td>
<td>Calafia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amber</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raven Star Coven</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood Glen</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coven of Bran-Faol Reannag</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghostwheel</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragon's Weyr Circle</td>
<td>Southern CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following members are due at **Beltaine** and have until **5/11/2020** to renew:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roster Name</th>
<th>Local Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circle Angkur</td>
<td>Calafia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amber</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raven Star Coven</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood Glen</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coven of Bran-Faol Reannag</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghostwheel</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragon's Weyr Circle</td>
<td>Southern CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have one overdue member who has not contacted me.
Ostara 2020

Merlyn
Chamisa
Beachfyre Coven
Everglades Moon
Kathleen Lezon
Everglades Moon
Marian Dawn
National
Jennifer Bennett
National
Sophia
National
Yesod
National
Coven Ashesh-Hekat
Southern CA
Circle of the Serpent
Texas
Tree of Knowledge Coven
Texas
Brightest Blessings,
Dee Proctor (Lady K) NMO

Pursewarden

Current Assets
Chase Main Account: $79,255.29
Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: $5,585.62
PayPal Account: $1,633.45
Synchrony: $32,693.13 (as of 2/29/2020)

Current Issues & Proposal
1. Thank you again to all local pursewardens for their quarterly reports.
2. Note: I’m using PayPal to get reimbursements out as quickly as possible for those who have accounts.
3. GC travel funding assistance reminder:
   Submit Travel Stipend Requests: June 13, 2020
   Funds Disbursed: Week of June 15, 2020 for advance requests. [Reimbursements will be sent upon receipts of travel receipts]
   Travel Forms completed/Receipts due: Aug 24, 2020
   Minor note: I know we voted to support The Wild Hunt at $250 annually. I have not initiated this until I can meet with the NFO and execute it jointly for obvious conflict of interest.

Public Information Officer

After Pantheacon, we determined that the new Membership Rack Card required editing. I revised the card and forwarded it to Lord Soec to be placed on the website (when able).

Based on the feedback from our first Facebook Live Event, I will be purchasing a bracket to hold a tablet or phone to video our next event. In order to post the video to our YouTube channel, it should be edited and saved as MP3.

Two new items have been created. First, a Press/Media Kit has been developed that I can use at events, or provide inquiring media with information about CoG. Second, a poster has been created for members to use for events and presentations. These will be forwarded after the final review (3/13/20).

My next event is 3/18/20 at Fullerton College. I have been asked to be a Guest Lecturer for the Religious Studies classes. I look forward to sharing our new Friends cards with students; along with Merry Meet promotional cards.

To Date M&O has spent:
Printing: $526.57 (includes 2 Tri-folds, Friends cards, Ribbons and Member Rack Card)
Ad: $410 (includes Reclaiming Samhain & Pantheacon Program)
Travel: $500 (estimated for Lord V and Brandon)
PCon Suite: $350 (Tree of Trad Suite)
TOTAL: $1,786.57
   Our next M&O meeting is Friday, 3/13/20.

Publications Officer

The world has officially gone crazy! Who ever thought that toilet paper would be such a hard to get item?! Stachia and I are finally able to access the website, but since it’s tax season she hasn’t had much time to learn the new Divi program.

As always, please send any articles, poetry or minutes to newsletter@cog.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 cogweb@cog.org.

Correspondence Officer

No report given.

National Recorder

No report given.

National Outreach Officer

Blessed be COG kin,

COG had a good presence at Pantheacon this year. The event was attended by thousands of Pagans and like-minded folks in San Jose, California, and it reminded me of the importance of organizing and coming together as a community. This was the last year for the event after 25 years of bringing together Pagans, Witches, and Wiccans from all over the world. One of my visions is for
Merry Meet (COG’s annual gathering for Grand Council) to be as big as Pantheacon! Many of us were able to be a part of the event, including myself and our first officer Lord Verderius. We were able to be a part of the Tree of Trad suite where we were able to do a presentation for our Membership Drive. This was our first Facebook Live video! This was a learning opportunity for us, as we plan to upload more Facebook Live videos in the future.

Educational outreach is definitely a priority for revitalizing and engaging with the community. We are working with our membership officer, PIO, and others on creating COG educational and informational videos and classes for the public, for COG members and for Friends of COG. I am working closely with Ardantane, a 501c3 nonprofit Pagan Learning Center located in the Jemez mountains of New Mexico, to offer coupons for classes and retreats (they have many online) as a benefit and a thank you to members and friends of COG. Stay tuned! In the meantime, please support Ardantane, as they are always looking for volunteers and more attendance for classes, as they continue to be a retreat and learning center for Pagans and like-minded people to learn and grow. Their website is http://www.ardantane.org

We will be working to promote the CoGPIO page, which will be in conjunction with Facebook and Instagram, as we work to boost COG’s social media presence and advertising of events. We want to potentially merge the CoGPIO page with outreach, so that we can make it easy for our governing board representatives to get in touch with us so they (and we) can share what they are doing in their communities and how we [the national board] can support them.

We will be working on developing outreach training presentations, in both a PowerPoint and a freeform talk format, as well as a training packet that includes recommended materials needed for doing outreach. This includes creation of the “do’s and don’ts” of doing outreach on behalf of COG. Our new website format is finally coming to fruition, so we can now coordinate with our publications officer on what materials are needed on the website to successfully conduct outreach for COG, including information and application forms for Friends of COG.

Lastly, the next major event the first officer Lord Verderius and myself plan to attend will be at: Mystic South July 17th – 19th in Atlanta, GA. We will have our own suite and be able to work on bringing local Pagans together, and hopefully build the foundation for a local council in Georgia.

I encourage all national individual members and national covens, especially those in areas where there is no local council or strong COG presence, to consistently share through AIR@cog.org or please email me at outreach@cog.org and I would love to hear from you and work to get a presence there in some capacity, even if it’s just an advertisement for a major event in your area.

Our next marketing and outreach meeting is Friday March 13th at 5:00 PST, 6:00 MST, 7:00 CST, 8:00 EST by ZOOM. Please join us and email me if you are interested!

Brandon Proctor, National Outreach Officer
Chamisa Local Council, Coven of the Silver Moon

Welcome to COG
Please welcome:
❖ Coven of Diana’s Moon (Texas Local Council)

Transitioning From Coven to Solitary

None

Membership Applications

Avera Vreeland
National Individual Member
Los Angeles, California

Statement of Practice

Hi, I’m Avera Vreeland and I am applying for COG membership.

I was a member of COG years ago and had my ministerial license from there under the name Divinity through my coven, Our Lady of the Sea, That was ran by Julia Schroeder Aka, Grace, who also was a member with you. Although I have parted ways with my teacher Grace, and have graduated under her as Queen Priestess, I do come to you for COG membership as a Solitary Practitioner. I am hoping perhaps someone of COG may remember and speak for me in referral. I started traditionally learning under Grace in 2002.

My goals within joining COG is to participate with my sisters and brothers of the Covenant of the Goddess, to start teaching the tradition taught to me by Grace who was taught by her teacher Maralee and begin building a coven of my own.

Please ask me any questions that you may have for me, or if anything else is needed of me. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Lady Avera Vreeland

Letter of Recommendation:
To Covenant of the Goddess
I am Athena Barbito aka Amber and am a member of CoG with Nationals. I am a High Priestess in the Majestic Tradition. I currently reside in Las Vegas, and am Recommending Avera Vreeland who is a Queen Priestess in the Majestic Tradition for membership into the Covenant of the Goddess. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Blessed Be.
Athena Barbito aka Amber

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

To Whom it may Concern,

I recommend Christine (Avera) Vreeland, Queen Priestess in the Majestic Order, for membership in Covenant of the Goddess.

I am a High Priest in good standing in the same order, and am available for contact at [Withheld]

Blessed be,
Marcus Carpenter

Scott Lamont

National Individual Member
Grand Forks, British Columbia

STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

My mundane name is Scott Chisholm Lamont, I am a son of Clan Lamont and known in magickal and faerie spaces as The Fireheart, Forest Dancer, and Princess Trauma-no-Drama (there is a story behind that last one!). The purpose of this letter is to provide the Covenant with a statement of practice as part of my application to return as a solitary member.

I was born a pagan child, and have loved the oceans, mountains, wild woods, running rivers, and all living creatures for as long as I can remember. My parents provided me with great latitude when it came to exploring spirituality, and I have always found that Earth based spirituality resonated most strongly with me. When I was a young teen, I had an experience in the mountains near my home that can only be described as being touched by the Goddess. This cemented the direction of my spiritual practice, and as an adult I came to the Wiccan path. I have circled privately and with both public groups and with covens over the past 23 years. I perceive the divine nature of the universe, and worship the immanent manifestation of that divinity in the multifaceted forms of Goddess and God.

Along with my late wife and priestess Shara, I was a CoG member as a Solitary in Northern California Local Council and as part of a member coven in Chamisa Local Council. I am a Witch and an Elder in the West Coast Eclectic tradition of Wicca, having received my third degree initiation through the Circle of the Winter Moon under the tutelage of Lady AmberIsis and Lord Ur. From 2005 to 2009, Shara and I were High Priestess and High Priest of CWM.

I am excited at the prospect of rejoining the Covenant and participating in its work supporting our religion and interfaith efforts, particularly now as an international member. I am familiar with the Bylaws of CoG, and will abide by them. Ethical magickal and spiritual practice is very important to me: the Rede, the Charge, and the Law of Three form the core of my code of ethics. I have previously assisted with teaching pagan ethics at Ardentane, while still living in New Mexico. I observe the Wheel of the Year, celebrating the Sabbats and Esbats as an individual witch, as a family, with a local coven in the Reclaiming tradition, and with members of the West Kootenay and Okanagan communities in British Columbia. I also participate in and learn from other Earth based spiritual paths, such as Faerie and Indigenous ceremonies I have been invited to.

In conclusion, I thank you for your consideration of my membership. I look forward to your reply.

Bright Blessings,
Scott Chisholm Lamont
MacLamont Forest Dancer

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

This letter is to recommend Scott Chisholm Lamont for membership in the Covenant of the Goddess. He was an active member of Circle of the Winter Moon for many years. Scott received his Third Degree initiation from me and Scott and his wife Shara served as the High Priest and High Priestess of Circle of the Winter Moon after the Death of its founding High Priest Albert. relocating from Albuquerque, NM to Grand Forks, BC, Canada. He is a witch who follows the rede, provides service in many ways including developing and leading Silver Moon Health Services, designing and leading public rituals, and doing daily service in his professional life as a nurse and health educator.

Scott was a beloved member of Chamisa Local Council of the Goddess with his membership in the Circle of the Winter Moon. He has maintained close contact with his coven home and his Albuquerque Magical community. He will be a great addition to the Covenant.

Blessed Be
Sylvia T Webb aka Amberisis
Founding High Priestess and current Elder of Circle of the Winter Moon

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

This letter is to recommend Scott Lamont for membership into CoG. I’ve known Scott as well as his late wife, Shara, for many years. They could...
always be counted on for their good works and level heads in many situations. Scott’s loving energy and giving nature is always quite evident in all the interactions I’ve had with him. I look forward to having him back in CoG and feel he represents all the ideals and qualities of a competent witch.

Blessings,
Dee Proctor (Lady K)
HPs, Coven of the Silver Moon

Aspen May

Friends of CoG
Modesto, California

Letter of Introduction
Merry Meet,

My name is Aspen and I am an eclectic solitary Wiccan. I have been practicing for about 20 years and am mostly self taught though I’ve taken advantage of workshops and learning groups whenever I could. My practice was heavily shaped by the writings of R Grimassi, J&S Farrar, M Adler, E McCoy, R Buckland, and intro to witchcraft sections of The Witches' Voice plus other helpful message boards when that was still a thing. :)

In 2016 - 17 I completed online courses for both ABW Tradition and Inner Mysteries through House of Grimassi. In the last 18 months I have led learning sessions on Tarot, Futhark Runes, and basics of witchcraft at my local spiritual center. I have also led a small group of pagans in Sabbat rituals since Litha 2018.

In my personal practice, the pre-Judeo/Christian Goddess and Gods are central. As an eclectic, that’s meant pieces from commonly known mythologies and cultures. I follow the Wiccan Rede and agree to CoG’s code of ethics, and wish to become a CoG Associate.

Bright Blessings,
Aspen May

Letter of Recommendation:
I would like to recommend Aspen May for membership in Covenant of the Goddess. I’ve known her for several years as a practicing Solitary Witch. My husband, Ken, and I have circled with her several times. She has participated in classes about Witchcraft and teaching Tarot at a local spiritual center here in Modesto for the last few years as well. She has been a practicing Solitary Witch for 20 years. I believe she would be an asset to CoG as a new member. Although I have been inactive for a few years, I continue to stay informed.

Thank you. Blessings,
Edye Cheeseman

National Board Minutes
~ February 22, 2020

Invocation: Lord Verderius offered a wonderful invocation to gracious Coventina, great matron of the Covenant.

Roll Call (Quorum): Faelind called roll and announced quorum met.

National Officers: All present except where noted.
- First Officer – Lord Verderius
- Second Officer – Morgana
- Membership Officer – Dee P.
- Publications Officer – Lord Soec
- Pursewarden – Qabal
- Public Information Officer – Janine N.
- Outreach Officer – Brandon P.
- Correspondence Officer – David L. – Absent due to illness
- Recorder – Faelind

Governing Board Representatives: 6 Reps and 2 Alternates in attendance.
- Calafia LC – It is either Catherine or Karen, the board will confirm.
- Everglades Moon LC – Raven (Debby) / Alt: Lord Rieken – Both Raven and Lord Rieken in attendance.
- Hills & Rivers LC – ?
- Northern California LC – Thea remains interim rep until selections at the next NCLC meeting in March. Thea in attendance.
- Orange County LC – Janine / Alt: Morgana – Janine and Morgana in attendance.
- Southern California LC – Lady Mariah – Morgana reached out to SCLC and learned Lady Mariah will be SCLC Governing Board Rep.
- Texas LC – Orin / Alt: Willow McKenna – Orin attended.
- Touchstone LC – Lord Soec in attendance.
- National Covens – ?
- National Individual Members – ?

Officer Reports:
First Officer (Lord Verderius): Lord Verderius spoke about the Facebook Live presentation at Pantheacon that he and Brandon presented. The board provided feedback. Janine plans to get a bracket for her tripod for her phone or tablet as the shaky camera was a recurring comment.

Thea provided feedback from NCLC that we should not use the word crusade as it is offensive, so Lord Verderius will change his presentation and not use that word.

Second Officer (Morgana): Morgana sent in a written report. Her LC will be meeting Sunday, February 23, 2020 to discuss the two separate budgets for Grand Council/Merry Meet, one for National and one for OCLC.
Membership Officer (Dee): Dee spoke about her initial uploads to YouTube for tutorials on filling out the renewal so we can refer people to watch those for assistance in filling out their pre-filled forms. She plans to complete tutorials for filling out the new membership form and the Friends of COG forms as well.

Dee did not see any new applications from the Facebook Live event yet, but she did receive about 5 emails after the event and is corresponding with potential members. She sent out two applications and one Friends of COG application form. She emphasized that we need to have updated live applications on the public side of cog.org made available for new members and for Friends of COG.

We are saddened that Moon Birch Grove, a National Coven from Long Beach, CA is retiring their membership in COG.

There are currently three members that are overdue.

She held her first meeting with the local council membership officers and it was very productive. They discussed SWAG and CLERGY placard designs. She asked the LCMO’s to secure input from their LCs whether they want the COG Logo on the Clergy placards or not.

4-inch Friends of COG stickers are done and were sent to Pantheacon with COG Officers. All mass mailings are caught up.

Lord V asked how many new members since Samhain. Dee said we have 8 new or pending members or Covens. Macha asked if we had reached out to the Correllians and she mentioned other covens and groups she saw at the January Claremont Pagan Conference. Morgana stated that the Correllians are not interested from a concentration of followers. Macha offered to mentor folks.

Publications Officer (Lord Soec): Jack was not able to post the Imbolc newsletter to the website due to the website conversion but did send it out via AIR and DD. He encouraged everyone to read it and received feedback from those who had.

Pursewarden (Manny): Manny sent a written report. He explained that he will be submitting a proposal to Grand Council for Travel Funds for the Governing Board Reps for the future, but he is asking to encumber monies for the Governing Board Reps to attend Grand Council this year.

He clarified that he would like to encumber $500 per LC and National constituency from the overall $10K budget which comes to $5,500 for this year (9 LC’s and 2 National constituencies). The Board agreed to encumber $5,500 out of the $10 K Travel budget for Governing Board Reps and if the Governing Board Rep attends virtually, then that money goes back into the fund.

Public Information Officer (Janine): Janine sent a written report. In addition to her report, she shared stats from our first Facebook Live event held on February, 15 at 1:23 PM Pacific. The event was about an hour long. We reached 75K people, with 4,000 engagements, and 227 comments during the live event. We had 14 shares and 193 likes.

Macha asked whether we would share these on YouTube as well. Janine will look into what we might need to do to get the Facebook Live Event video on YouTube. Janine also hopes to record her talk on March 18 at the Fullerton College Interfaith Club.

Outreach Officer (Brandon): Our next Marketing Outreach meeting is March 13, 2020, 6:00 PM Mountain.

He has received a lot of emails about Friends of COG since the Facebook Live Event and now that Pantheacon is over, he will be moving to the next thing to complete the packets and enhance our visibility. We need to share what COG is doing. People don’t know what we are doing in COG because people are not seeing it.

Orin asked whether we were looking at where people who have engaged are located so we could help build new Local Councils. He used as examples how the Dallas/Fort Worth area Texas Local Council receives emails from San Antonio and Austin, but that is so far away that they won’t be traveling to Dallas and need their own Local Council.

Dee offered that we could use our member database and their locations to see whether we have National Covens that would be interested in forming new LC’s. Janine responded that she provided stats on where we are being engaged or followed on facebook in her report last year so we could consider doing a mailing in areas with a large concentration of followers. Macha offered to mentor folks.

Correspondence Officer (David): out sick tonight.

Recorder (Faelind): These minutes are my report.

Governing Board Rep Reports: [Only those constituencies with representatives on the call are listed]

Chamisa (Ryan): reported that Chamisa is working well. They are currently planning their next Magical Mountain Mabon Event and have some changes in their structure.

Everglades Moon (Raven/Alt: Lord Rieken): EMLC will be planning their annual Turning the Tides Event held in December. Raven and Lord Rieken spoke about Turning the Tides. This past year was their 13th year. It is open to all Pagans but is a small event and limited to about 70
people and gives good exposure to COG. They get about 5 to 7 new people each year that then continue to come year after year.

Northern California (Thea): Thea remains interim rep. NCLC has not selected their rep yet. NCLC created a group.io group to communicate with each other. They discussed how they might meet the membership challenge now that Pantheacon will be no more. They discussed Pagan Night Out, Pagan Pride, and Pan Gaia, all events in Sacramento. She will also be working with Zenah and Stasie to retrieve the archived, scanned COG Newsletters for the Adocentyn library. [Lord V thought Macha had been selected as GB Rep so she was invited to the call.]

Orange County (Janine): They didn’t have their monthly meeting so they will meet the second Thursday in March.

Texas (Orin): /Alt: Willow McKenna – Orin shared that the Texas Local Council is doing really well, and we have added several new members since Samhain. We will be holding our 3rd annual Witches Ball this year, and continue to present public Sabbats with at least 100 people in attendance. We also hold classes in two separate locations twice a month each month. Faelind asked how we should ‘publicize’ our events for the larger COG. Janine suggested that we post these events on the larger COG facebook page and she would give LC PIO’s access to update COG facebook if they were interested.

Touchstone (Lord Soec): Jack said they have not been able to get together due to illness or weather.

Call for Additions to the Agenda:

Discuss changes to newsletter for new Governing Board: Faelind suggested that we add the Governing Board Reps near the front of the newsletter to introduce them to the Covenant. Jack recommends listing the Governing Board Representatives, then follow that with the Board Meeting Minutes, then followed by the Officer Reports. Lord Verderius requested that his Sabbat Letter to the Covenant members be placed first in the newsletter and everyone agreed that it is a welcoming and personal touch.

Legal matters pertaining to our (CoG) Logo & Internet Trademarks (Infringements): Dee found a YouTube video that used COG logos and trademarks and was mocking our religion. It had been put together by students where they modified our COG logos. Several Officers reported this to YouTube as hate speech, inaccurate data, and Lord V. secured legal directives which he also reported to YouTube about the COG LOGO copyright and trademarks. The video has been made private and is no longer available to the public. Going forward, all these types of requests need to go through Janine to try and prevent this from happening again.

CoG Award of Honor (Criteria): Macha asked what the process was to submit a nomination for the COG Award of Honor. She would like to nominate Wren and Fritz Jung from WitchVox. Jack related that the process was that prior First Officers of COG would meet to discuss nominations. Thea added that Amber K was going to revisit the process but has not done it yet. Canu will be creating forums and will create one for former First Officers to review these nominations.

Leadership Institute Topics: Tabled to next meeting.

PantheaCon follow-up discussion: We need to do more PR at an event to get in-person attendance for a Facebook Live Event. This was a learning curve for us. Janine suggested that we might think about having an evening event at Mystic South for more exposure.

Assign Officer Reps to each Local Council & Natl Covens and Individuals: Tabled to next meeting. It might be a moot point if we have Governing Board Reps and our communication issues are finally addressed with Forums.

Should an Interfaith Representative sign onto Environmental Initiatives on behalf of COG?: Tabled to next meeting.

Old Business:

Webserver migration and notification to membership: Canu stated that the members only and public sites are active on the new host server, but they are using an old version of the WordPress theme that prevents updates or edits by the National Publications Officer or NetCo.

Website issues: COG’s current WordPress DIVI theme from Elegant Themes has not been updated because COG does not own a license. We must have a license to receive the updates and allow work to continue. Jack asked whether the LCs might be able to use the theme for their own websites. Not known at this time. The Board agreed that COG buy a lifetime license for $250 to upgrade the current theme on WordPress. This will not prevent us from changing our look or feel in the future if we want to freshen up the site.

Member access issues: To ensure all members receive access to the member-only side with their own user names and password, Canu must add them all individually and manually. This must occur before he can add members to the member-only forums. He has created 23 forums for each of the groups that need them and still has more to go. The key is that the username can never be changed so Canu and the board are looking for ways to communicate with the
membership so that all members can provide their own username.

**MailChimp Communication:** Because we know that AIR and DD may not be communicating to everyone, the board discussed using MailChimp for mass communication of notification. It is only a one-way communication, but we would be able to send mass communications from the First Officer to the membership. This would be an add on to the new theme once it is upgraded.

**Mystic South Conference attendance for Outreach/Membership Drive:** Lord Verderius made contact with Lady Miraselena who may be attending Mystic South and Dee asked whether we can do another Facebook Live event.

**Create documentation and talking points that suggest how to establish communication between the Local Council and the Governing Board:** Faelind sent talking points to the known Governing Board Reps as a first step to document a working process for the Governing Board. She is waiting on feedback. She plans to send to all newly identified Governing Board Reps.

**Grand Council Proposal for Sexual Harrassment/Consent Culture Training:** The Board has not found anyone to chair the Committee to make recommendations for this proposal. Lord Verderius shared that he was able to speak to the person who submitted the Sexual Harassment/Consent Culture Proposal at the last Grand Council while attending Pantheacon and they are not able to chair this Committee due to family illness and being the caretaker.

Lord Verderius will try to secure a volunteer to chair this committee by sending a request to the membership once the communication issues have been resolved, but the board does not have the bandwidth at this time to take on this task with all the other work currently in progress.

**New Business:** [Due to time constraints, New Business was tabled to next meeting]: Retract any initiative to affiliate CoG with the Boy Scouts of America due to their recent news of bankruptcy. Should CoG create their own Scouting-like organization

**Meeting Adjourned:** (It was a Three-hour ride!)

---

~ March 14, 2020

**Invocation:** Lord Verderius invoked Coventina with a wonderful reading he does each meeting. Thea asked whether it was the same one and some attendees noted they hear something different and meaningful each time they hear it. Lord Verderius agreed to publish the invocation in the newsletter after a request for it.

**Roll Call (Quorum):** We have Quorum.

**National Officers:**
- First Officer: Lord Verderius (Paul) – Present
- Second Officer: Morgana (Claudia) – Present
- Membership Officer: Dee P. (Lady K) – Present
- Publications Officer: Lord Soec (Jack) – Present
- Pursewarden: Qabal (Manny) – Present
- Public Information Officer: Janine N. – Present
- Outreach Officer: Brandon P. – Absent (Ill)
- Correspondence Officer: David L. – Present
- Recorder: Faelind – Present

**Governing Board Representatives:**
- Calafia: Catherine /Alt: Karen – (Did not get on the invite list yet)
- Chamisa: Ryan C. / Alt: Tiffany B. – Not Present
- Everglades Moon: Raven (Debby) / Alt: Lord Rieken – Not Present – Debby sent a note that she would not be able to attend as she was ill.
- Hills & Rivers: Lady Annabelle / Alt: Jamie D. – Not Present
- Northern California: Thea interim rep until selections at the next NCLC meeting to be held the next day. – Thea present
- Orange County: Janine / Alt: Morgana – Both Present
- Southern California: Lady Mariah / Alt: Lisa M. – Lisa Present
- Texas: Orin / Alt: Willow McKenna – Orin Present
- Touchstone: Lord Soec – Present
- National Covens: ?
- National Individual Members: ?

**Officer Reports:**

Officers were encouraged to send written Reports to the CoG Board List prior to the call to reduce the meeting time. Lord Verderius thanked all those who sent in written reports (all had) and he let Lord Soec know that he planned to send an Ostara message for the newsletter in addition to his written report. Janine asked for a copy for the CoG PIO site.

**Governing Board Rep Reports:** Calafia and Texas Governing Board reps submitted written reports.

Call for Additions to the Agenda:

COVID-19 – Lord Verderius has cancelled his personal travel and CoG travel he had planned through May. Janine is working on a statement for CoG to publish. She was provided feedback on the statement to make a suggested blessing more inclusive. Morgana will find out what the deadline is for cancelling events if the Pandemic continues and potentially disrupts Grand Council. Manny related that Intercontinental Hotel Group that owns Holiday Inn has sent out an email stating that if local authorities have issued warnings, events can be cancelled without issue or cost. The board discussed the studies of the early century Spanish Flu mortality rates and how quarantine measures in...
cities saved many lives. We will address any impacts to Grand Council as time goes on.

Dee received questions about what COG would reimburse for Governing Board Reps attendance at Grand Council. We have currently allocated up to $500.00 per rep.

Dee has received requests for Hart and Crescent Awards. David said that Amber K has retained the Awards. He has the standards and forms and when the tasks are complete, those are returned to him and then he reaches out to Amber and she sends out the awards.

Dee related that in her conversations with Canu, he believes we need to have a moderator for each different forum, so one from each Local Council for their LC Forums and then the volunteers that have stepped up will try to take care of AIR and DD. She is discussing with all the LC membership officers but is letting all the reps know to discuss with their Local Councils.

Thea brought up that some of the Interfaith Reps have requested CLERGY placards without the COG Logo, so it was suggested to have a plain CLERGY on one side and CLERGY with the COG Logo on the other side. Dee said it would cost more but could be done.

Faelind was asked to send out the list of Governing Board Reps and their emails to the Board.

Lord V asked about the box of COG Outreach materials from Pantheacon. Thea picked the box up yesterday and just needs to know where to send it. Lord V will get with Brandon (who was out sick for this meeting) to see what he wants to do.

Janine noted that her lecture at Fullerton College was cancelled but they are thinking about doing a workshop using Zoom.

Old Business:

Webserver migration and notification to membership – Lord Verderius noted that we were able to secure the required license so that Canu could perform necessary updates to the site. He asked the Webweaver if was able to make modifications. The Webweaver is unable to update. We need new forms up on the site. Some Board members noted that the Officers are not updated yet, but other Officers are seeing updates, so it was suggested that folks clear their cache and their cookies to see if the updates come through.

Website issues – Webweaver cannot access the back end to update the site yet but has not let Canu know so Lord V will reach out to him.

Member access issues – Canu has worked through allowing access to the forums, but there are folks on the board who have not received an email to get access to the member side of the website or to the forums. Lord V will reach out to Canu to get an update.

MailChimp Communication – Lord V is looking into using Mail Chimp to broadcast information to the membership. Morgana is familiar with it from using it with Pagan Pride and says it takes some training but works very well and allows some customization of communications. Lord V will secure costs and learn the process to implement.

Mystic South Conference attendance for Outreach/Membership Drive – Lord V updated the board that there will be a COG suite at Mystic South and he plans to ask the new group that joined in Georgia to come and help.

We plan to do another facebook live and Janine is securing a bracket for her tripod.

We hope to host several events in the suite. Lord V related how Llewellynn was able to market their suite and draw crowds with giveaways at Pantheacon and he would like us to think about doing that as well.

Communication suggestions for Governing Board Reps – Faelind has compiled suggestions of how the Governing Board will work with the National Officers and their constituencies they represent as she had committed to.

Faelind will send out the completed process to the Board and Governing Board reps to be published in the newsletter.

Lord V would like to hold Zoom calls with all the Governing Board reps and discuss the process and plans to work with Thea and Dee to compile letters for the National Covens and National Individual Members so they can begin their selection process. We are trying to meet a Beltane deadline to have this done.

Thea added that her Local Council, NCLC, would be meeting Sunday, March 15 to select their reps and believes that it will be Macha as primary and Deborah Bender as alternate as they have nominated for the roles.

It is only the National Covens and National Individual Members that do not have reps selected now.

Grand Council Proposal for Sexual Harassment/Consent Culture Training – Lord Verderius will try to secure a volunteer to chair this committee by sending a request to the membership once the communication issues have been resolved, but the board does not have the bandwidth at this time to take on this task with all the other work currently in progress.

New Business:

Leadership Institute Topics from Morgana: Morgana and SCLC are hoping for 3 topics for
Leadership Institute; Consensus, Consent Culture, and the Value of Interfaith and how can regular COG members “do” Interfaith.

Retract any initiative to affiliate CoG with the Boy Scouts of America due to their recent news of bankruptcy. David L. has not had any response in his queries to the Boy Scouts. There were suggestions to reach out to Girl Scouts or especially to Spiral Scouts.

Should COG create their own Scouting-like organization? New member Lady Ashlen from Grove of the Willow Wood has suggested that we create our own form of Scouts if we do not get any traction with Spiral Scouts. Reinventing the Wheel to build a new scouting organization requires time, energy, resources, and longevity that we don't feel we have at this time, though all agree that having a Scouting organization for our children would be awesome.

Board members suggested that any organization that works with children should be its own organization with its own board of directors and funding. The board agrees that we don’t have the resources at this time and utilizing the existing structure of the Spiral Scouts would be best. Lord V will try to connect with Spiral Scouts that is administered via Aquarian Tabernacle Church (ATC) at HQ@SpiralScouts.org, 877-677-4725.

Assign Officer Reps to each Local Council & Natl Covens and Individuals. The board discussed that traditionally, each Local Council, National Covens and National Individual members are assigned National Officers as representatives after a new Board takes office. We did not do that this year due to the new Governing Board representatives being put into place.

All Local Councils have selected (or will select shortly) their Governing Board rep so it is only National Covens and National Individual members who do not yet have a representative. The board determined to assign reps for those constituencies.

Lord V will represent National Covens and Dee will represent National Individuals until steps have been implemented for those constituencies to select their Governing Board Representatives.

Should an Interfaith Representative sign onto Environmental Initiatives on behalf of CoG? The board was concerned that any statement be consistent with what we have already published. Traditionally, the PIO and National First Officer are the only ones who speak or publish on behalf of COG. The board suggests that each person can sign onto any initiative as themselves and can represent their local councils as they wish. This is not new. If one is an Interfaith Rep, they are always an Interfaith Rep and that doesn't change.

It was determined that as we do not clearly understand what Macha was requesting when she submitted this item, we will secure clarification from her before making any decisions.

Meeting Adjourned: Written reports and limited comments saved the day. We didn’t have a three-hour call!

**LOCAL COUNCILS**

**CALAFIA**

~ March 3, 2020

While Calafia Local Council has not been very active at the national level, we have been very busy locally. All 3 local member covens have been focusing on improving intergroup communication, emergency preparedness, and doing different community service projects.

Calafia Local Council meets on a quarterly basis, but because of the improved communication between its members, individuals do meet regularly (average 2-3 times a month) informally to celebrate sabbats and esbats. Most recently, Circle Angkur hosted a full moon ritual that put a Wiccan spin on the Hindu celebration of Holi, the Festival of Colors, where participants blessed and charged colored powders for aspects of healing, wellness, and safety, and blessed each other vigorously and in very good humor! Overall, the focus in Calafia he has been on meeting the needs of individuals in the pagan community and local member covens. When the major earthquakes happened in the Mojave, Circle Atheneum organized a food and supplies drive for the region’s much-depleted food banks, when FEMA refused to help those communities. A student from Circle Angkur, who is a civil engineer, went to the region and did assessments of homes and gathering places to reassure the pagan community and local member covens. When the major earthquakes happened in the Mojave region that their homes were structurally sound. I spoke at length with the leaders in the wiccan/pagan community in Ridgecrest about accessing resources to meet spiritual as well as practical needs, as that community is still impacted by the aftermath and is still tectonically active. As a local council, we have not been approached by requests for membership in COG, and we decline to proselytize for COG membership.

The only point of discord in Calafia Local Council at this time is whether or not Covenant of the Goddess and the National Board/Governing Board are capable, in fact, meeting the needs of the pagan community. Several members of the local council were very disheartened by the 2019 Grand Council proceedings, especially the lack of respect and consensus process demonstrated by members and the profound lack of follow-on the part of some of the national officers, but were persuaded to remain members of the Covenant for another year.
to see if the Governing Board would make substantial improvements in how COG functions as an organization and whether the new Governing Board would be responsive to the needs of the members.

At this time, it appears that the main focus of the National Board is on the recruitment of new members - to what purpose? To collect money so interfaith efforts can continue unabated? To provide subsidies for Cherry Hill Seminary and Ardantane? If COG has an organization does not have a focus other than its own self perpetuation, it is not fulfilling the purpose and vision for which the organization was founded over 35 years ago. In speaking with individuals locally, and at Pantheacon, the overarching perception of COG is that it is too elitist, too exclusionary. In the younger generations in our faith, their focus is diversity, inclusion, and acknowledgement of personal gnosis of the Divine – and they do not believe COG is meeting those needs, and so are not inclined to participate. Perhaps when COG was founded, it was necessary to be solely Wiccan/witch based in order to gain acceptance as a world religion. That goal has been accomplished, and now id hindering the growth you see. If you ask what Calafia Local Council has heard about what the local community needs, it is: updated and enhanced information on how to protect pagan members from discrimination in employment, housing, and in medical care; for focusing on advocacy for protecting the rights of women, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community in the face of the current political climate; and to return to the primary goal of any earth-based religion, to worship the divine, to protect nature, and to seek balance in the world.

Yours in Service,
Catherine
Recorder Calafia Local Council
Governing Board Representative

**Chamisa**
~ September 14, 2019
Last published minutes in the Samhain 2019 edition.

**Everglades Moon**
~ No report
Last published minutes in the Lammas 2019 edition.

**Hills and Rivers**
~ No Report

**Northern California**
~ No Report
Last published minutes in the Samhain 2019 edition.

**Orange County**
~ No Report
Last published minutes in the Mabon 2019 edition.

**Southern California**
~ No Report
Last published minutes in the Imbolc 2020 edition.

**Texas Local Council**
~ October 20, 2019
Last published minutes in the Imbolc 2020 edition.

**Touchstone**
~ November 4, 2019
In attendance: Ecclusian Fellowship (Stachia, Jack, Val), Circle of the Emerald Forest (Joanne), Circle of the Obsidian Oak (Lari). We have quorum.

**Announcements:**
Circle of the Emerald Forest (Joanne): I've contacted a group in Northern San Diego County that's called "The Witches' Cottage" and they've accepted me and I'm going to go some of their events. They're a large group of non-denominational Witches and Wiccans, also they are having a Feast of Hecate in about 2 weeks that I'm going to try to attend, and they have a meeting ground that's outside near Valley Center. In addition, The High Priestess has published books and she has circled with Raymond Buckland so it should be interesting.

Ecclusian Fellowship (Jack): Gave update on a Go Fund Me site for a coven member affected by the fires, including another close friend of the council who was affected by the Hillside fires.
National Liaison (Jack): National is going to try monthly meetings as opposed to meeting every Sabbath. They also went over the new acronym for our new National Outreach Officer. It was also determined that they would set aside $5000 for promoting COG. One of the other things that came up is that this will be the last year of Pantheacon which means that hopefully someone will step forward and do something to continue that event for the West Coast. Other than that there was much discussion about possible meetings online.

Community (Val): Apparently our last Pantheacon will be coming up here pretty quick (February 14th-17th).

Officer Reports:
- First Officer (Joanne): No report.
- 2nd Officer: No report.
- Purswarden (Jack): Everything is running smooth and we have over $2000 in our account. Our budget for this year is pending and will be here for next month’s meeting.
- PIO: No report.
- Membership Officer (Joanne): No report.
- Recorder (Val): I am passing out the minutes of last month’s meeting and upon their approval I will send them to National. The minutes prior to this meeting were approved by all.

Old Business:
- Fundraiser at Mimi’s: Stachia is currently working on this and the final location is yet to be determined. The date of this event should be sometime in February after the 14th.
- Yule Dinner: The location is yet to be determined but the date will be on December 8th.
- Virtual Meetings (Web X): Were discussed due to bad weather at this time of year and might become permanent in the future.

New Business:
- The Budget for this year has been tabled until the next meeting.
- Jack nominated Stachia to be his alternate for the Governing Board Representative for National. However, we all agreed that NO alternate Board Representative was needed.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2019.

FO: Val

---

**FOUND GODS & GODDESSES**

**SCARLET: THE GODDESS OF PROCRASTINATION**

By Kendra of Ecclasia)

I know she exists… how, you may ask? Because it must be so! She has affected my life too often for her not to exist. Her name is probably Scarlet, like in the movie Gone With the Wind, and her motto “I’ll think about that tomorrow” or “I’ll get to it in a minute.” I do believe I’m one of her many Priestesses, because she speaks through me often! I hear her holy words popping into my brain often… in fact I’m sure I’ve channeled her many times over again!

Most of her followers have no motivation to finish or even start a web page or a book about her. Thus, making researching this most powerful goddess very difficult. I can imagine however that her many followers have planned to create many wonderful things about her. But they couldn’t exactly be her people if they finished, right?

Her correspondences are as follows (according to my own research and channeling of her aspect):

Element: Air, for the unpredictability of when she appears and disappears.

Color: Undecided… she tends to like that which doesn’t give motivation… I think that is usually “clear.” But sometimes white or black. I think she’ll tell me later.

Planet: Mercury retrograde; for nothing messes up life more than procrastination or mercury retrograde.

Tarot Card: the Tower, again upheaval is generally the result of procrastination.

The Goddess of Procrastination is neither emotional nor logical, though she affects both emotions and logic greatly. The true worshipper of the Goddess of Procrastination can come up with some of the best logic for using procrastination. However, sometimes it is purely an emotional reaction and tears are often a very good way of distracting critics of Procrastination.

She is married to the God of Impatience, which is really a poor match indeed. But because she is partially a Goddess of passion, she can usually keep him from getting too mad at her procrastination. Yes, she is also a Goddess of Passion, but not often. Passion is her defense mode when she has been caught procrastinating. She must have immediate call on her emotions and can either cry or seduce her way out of trouble, another sure sign of her followers.

My research and study of this goddess is not done… nor may it ever be… since I am one of
her priestesses, finishing this report may be more
difficult than I earlier imagined.

**Blast from the Past**

**The Story of Ostera’s Bunny**

Neya, the Goddess of the night, had a beautiful bird, the most beautiful in the world. It’s feathers had all the colors of the rainbow, and when it took flight her wings flashed and shimmered in the sunlight. Ostera, Goddess of spring also had a bird, an owl. Osteras owl was a fine bird, but really quite plain. When Ostera saw Neya’s bird, she wanted it very, very much. Now Neya, since she is the Goddess of the night, slept during the day and only traveled through the dark hours. One day, while Neya was sleeping, Ostera crept up and took the beautiful bird. As you can imagine, Neya was very angry when she woke up. She immediately went to search for her bird. Ostera knew that Neya would look for the beautiful bird, so to hide it she would shape-change the bird (turn it into another animal) every night. For example, if night was coming and Ostera was in a meadow full of horses, she would shape-change the bird into a horse. Unfortunately for Ostera, because of the bird’s beauty, whenever she shape-changed it into another animal it would still be the most beautiful. So when Ostera changed the bird into a horse, it became the most beautiful horse you have ever seen, with a glistening silver coat and a mane that sparkled like diamonds. When Neya awoke and began looking for her bird, she could always find the animal by looking for the most beautiful animal she saw. Because of this Ostera spent most of the night fleeing Neya with the bird, to hide it again. As you probably guessed, after a while Ostera became very tired. One morning she lay down in a field to rest. To her horror when she woke up, she discovered she had slept the whole day away and dusk was coming. All the animals of the forest were out in the field filling their bellies before nightfall, the field was full of deer and rabbits. Ostera knew that Neya would be there soon, and she had to do something fast, but she did not want Neya to be able to recognize her bird again, because of the beauty of the animal. So this time Ostera shape-changed the bird into a rabbit, but she put all of her strength into the spell so that the rabbit would not be the most beautiful, but look just like all the rest of the bunnies in the field. The spell worked, the beautiful bird changed into a plain rabbit, and when Neya passed over she did not recognize her bird in disguise. This is how Ostera’s bunny, or as a lot of people today call her Easter’s bunny came to be. Because the bunny is really a shape-changed bird... she can lay eggs, and because she is the most beautiful bird in the world she lays the most beautiful eggs.
**Membership Rack Card**

**Covenant of Goddess**

**5 Step Application Process**

**Join as a Coven, Individual or Friend**

**CONSIDER LEVEL AND COST**
- The Covenant of the Goddess has three ways you can join the most well-established, and supportive non-profit organization representing Witches and Wiccans in the U.S.
- As a Coven, you have the benefit of bringing all your coven members under a single cost.
- As an individual you may continue your spiritual path as a solitary while networking with amazing people throughout the World.
- Our newest participation level, Friends of CoG, gives anyone interested in supporting the Covenant an opportunity of creating connections with Craft Elders and learning from their craft knowledge and experience.

**Fulfill the requirements**

**FILL OUT FORMS & SUBMIT ESSAY**
- Complete the form that fits your desired level of connection to CoG. Each application requires a Statement of Practice (review our Bylaws for information required in your Statement of Practice), contact information, your signature and title payment.

**Get recommendations**

**ASK TEACHERS OR FRIENDS KNOWN TO COG**
- Provide between one to two Letters of Recommendation from others in the Craft that are known to CoG.

**Complete and submit**

**SEND EMAIL WITH APPLICATION AND LETTERS**
- Send your email to Membership@CoG.Org along with your Letter(s) of Recommendation, Statement of Practice, and application. Your title can be submitted to CoG via www.paypal.me/covenantofthegoddess.

**Your request is published in CoG’s Newsletter**

**ENSURE EVERYTHING’S IN ORDER**
- Once your information is received by the Membership Officer, your Statements of Practice and letters will be published in the next available newsletter. Members of the Covenant will have until the next Sabbat to object. If there are no objections, you’ll be accepted at that Sabbat. If there are any questions, the Membership Officer will contact you.

**Membership as a Coven**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH A LOCAL COUNCIL OR AS A NATIONAL COVEN**
- Depending on your location, you may be near one of the Covenant’s many Local Councils within the contiguous boundary of the United States. If so, consider membership in CoG through affiliation with a Local Council. If you are not located close enough to one of our Local Councils, then you would join CoG as a National Coven.

- All members of the coven would be members of CoG after your membership is completed. Local Councils and National members help CoG thrive when we join together as a community supporting each other and providing education, information and charitable work in your region.

**Individual Membership**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH A LOCAL COUNCIL OR AS A NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL**
- As an individual practitioner, either as a Witch, or Wiccan, you may be located near one of CoG’s many Local Councils within the contiguous boundary of the United States. If so, consider membership in CoG through affiliation with a Local Council. If you are not located close enough to one of our Local Councils, then you would join CoG as a National Individual member.

- As Individuals, you can work with other Individuals (or Solitaries) and form a caucus that presents workshops, build community and have a united voice during Grand Council.

**Friends of CoG**

**BE A PART OF A COMMUNITY ON YOUR TERMS**
- Our newest form of participation in CoG is known as Friends of CoG. Friends of CoG may participate in Local Council activities without the commitment of membership. This way you can enjoy what CoG and their Local Councils have to offer.

- Find friends and community at Pagan events. Attend CoG’s public rituals, workshops or Merry Meet and receive special swag. You can also be a part of our online teams or volunteer at local events.

For more information email outreach@coG.org