

# COVENANT OF THE GODDESS NEWSLETTER



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership Renewals due at Samhain ..... 2

Our Governing Board ..... 2

Letter from The First Officer ..... 2

Reports of Officers ..... 3

    FIRST OFFICER .....3

    SECOND OFFICER .....3

    MEMBERSHIP OFFICER.....3

    PURSEWARDEN .....5

    PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER .....5

    PUBLICATIONS OFFICER .....6

    CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER .....6

    NATIONAL RECORDER .....6

    NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER .....6

Applications ..... 6

    DARIKSON .....6

    MARTHA CAPPO.....7

National Board Minutes..... 7

Local Councils .....16

    CALAFIA .....16

    CHAMISA .....16

    EVERGLADES MOON.....16

    HILLS AND RIVERS .....16

    NORTHERN CALIFORNIA .....16

    ORANGE COUNTY.....19

    SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA .....21

    TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL.....21

    TOUCHSTONE .....24

Blast From the Past.....24

    THE ARDANTANE PROJECT: A PAGAN DREAM .....24

Academic Survey Assistance Requested.....26

Back Matter .....27

    DISTRIBUTION CENTER.....27

    COG ARCHIVES.....27

    YOUTH AWARDS .....27

    SUBSCRIBING TO THE COVENANT’S ELECTRONIC LISTS .....27

    GENERAL INFORMATION .....28

    COG SOCIAL MEDIA .....29

National Officers .....30

CoG Interfaith Representatives.....31

Local Council Lists/Contacts .....31

Applications and Forms.....34

Bylaws and Policy Manuals .....34



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 SAMHAIN

Samhain renewals are due on **October 31, 2020**. The Drop-dead date is **November 10, 2020** 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:**

- ❖ CAIM OF THE DESERT MOON

**EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:**

- ❖ Marla K Robinson
- ❖ Spelcastor

**HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL:**

- ❖ WITCHES OF ARADIA

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE

**ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE

**TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:**

- ❖ Circle of the Unicorn
- ❖ Coven Firemoon

**TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE

**NATIONAL COVENS:**

- ❖ Circle of the Solitary
- ❖ Our Lady of the Prairie
- ❖ Our Lady of the Trinity

**NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:**

- ❖ Lady Pythia

**FRIENDS OF CoG:** NONE

## OUR GOVERNING BOARD

- National First Officer – Lord Verderius
- National Purse Warden – Manny
- Calafia Representative – Catherine
- Chamisa – Tiffany B.
- Everglades Moon – Raven
- Hills & Rivers – Lauren T.
- Northern California – Thea Bristlebroom
- Orange County – Janine
- Southern California – Monica / Lady Mariah
- Texas – Orin
- Touchstone – Lord Soec
- National Covens – Lord Solandrin
- National Individual Members – Grace Moonhawk *pro tem*

## LETTER FROM THE FIRST OFFICER

Seasonal Salutations CoG Members,

The Gracious Goddess bestows Her bountiful blessings upon us, as we gather to celebrate the fullness of the Harvest Season! How fortunate are we to have time to focus on our magickal and Craft workings, while we all remain sheltered at home from the Covid-19 Pandemic. The great lady now calls us to the feast table to share in the joys of celebrating the abundance of the second harvest. Let us make ourselves ready to share in this feast!

We have collectively survived the many turns of the Wheel this year during this Global Pandemic. Even though the days are waning on length, the future looks brighter, as we patiently await a vaccine emerge in the next few months ahead. We all need to continue to stay safe and sheltered at home, until they are able to administer the future vaccine. The Goddess has been keeping a watchful eye over us during these many troubling days... And for that fact, we should be grateful for Her protection!

Since our last Sabbat, the two boards have had a couple collective board meetings, after our virtual Grand Council meeting held last month. We are formulating the future endeavors for CoG, as we put new plans in place for the coming year. Additionally, we are working on the schedule of our future board meetings as we plan to transform and grow in the Covenant during the coming years ahead.

Samhain is not just a click away on the Great Wheel... Soon the Governing Board shall take the leadership role of managing the needs of the Covenant. There are plans being made for the future expansion and development of the CoG. Additionally, our membership will now have a greater voice to participate in the shaping and manifesting of our amazing magickal organization. Let us know if you wish to take an active role working with us to shape the future of CoG together.

As we move toward the final days of our this current year, let us focus on the bright future that we shall create through our collective workings. The future is ours to bend and shape to our will. Let us be leaders





in making a difference in the world around us. We must inspire the youth to work together with us to turn back the tide of chaos and untruthfulness. Let our magick be wrought with the changes we wish to see for the betterment of our great nation and the larger world we all share together with many other nations. Let's work on creating Peace and Harmony for all peoples of this great Earth!

Please stay safe and remember to Vote on our national election day!

I am wishing you all abundant Harvest Blessings and a Joyful Mabon!!

With Thankfulness,  
Lord Verderius  
National First Officer

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### FIRST OFFICER

The Executive Board and Governing Board met on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss how we felt our virtual Grand Council meeting went. There was much discussion and overall the feeling was that it was a success in a year that has had many great challenges dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We also discussed the change over between the two boards with the leadership of the Covenant being securely placed into the hands of the Governing Board at Samhain. We spoke quite a bit about having a transition committee set-up to assist in this endeavor and make recommendation to both boards for a smooth transition. We will be further discussing this matter and setting up a committee during our next joint board meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, the board was informed by the current Correspondence Officer that we needed to update and expand our materials for prisoners beyond basic 101 materials. This discussion lead the way to the boards discussing and incorporating a new mission in Prison Ministry for Pagan/Wiccan/Witches who are incarcerated. Lady K had suggested that this seems to be a growing need and a few members of CoG are already doing prison ministry work. Both Macha and Faelind work at facilitating rituals and studies for prisoners in their perspective states. They both had lots to share during the discussion, and we will be working to establish a new committee to begin this important work.

Also, I have met with our Marketing & Outreach committee and we are working on several upcoming events and a few special projects that we will share as we have made some progress on these special undertakings. Please keep your eyes open for future announcements on our upcoming events. There are several events scheduled during the next two months.

The Covenant of the Goddess with be celebrating our 45th Year Anniversary on All Hallows Eve! This is a significant mile stone for us as a spiritual and magickal organization, and we have much to celebrate! Please plan to join us for a special evening

of merriment and festivity hosted via Zoom on that evening. Further details on our Anniversary Celebration will be sent out next month. We look forward to continued growth and prosperity for the Covenant in the many years ahead.

Both boards are eager to get to work on establishing new ways we can assist CoG in its growth. Future membership drives should be considered once again, after the Covid-19 Pandemic has ended. Lets work together to make the coming year the best ever for CoG!

With Anticipation,  
Lord Verderius

### SECOND OFFICER

OCLC is waiting for confirmation from the Holiday Inn Santa Ana of the site availability and costs for MerryMeet/Grand Council 2021.

Morgana

### MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Grand Council was well attended and barring a few glitches was a great success! We were able to complete the Covenant's Business in one day on Zoom. I think that might be a record! Here are the numbers for quorum purposes:

Quorum Calculations
<b>128 Members Total</b>
<b>Covens 67</b>
<b>IM Caucuses 5</b>
<b>72 x 25% = 18 Present</b>
<b>Covens 67</b>
<b>IM Caucuses 5</b>
<b>72 x 50% = 36 Virtual and/or Proxy</b>
<b>47 Delegates and Proxy Holders Present</b>
<b>Quorum met on both criteria</b>

Samhain pre-filled renewal forms will be mailed out on September 20<sup>th</sup> and will be due by November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Regarding both our National Covens and Individual members, I am happy to announce that the National Covens have chosen Lord Solandrin from Grove of the Willow Wood as their Governing Board delegate! He also needs an alternate and the



National Individual members still need a Board Rep AND an alternate. Exciting news that Grace Moonhawk has thrown her hat in the ring and we will be meeting shortly with the Individual Members so that they can decide on their board delegate.

Canu and I continue to reset Usernames and passwords for access to the new Forums and Member's side of the CoG Website. Having individual Usernames provides more security and a more efficient system of correspondence. We have completed Chamisa, Everglades Moon, and Hills & Rivers. If you are a member of these councils and still do not have access, please contact me or the NetCo. NCLC has been notified and we will continue to work with them followed by OCLC and SoCal. There is a time constraint on using these resets, so please do so quickly! The e-lists are set to be retired at Samhain.

Our new YouTube channel is receiving a bit more traffic and content is being uploaded as it becomes available. There are new videos on Prosperity Magick and accessing the new forums. If you would like to share content, please contact me, the PIO or Outreach Officer. SUBSCRIBE to the YouTube Channel to see when new content is uploaded!

As always, 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 on AIR and DD! They can also be found below. If there are any objections, please contact me at membership@cog.org

- **Friends of CoG**
  - Marilyn Wardlow (Silvermist)
  - Carlos Maciel (Darikson)
- **Covens and Individuals**
  - Bryce Woyak (National)
- **Welcome New Members and FoC!**
  - Coven of Leita Visindi (HRLC)
  - Dreamwalkers of Delos (OCLC)
  - Moonwater SilverClaw (NCLC)
  - Albion's Spirit (EMLC)
- **Transfer Requests**
  - None
- **Overdue/Lapsed Members** (Contact me immediately to avoid cancellation!)
  - None

• **Cancelled Members**

- Circle of Wind and Wave (Calafia)
- Circle Athenaeum (Calafia)
- Arnold Kameda (National) ~ deceased

**Membership Status:**

We currently have 132 Members total, consisting of 70 Covens, and 62 Individual Members; and we now have 6 Friends of CoG. Our growth has been increasing all year despite losing several covens and individuals due to retirement and crossing over.

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.

The following members are due at **Mabon** and have until **10/1/2020** to renew:

<b>Roster Name</b>	<b>Local Council</b>
Charlie Kiene	Chamisa
Ceos	Everglades Moon
Pantera Apolonaris Draconus	Everglades Moon
Alpandia	Everglades Moon
Bendith y Cynr	National
MoonFire	National
Silver Serpent Coven	National
Banshee Shadowwolf	National
Circle of the Ancient Grove	National
Greenheart Grove	National
Oberon Osiris	National
Darkmoon Circle	Northern CA
Coven Trismegiston	Northern CA
Stardust Coven	Northern CA
Owl Moon	Northern CA
Waxing Moon Circle	Northern CA
Daduchos Coven	Northern CA
Cary the Faerie	Northern CA
Marilee Bigelow	Northern CA
Brigid Lutrason	Northern CA
Rita Rippetoe	Northern CA
William Baldwin	Northern CA
Felicity Grove	Northern CA
M Macha NightMare	Northern CA
Circle of Earth Sea Sky	Texas
Circle of the Emerald Forest	Touchstone

The following members are due at **Samhain** and have until **11/10/2020** to renew:

<b>Roster Name</b>	<b>Local Council</b>
Caim of the Desert Moon	Chamisa
Marla K. Roberson	Everglades Moon
Spelcastor	Everglades Moon
Witches of Aradia	Hills and Rivers
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  
 Brightest Blessings,  
 Dee Proctor (Lady K) NMO

**PURSEWARDEN**

I would like to thank the Covenant for your trust in allowing me to serve our organization as National Pursewarden again. It has been an honor to serve the organization and I remain grateful for your confidence.

**TOTAL ASSETS REPORT** (Please note this is not a Fiscal Year End Report)

Our total National assets at the time of writing are as follows:

- In our CHASE Primary Account: \$80,289.58 (as of 8/1/20)
- In our Interfaith Account: \$5,585.62 (as of 8/1/20)
- In our PayPal Account: \$4,629.46. These include donations and payments to the Covenant using this platform since 11/1/2019. I have occasionally used it to speed processing of payments.
- These represent out total and current liquid assets of \$90,504.66 of which \$20,000 is restricted (we allocated \$5,000 in 2019 for promotion/outreach from Deborah Ann Light's gift for the 'future of the Covenant').
- Additionally, we have in an annually renewed CD at Synchrony: \$32,961.08 (as of 6/30/2020)

Our current total assets are **\$123,465.74**

**TAX FILING AND CORPORATE FILING**

All state tax filing and federal filing followed the audit and were completed on February 24, 2019 and subsequently executed on July 14, 2020 by Purple Mountain, our tax service.

Our corporate filing for CA was complete in October 2019.

**MAJOR DISBURSEMENTS**

Our usual major disbursements are related to travel which has not occurred this year. Our only major disbursement was for promotion and outreach per GC allocation in 2019.

Purple Mountains Tax charges \$1,000 for accounting services annually.

**MANAGEMENT NOTES:**

- The Covenant's finances are currently stable. The lack of travel has strengthened our finances. We have saved some \$8,000 even with additional expenses for outreach.
- The Covenant grew in membership and, while our growth rate remains a challenge, we have

reversed the negative revenue trajectory of the past few years.

- We still have funds in three separate institutions: Chase, Wells-Fargo and Synchrony with Local Councils using some other local banks.  
 This is a necessary inefficiency now, but we should seek to align our resources to simply reporting in the future. I mention this – like before- not to identify an immediate solution but to log that as soon as we are able, we should align our resources better.
- As membership expands and stabilizes our financial health, we must remain vigilant for new and diverse revenue streams.
- Our new governing board will hopefully act quickly to clarify their stewardship obligations and development activities.

Blessed Be,  
 Manny

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

The following is a summary of the recent Marketing activities for CoG.

- Marketing & Outreach meeting on 8/24/20:
- Discussed reading lists as a way to update the current bibliography that's on the CoG website.
- Categorize lists by topic, subject or author.
- One basic list for new Witches on their path.
- Other lists with more details for Members Only.
- We are also looking into a way for CoG Members to review books on these lists. These lists are books available in print currently, but not endorsed by CoG...merely a service.
- September and October our campaign is #COGREMEMBERS.
- I reached out on Forums asking for members to provide stories, or histories reflecting the start of CoG. As of today, I have not had any responses.
- Also reviewing archived newsletters, but can only access as far back as the '80s. If you have a fun memory of a past CoG event, please consider sharing. These stories will be posted to social media.
- Our Wednesday with Witches was held on 9/2/20 celebrating the Full Moon, Triple Moon Goddesses and other Moon Goddesses we have enjoyed working with as Pagans and Witches. We had a large group online and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening and sharing stories of their traditions and practices. Our next Wednesday with Witches will be "Members Only," 9/16/20 where we will discuss ideas and suggestions on the direction of CoG.
- Lady K created a video for Magic Monday on prosperity magic





- Video was posted to our YouTube channel and Facebook. It was specifically created with Labor Day in mind.
- There will be a 9/11 Remembrance hosted by Lady K. A zoom link will be provided and may be Live on Facebook.
- We are excited for our Witches Brew Party scheduled for 9/20/20 at 5pm. This is in celebration of Women’s Friendship Day; however we decided it would include the public, women and all those who love them. Bring your favorite brew (tea, sangria, coffee) recipe to share.
- We are also planning a CoG Anniversary Party in October. We hope our Members will join us in celebrating CoG’s 45th Anniversary.

**PUBLICATIONS OFFICER**

Once again the wheel turns and we still find ourselves dealing with the pandemic. Times are hard, but I find myself listening to those who have dealt with pandemics and quarantines before and listening to them in some ways give comfort and wisdom. *“It is hard to answer the man who says his business has been hurt by the quarantine, but it will be impossible to answer the one who says, my child has died because of the neglect of the state.”* Rabbi Bergman, Temple Albert, 1918

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).

**CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER**

No report submitted.

**NATIONAL RECORDER**

No report submitted. (Please see National Board Minutes, pg. 14.)

**NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER**

No report submitted.



**APPLICATIONS**



**DARIKSON**

**Friends of CoG**

Buenos Aries, Argentina

**LETTER OF INTRODUCTION**

Dear National Membership Officer,

Merry meet brothers and sisters, my name is Carlos Maciel and I was born in Corrientes, a small town in Northern Argentina, 37 years ago, nearly our Imbolc celebration in august 6.

I was raised and educated as Catholic, but when I was 17, I started to get curious about Wicca, spent a whole year researching, reading and celebrating almost hidden our Sabbats. At age 18, I self-dedicated and continue as a solitary practitioner till this day.

Although we are free to believe in the ancients, Wicca is not a recognized religion in my country. Also, there is no covens, ordained high priestess or priests, so as you can see being a witch or Wiccan for us is to be aware that we are going to have a lot of brothers and sisters in the craft, but no organization. Individuals trying to make a community the best way we can.

Recently, we were actively acting on the social media in a joint effort of many sorcerers of different branches to avoid the enslavement and commercialization of our beliefs. So, we have come out to the light of social networks, to share our knowledge about our beliefs and to guide those who, although they do not believe in our gods, are interested in magical practices and are interested in learning to develop their inner power.

This is me, an adult man who has not lost hope and has not lost his idealism. That year after year I continue to learn and renew my love for this beautiful path that I discovered almost by chance. An adult man who after many years finally felt ready and had the courage to contact those he had read about when he was still a curious teenager and everything seemed so far away.

This is me, brothers and sisters, a grown man who felt his heart explode when I read Dee Proctor’s answers to my questions.

I truly hope to be part of this beautiful community.

Yours Sincerely,

Darikson  
Carlos M



## MARTHA CAPPO

**Friends of CoG**  
Miami, Florida

### LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Dear National Membership Officer,

I am a Hekatean Witch applying to be a Friend of Covenant of the Goddess. As part of living out my Solitary practice I try to embody Hekate's aspects of Guardian (Medusa), Guide (Enodia) and Gatekeeper (Rixipyle [breaking down the gates]) in my daily interactions. I find my work as the editor of Patheos Pagan's *The Agora* offers me ample opportunities to serve as a guide to the writers, a guardian of their online safety, and as a gatekeeper for new writers, many times offering them an opening to break through to new opportunities.

My spiritual journey led me to Wicca several years ago when my now adult children were in elementary school. For the years of their growing up I was very much closeted, but have been more open about my beliefs for the past decade or so. Although I was a co-founding member of a Kindred several years ago, and led with that Kindred the Opening Circle of Chicago's Pagan Pride in 2018, I am still at heart a Solitary Practitioner.

My daily Practice consists of a morning devotion at my Hekatean altar, honoring Enodia, Brimo, Rixipyle and Medusa and, during hurricane season, Einalia. I also call on Hekate Chthonia as I speak a prayer for the dead as part of my devotional Practice, and anoint myself using moon water from my blessing bowl before beginning my day.

My monthly Practice includes honoring Hekate during the dark moon, and honoring the moon and Earth energies during the full moon at my outdoor altar. I keep a small shrine to Brigid in the kitchen, and do what I can to maintain right relationships with the guardian oaks on the land where I am living. I have reviewed the Code of Ethics and find I will have no trouble abiding by them. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

May You Be Well,  
Martha Capo

### LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

Dear Lady K, National Membership Officer of CoG,

Dear Lady Bridget, Membership Officer of EMLC,

Beachfyre Coven is happy to recommend Martha Kirby Capo for membership as a Friend of CoG. We were fortunate to meet Martha shortly after she moved to the Miami area about a year ago, when she reached out to members of our coven. We have since had the pleasure to circle

with her (via zoom) and socialize a few times. She is already a wonderful addition to our south Florida witch community, and we are excited to plan future events together once the pandemic has eased up.

Martha brings a wealth of experience and skill to the Craft. She has a dedicated solitary practice, is a skilled ritualist, and serves the community through her editorship at Patheos. She will be a real asset to CoG, and I hope she eventually pursues full membership.

May the Gods Preserve the Craft,  
Lady Rayna Templebee, HPS  
Beachfyre Coven  
Miami Springs, Florida

**[Editor's Note: We regret that Martha's application was inadvertently not printed in the Lammas newsletter. Our sincere apologies for this oversight.]**

## NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES

~ August 23, 2020

Board meeting convened at 10 past the hour. Lord V spoke a beautiful invocation.

*Gracious Coventina!*

*Goddess of growth and spiritual fountain of life-giving waters,*

*Be with us now.*

*Lead us in your ways as you light the immeasurable path before us.*

*Coventina, Great Matron of the Covenant,*

*Share with us your insight that shall enable us to collectively work together in your humble honor of your Grand Design.*

*Sacred Goddess of inspiration lend us your aid and bring the Covenant back into abundance through your illumination.*

*Assist us to establish growth and prosperity for the Covenant.*

*We, your devoted children, seek your strength and encouragement.*

*Blessed Be!*

**Roll Call** – (Quorum is two-thirds present): We have Quorum.

### National Officers:

- ✓ First Officer – Lord Verderius – Present
- ✓ Second Officer – Morgana – Present
- ✓ Membership Officer – Lady K – Present
- ✓ Publications Officer – Lord Soec – Present
- ✓ Pursewarden – Qabal – Qabal Present
- ✓ Public Information Officer – Janine N. – Present
- Outreach Officer – Brandon P. – Absent
- ✓ Correspondence Officer – David L. – Present





- ✓ Recorder – Faelind – Present

**Governing Board Representatives:**

- ✓ Calafia LC – Catherine – Catherine Present
- ✓ Chamisa LC – Ryan C. / Alt: Tiffany B. – Ryan Present
- ✓ Everglades Moon LC – Raven / Alt: Lord Rieken – Raven & Lord Rieken Present
- Hills & Rivers LC – Lauren / Alt: Jamie D. – Absent
- ✓ Northern California LC – Thea / Alt: Deborah B. – Thea & Deborah Present
- ✓ Orange County LC – Janine / Alt: Morgana – Janine & Morgana Present
- ✓ Southern California LC – Lady Mariah / Alt: Lisa M. – Lady Mariah Present
- ✓ Texas LC – Orin / Alt: Willow McKenna – Orin Present
- ✓ Touchstone LC – Lord Soec – Lord Soec Present
- ✓ National Covens – Lord Solandrin – Lord Solandrin Present
- National Individual Members – Grace Moonhawk – Absent

**Officer Reports:**

*NO OFFICER REPORTS DUE*

**Governing Board Rep Reports:**

*NO REPORTS DUE*

Lord V opened the meeting by stating his wish to keep the meeting lighthearted and upbeat so there are no reports due, and he wanted to get everyone’s feedback on Grand Council.

David opened the floor and said he enjoyed Grand Council and thought it had been managed well and was very interesting. People did not step on each other.

Faelind brought up the feedback received in the COG Members’ Wednesday with Witches (WWW) meeting where folks thought GC felt rushed and wouldn’t have minded having the meeting go over two days instead of trying to get through required items in one day. The board discussed how wrong we had been in thinking that no one wanted to be on Zoom for two days. Janine reminded us they said a shorter day but over two days.

Janine thought it went fairly smoothly. We had to be very flexible in the back-office work we did to manage the meeting. We learned a lot of great feedback from the WWW call such as we could have communicated the queue better as folks may not have been able to see where they were in the queue. Janine likes having only one day because it helped us consolidate our own thoughts and everyone was prepared.

Faelind brought up that if we had to do it again, since we do not know what next year will bring, perhaps we could hold it on a Saturday since many people wanted to come but had to work.

Janine noted that it has taken 2 days to get through the agenda which is why it usually starts on a Friday.

The board discussed how a whole day can be just reports and felt that no one wanted to sit on zoom while folks read their reports, but Lord Rieken noted that not hearing what the Local Councils are doing was missed. Manny suggested that if we do Grand Council virtually again, perhaps LC’s can videotape their reports along with including them in the agenda so people could listen to the reports at their leisure.

Manny thought that holding Grand Council virtually is something we should do every year. We still need to wrestle with what it means to work in a consensus model online. We managed it effectively, but if we’d had a more complicated proposal agenda and did not have the indulgence of the membership due to a pandemic, it may have been very difficult to do. Particularly when we have to make harder decisions. We really need to think about how we take the knowledge we learned this year and to build on that. He doesn’t think this is our last virtual Grand Council and he also doesn’t think we should give up MerryMeet. The opportunity for the Covenant to come together is something that should continue.

The board discussed how folks who attend Grand Council often don’t get to attend to much of the MerryMeet offerings because they are busy in Grand Council. We could hold MerryMeet when ever we want and keep the business meeting of Grand Council on a schedule that allows us to meet legal requirements. Orin liked the idea of having them separated so that Grand Council work could be done virtually while we could hang out with each other for MerryMeet.

Thea offered that each Local Council could hold its own MerryMeet. It would allow COG members to gather. It could also be a regional thing where there is an east coast, middle of the country, and west coast MerryMeets happening at the same time. Morgana added that she wants to see other LC CoG members and see other parts of the country. She wants to see how other people are doing things, she knows her own Local Council. Macha added that splitting them up is defeating the purpose of gathering. She has made some dear friends in the past years of GC/MM but realizes that it is impractical to hold GC/MM rough like we used to do. We could not afford to fly with the additional baggage that would be required to bring everything into a campground. Deborah added that though it was wonderful, the rural places that we used to hold GC/MM would not accommodate the necessary internet connection for virtual attendees. One benefit of dividing up Grand Council from MerryMeet would be to allow MerryMeet to be in



nature, and Grand Council could still be attended virtually.

Macha brought up that CoG provides a stipend to allow folks to attend Grand Council because it is necessary to handle our business. That would not be true for MerryMeet. Manny suggested that we could propose something like a Diversity Stipend so that we could subsidize folks attending MerryMeet.

Lord Riekin suggested that we would need to put the budget after the proposals so that we could ensure the budget could pay for any of the proposals that passed and Manny agreed, noting that we did it this year first, and for the first time, because we wanted to be sure we had time to get through the items that are required by law, adopting a budget and election of officers. Lord Riekin does not think we should subsidize people attending MerryMeet if we take Grand Council virtual. Manny noted that we balance the budget immediately if we hold a Virtual Grand Council but there is a way to subsidize those that may be helping with MerryMeet or we could do special fund-raising for it. Deborah agreed that fund-raising would be a good idea and noted that we have folks who have a hard time paying for tithes now and we don't want to get into a situation where only those who are well-off are able to attend. David agreed that we would want to help provide a way for folks to attend because the fellowship of people at MerryMeet strengthens the organization.

Thea agreed that the budget needs to be after the proposals, and we need a way to have proposals from the floor. She sees Local Council Merry Meets as fulfilling two objectives. 1) As a way to help membership growth, and 2) Fundraising.

**Old Business:**

**1. Virtual Grand Council Discussion**

- a. Elaborate on 3 things that you felt were great/well done on our Virtual Grand Council
- b. Elaborate on 3 things that you believe need improvement for a Virtual Grand Council

Lord V began the discussion with his positives –

- 1. Flexible use of the Zoom Meeting platform – the icons were helpful – the polling went very well
- 2. The online Zoom registration and the use of the waiting room that allowed quorum to be accounted for quickly
- 3. The virtual platform allowed for more people to attend since they didn't have to travel and the cost for virtual helped our budget

And then the negatives –

- 1. Frustration for members who did not have good quality sound and video
- 2. The difficulty with the host and co-host changes
- 3. Need to have better control over muting so that we do not lock muting on everyone

Deborah asked if we could go around and each list our positives and then come back around and list our negatives.

Thea suggested that we do it the other way around so that we are left with the positives. The board agreed to do this.

Negatives:

Manny thought the format carried a risk of eroding our consensus process and we need to spend more time developing online consensus.

Orin thought we should make better use of the break-out rooms. Be aware of the discussions and suggest a bio-break and say let's take this to a break-out room for discussion. That will help with consensus. He agreed the proxy issue where attendance should override a former proxy should be reviewed and noted that we had an issue marking folks as non-voting when they were in fact eligible to vote.

Macha thought the consensus process did suffer virtually as she felt that if Grand Council were in person, she would have been able to get her proposal passed.

Lady K noted that putting non-voters in the waiting room was time-consuming and she was trying to hurry. She didn't know what else to do for voting. It was not ideal because if folks were signed in with two devices, she put the wrong device into the waiting room.

Deborah said it was good to have the budget materials early this year, but it could be better. She would like more information on the budget such as what was the budget last year so we can compare and note where there are changes. She would also like to see a proposed budget and actual costs. Deborah also noted that when folks were in the waiting room, they could not communicate with each other so that was not ideal. She thinks with more testing and more preparation we can avoid issues. Deborah also brought up how we do consensus in a normal Grand Council where it is quite informal and a little sloppy makes it more difficult virtually. There are ways and tools we can use to make our consensus process better. She listed that there are different phases of consensus process such as when you are discussing a proposal and when you are determining if you have consensus. These are separate things. She thinks that perhaps we need to work on a proposal this year to help define the different steps and phases



that the Covenant of the Goddess will follow for consensus as different people have a different understanding.

Faelind added that when trading off host and co-host with Lady K to enable voting, the recording was stopped. Faelind started the recording as host, but when she transferred host to Lady K, the recording stopped as she was no longer host. So all the voting of the budget and election of officers was not recorded, which is OK for the minutes as we know what happened and it will be correctly documented, but in the future, that could be a significant issue to lose any recording of discussions around proposals. We are hoping that future versions of Zoom have a solution to voting. She also agreed that it is not helpful that when someone shows up, they were unable to vote because their quorum form had been submitted to GC as a whole. They ended up feeling disenfranchised and hurt and it may just be that some of our COG processes may need to be reviewed.

Lord Soec agreed with Deborah and believes that we each have our own ideas of what consensus process is. We should define it and get it put into the Policy Manual. Get it down in writing so folks have something to review to learn how we do consensus in COG. Macha added that at one point in time new members learned how to do consensus process in a training session. Janine added that there are different versions of consensus process that are all similar on the website. Perhaps we should consolidate to one version. Morgana added that OCLC has a session on consensus process planned for Leadership for next year's Grand Council.

#### Positives:

Lord V stated that overall, we feel that this year was a great success with a steep learning curve doing something unprecedented for the first time. He was very proud of the board for all their hard work.

Deborah thought the Agenda was very well done and it was published in advance so that folks had time to review it. She thought that Janine's consensus process overview was clear, concise, and the right length for the call. She also thought that people were called upon who had something to say and were called on in the right order. There were people watching the chat. People didn't get blocked from expressing themselves.

Thea thought that the meeting was managed very well. She thought it a good idea that we limited proposals but if we continue to do virtual Grand Councils, she believes we will need a way to take proposals from the floor. She liked that the proposals were shared on screen and amendments were added real-time so that people could quickly see what was happening. She thinks it is a good

thing that Zoom only allows one person to speak at a time, though we did have some interference. She encouraged the board to provide feedback to Zoom for things we want Zoom to do better. Perhaps there are better icons for consensus process meetings, for example.

## **2. Lady K to discuss the need for Quorum/Proxy Forms for attendance (Legal Requirements) –**

Lady K noted that she was taught that we are required to have signatures on file every year for our membership, and that quorum forms are required but there is nothing in the bylaws or policy manual that says signatures are required every year. She doesn't know the reasoning behind this.

Manny suggested that this all has to do with the definition of a member. As long as we keep a role of who is a member, we don't legally need a signature on file.

He spoke about a Zoom enhancement for an Enterprise Zoom platform he is using for the university, where each attendee link would be able to identify that attendee as something unique. This could be a possibility of noting who is a voting member and who is not.

Thea suggested that originally the signature was wanted each year on the renewal, but times are changing, and perhaps that needs to be looked at. In the case where someone is representing a coven or someone else, you need to have the signature to know that this is the representative of that Coven. It is the only way the membership officer knows.

Thea also wondered if there was a way to do a roll call and then those people could send a private chat to the membership officer to vote. It would require that Lady K had time for both the roll call and the resulting tally required for each vote.

#### **New Business:**

### **Prison Ministry & Outreach Program (Set-up a Committee and Develop with Macha's help) –**

David brought up that we have only a 101 packet to send to inmates who request it. There is a need to expand what the Correspondence Officer can send to those inmates who request something more advanced. David is willing to chair the committee. Macha added that she has a private facebook page for Pagan folks around the country who minister to prisons and there is so much information it should be a book. Every state has different rules. She has compiled all the groups in the United States that deliver book donations to prisons. Macha would like to see a more formal Prison Ministry from Covenant of the Goddess and perhaps training for folks who want to do this work. Lord Solandrin added that his group has been contacted by folks in County Jails and they are





sending their own materials so they are interested in this effort. Macha noted that often folks move around a lot in the jail system rather than the prison system. Lord Solandrin is willing to be on the committee. Lady K suggested that we begin a Forum for Prison Ministry. Manny added that there is a Prison Ministry Association called the National Association for Catholic Chaplains that we should contact so we don't have to reinvent the wheel. Macha added that we also need resources to help reintegrate inmates who are released. Macha is also getting requests for volunteers for mental health facilities. Janine noted that it sounds like there are two efforts here. One is a formal organization for Prison Ministry, and another is the Committee David is willing to chair to create new advanced materials the Correspondence Officer can send to inmates upon request.

Lord V asked the combined board to think about the next two topics and prepare to discuss at the next meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> since the meeting has already run two hours.

Discuss the future vision for the Covenant (Brainstorm)

Select 5 most important items/missions/tasks to work on in the future and prioritize them.

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

- Thea added an agenda item about communications. She has requested that her and the other Governing Board Reps be added to the old email lists. She goes to the archives to read the elist mail so she also asked for the archives to remain visible. Deborah added that they used to be able to go into the archives from the website, but Lady K suggested that they use the monthly email that the old elist sends out to access the archives that way because it had been removed from the website to encourage people to transition to the forums. Thea had not heard that the old eLists would be eliminated at Samhain and Lord V said it was mentioned at Grand Council. (It is in his National First Officer Report.)
- **Creation of a Transition Committee (Introduction) – Will be discussed in detail at next meeting September 12**

Deborah shared her proposal for the creation of a transition committee for the practical operation of the Governing Board. She noted that though she has listed two duties of the chair, she doesn't mean to limit to only those duties.

This is the largest structural change in COG since its inception. On a board meeting, we don't have time to go into the types of things she envisions the committee would do because when the board meets it is busy taking care of business, so this is separate from that.

There will be reports from the committee that will require further consideration. She is suggesting that the committee should have a good representation from both boards and be at least 4 people.

Topics would be:

- Operating procedures of the Governing Board
- Relationship and interactions between the two boards – lines of authority
- Communications – cross communications, joint meetings

#### **Creation of a Transition Committee (submitted from Deborah Bender)**

##### **Goals**

To help prepare the Governing Board to take up its responsibilities, by identifying questions that are likely to arise and making recommendations. To help clarify the relationship between the Executive Board and the Governing Board.

##### **Duties**

This committee will be advisory. It will consider three topics: the operating procedures of the Governing Board, the relationship between the two Boards, and interactions between the Boards.

The Committee will submit written reports addressed to both Boards. The reports will contain recommendations and identify areas that need further consideration.

##### **Composition**

Initially the Committee will be composed of members of both Boards, one or more people from the National bodies, and members of three or more Local Councils, for a minimum size of four. The makeup of the Committee may change over time.

##### **Meetings**

The Committee will meet ahead of the joint Board meeting in September and submit a written report to the Boards. It will meet again before the joint Board meeting in October and submit a written report. The Committee will meet after Samhain and submit a report to the Boards. The post-Samhain report will recommend whether the Committee shall continue meeting with the same purpose, change its purpose, or disband.

##### **Duties of Chairperson**

The Chair of the Committee will see to it that the Committee meets at least three times and produces timely written reports.

Manny thanked Deborah for bringing this up. He personally feels frustrated with what the new board is going to do. His entire professional career experience has been interacting with boards and serving on them and he runs a University



program to help non-profits get better at managing their boards. He believes the Governing Board does two things – provide stewardship and monitor mission. He feels frustrated because he doesn't think that is what was voted on in last year's Grand Council. We've been functioning as a working board which does the work and reports on the work done and have been doing that for decades. In his experience the new Governing Board would review that work to ensure we were not going outside the scope of our mission and that the work was getting accomplished. But the new board that begins in 9 weeks may actually do more than that. That is where he is unclear because the new Governing Board is really a congress with representation from each of the constituencies that bring items forward and we now have a second working board rather than a governing board.

Lord Soec agreed that what we established in New Mexico is more representative of the Covenant as a whole, but it was left up to the board to determine what they do. The Governing Board doesn't need to turn around and do the same jobs as the officers.

Lady Mariah believes it is clear that the board does more than monitor whether we are on the right track because we don't have a track at all. We spend an inordinate amount of time discussing whether we should pay for folks to go to Merry Meet and the larger perception of the membership is that we don't do anything, we just go to a meeting every year. One of the reasons we are now going to have a Governing Board is to figure out a reason for this organization to exist because in recent years a lot of people have started to say maybe we have no reason to exist. The Governing Board will determine a focus for the Covenant and define, "Why are we here? Why do we exist?" Perhaps there are things that the Governing Board should be doing instead of the Officers such as taking on Committee work. As representatives of each constituency, we need to come up with reasons to be passionate about this organization and going to Merry Meet is not it. She sees the Governing Board role as more visionary.

Manny added that he worked with Amber K on the Governing Board proposal at length. The Governing Board was meant to be representative. The Governing Board is subjected to the rules of Grand Council and does not have any authority. The Governing Board ensures the proposals at Grand Council are executed and that they don't stray from the mission of COG. He believes the Governing Board should not be a working board, but that the strategy of activities be executed by the officers. Other Governing Boards raise funds for mission-consistent activities. The membership voted on a representative body to bring voice of all the constituencies together.

Lady Mariah agreed that the Governing Board should be representative and that they should be generating ideas and bringing forth proposals to Grand Council that didn't require so much 'ironing out' because the work was done ahead of time by communicating with their constituencies. Manny agreed that in the future perhaps it is the Governing Board who brings forth proposals from their constituencies rather than members. That would be a consistent activity for a Governing Board.

Deborah agreed with Lady Mariah and most of what Manny said, but believes there are a lot of people in COG who would like to do a lot of things for COG or through COG but we have not had a structure that enabled them. The only way we previously had for anyone to help guide or give direction to COG was to run for a National Office, but over the years they have required so much commitment and skill sets that one may not have. But on the Governing Board, you can be that voice and provide that voice for those in your constituency. Initially, it was thought that the work would be done in the Local Council, and the board would be administrative, and while that is still true, we have learned it is a lot harder to initiate and maintain a functional Local Council than we thought it would be. About half of our members are no longer within a Local Council and so have no structure to work within COG. These are systemic problems that the Officers do not have time to tackle and if they do it is only as a crisis. We need a body that plans ahead. We need to set some goals.

Thea added that communication is paramount between the rep and those they represent and that they could bring concerns and requests for help to the national body to help prevent the loss of Local Councils for example.

Lord Rieken suggests that the Governing Board should be exploring new concepts for COG to consider. For example, moving from our current membership model to an individual membership model, or let's focus on one thing we do clearly. The primary thing COG did 25 years ago was a credentialing service that was recognized by all 50 states. That was a purpose. We need a purpose and some clear direction.

Lord Soec wanted to remind everyone that we have a Mission and Vision statement that is posted on the website and at the beginning of every newsletter, but we do need some goals and guidance. Lord V added that we are talking about a grander vision for the Covenant such as, "What is the future of COG? Where are we going in the future? How do we grow that? How do we manifest that?" The National Officers don't have the bandwidth to follow these types of grand ideas.

**Meeting Adjourned:**



Meeting Adjourned three hours later at 5 past the hour.



~ September 12, 2020

### Invocation:

Lord Verderius spoke a beautiful invocation.

**Roll Call – (Quorum is two-thirds present):** We have 7 of 9 Officer's present. We have Quorum.

### National Officers:

- ✓ First Officer – Lord Verderius – Present
- ✓ Second Officer – Morgana – Present
- ✓ Membership Officer – Lady K – Present
- ✓ Publications Officer – Lord Soec – Present
- ✓ Pursewarden – Qabal – Present
- ✓ Public Information Officer – Janine N. – Present
- Outreach Officer – Brandon P. – Absent
- Correspondence Officer – David L. / – Absent
- ✓ Recorder – Faelind – Present

### Governing Board Representatives:

- Calafia LC – Catherine – Absent (still recovering from surgery)
- Chamisa LC – Tiffany B. – Absent (may not have received invite)
- Everglades Moon LC – Raven (Debby) / Alt: Lord Rieken – Absent
- ✓ Hills & Rivers LC – Lauren T. / Alt: Jamie D. – Lauren present
- ✓ Northern California LC – Thea / Alt: Deborah B. – Thea and Deborah present
- ✓ Orange County LC – Janine / Alt: Morgana – Janine and Morgana present
- ✓ Southern California LC – Lady Mariah / Alt: Lisa M. – Lady Mariah present
- ✓ Texas LC – Orin / Alt: Willow McKenna – Orin present
- ✓ Touchstone LC – Lord Soec – Lord Soec present
- ✓ National Covens – Lord Solandrin – Lord Solandrin present
- National Individual Members – Grace Moonhawk (Julia) has stepped up to be the GB Rep ~ tentative until confirmed by consensus by the National Individual Members – Absent

### Officer Reports:

**First Officer – Lord Verderius:** *(Please see full report, pg. 3.)* Lord V sent in a written report and added that he attended the Marketing & Outreach Meeting earlier this week and briefly touched on the agenda items that we will cover. He told the board that Ryan had stepped down as GB Rep for Chamisa Local Council. We will reach out to the alternate Tiffany to be sure she receives the invites.

**Second Officer –Morgana:** *(Please see full report, pg. 3.)* Morgana has nothing to add to her written report.

**Membership Officer – Dee P:** *(Please see full report, pg. 3.)* She noticed that the Interfaith area on the website has not been updated since 2018. We need updated information from the Interfaith Reps. It was mentioned that the Interfaith Reps had been having issues updating in the past and Publications said reports go on the Interfaith Blog. The Board suggested that it should be duplicated in both places to have the information easily available. The board will reach out to the Interfaith Reps to secure updated information.

She is calling for materials for our YouTube Channel and asked that the embosser materials be sent to her.

**Publications Officer – Lord Soec:** *(Please see full report, pg. 5.)* Lord Soec asked all to please get everything into the newsletter immediately as it is deadline.

**Pursewarden – Qabal:** *(Please see full report, pg 5.)* Qabal added, we collect funds for donations and those donations have been distributed. The distribution to Ardantane was by check and has been returned twice. He needs the physical address. He hopes to change to electronic submission going forward for all donation distributions.

Qabal also believes that we as a body should be evaluating our donations periodically.

There has been a continual problem with the Synchrony Account and bank transfers. The Synchrony Account seems to be held under former Pursewarden information. Qabal will need to go to Atlanta after the pandemic and be present to remediate the issues.

**Public Information Officer – Janine N:** *(Please see full report, pg. 5.)* Janine had a Marketing & Outreach Meeting on 10th of September and discussed upcoming and recent events.

Lady K hosted a 9/11 Remembrance. Several people attended the live feed and shared their stories. It was very touching and moving.

We had a public Wednesday with Witches meeting on September 2nd that focused on Moon Magic and Triple Moon Goddesses. We received some interesting insights into how different traditions work.

Lady K also performed some prosperity magic for Labor Day Magickal Monday for facebook and YouTube.

20th September 5 PM Pacific Witches Brew Party – bring your favorite brew and recipe – for Women's Friendship Day and those that love Women. Wear your favorite bling and Witches hat.

We reached out to members for feedback on early CoG experiences for Throw Back Thursday postings. We will have a virtual party to celebrate





our 45th anniversary on All Hallows Eve. Time TBD. Another opportunity to wear your Witchy bling.

Will also be having a costume party for familiars for the public and members where the winner will receive a one-year Friends of CoG membership.

We will be updating our Recommended book list on the website since the one we currently have is outdated. Some of the books are out-of-print. We may want some of our members to review the books.

Janine will create talking points for members about what CoG does. She has updated the flyers but will create bullet points that are available to members.

**Outreach Officer – Brandon:** Absent – no report submitted.

**Correspondence Officer – David:** Absent – no report submitted.

**Recorder – Faelind:** These minutes will be my report.

#### Governing Board Rep Reports:

**Calafia LC** – Catherine is still recovering from cataract surgery. We send our love and healing wishes. Lord V hopes we will be able to hold membership drive events beginning virtually and then in person after the pandemic in order to aid Calafia LC regain membership and no longer be provisional since two of their three covens did not renew.

**Chamisa LC** – Ryan has stepped down as GB Rep. The Alternate Tiffany may not have received the invite to the Board Meeting. Lady K updated the Board with Chamisa’s plans for a virtual Magical Mountain Mabon on September 18 and 19 for only \$10.00 per person. The topic is self-healing/inner healing this year.

**Everglades Moon LC** – Both absent.

**Hills and Rivers LC** – The new rep Lauren said most everything is cancelled due to the pandemic, but Ancient Rivers is doing public rituals for limited people keeping them socially distanced. HRLC have some folks interested in joining and she hopes they follow through this month.

**Northern California LC** – NCLC has a meeting tomorrow so they have nothing to report at this time. Thea suggested a topic for Wednesday with Witches around Covens that meet only virtually – CoG expects in person meetings for membership – this needs to be looked at. There are Covens that only meet virtually. We might have proposals regarding this at our next GC.

**Orange County LC** – Just recently had their OCLC meeting and are working with one of their new members to get their website updated in

preparation for doing their bi-annual Psychic Faire in early December totally virtually.

**Southern California LC** – In a holding pattern. Trying to establish a date for their next meeting.

**Texas LC** – We are still doing everything virtually. We won’t be able to do our Witches Ball this year. TXLC meets tomorrow so may have more to bring later.

**Touchstone LC** – Some of their members are on the other side of the El Diablo wildfire. They are meeting Monday.

**National Covens** – Lord Solandrin had a death in the family, so he has not reached out to Lady K to schedule a meeting with the National Covens but plans to do so in the coming week.

**National Individual Members** – Grace Moonhawk would like to be considered the National Individual Members Governing Board Rep and Lord V and Lady K will schedule meetings with the National Individual Members to introduce Grace and gain consensus.

#### Old Business:

Proposal by Deborah Bender for creation of a Transition Committee for the Governing Board. (Transition Committee goals listed in Appendix.) The Board agreed that the formation of a committee was a good idea.

Deborah Bender and Lady Mariah are willing to co-chair the committee

Lord V will attend but will not take a leadership role

Lord Soec, Thea, and Orin are interested in being on the committee. Membership on the Transition Committee is open to all National Officers and Governing Board members. Persons wishing to join the committee may contact the co-chairs

The Transition Committee will offer advice to the Governing Board on establishing procedures and priorities as it takes up its work

Contact information was captured for subsequent meetings

Prison Ministry & Outreach Program Committee – the board agreed to the formation of this committee.

Lady K will chair the committee and ask David L to co-chair

Committee members will include Faelind, Lauren, Lord V, and Macha as a resource

Some ideas:

Mentors

Pen Pals



Offering Friends of CoG Memberships for free – some of the board had concerns about this

Offering advanced materials

Continue to send 101 packets

Deborah suggested that she would be willing to donate money to a separate Prison Ministry account – Manny suggested that we may need a budget for this and we should charge an account for whatever we provide as nothing is free – Orin offered that we could begin something to allow the membership to sponsor an Inmate

Qabal brought up Chaplaincy Training as something CoG might do

Lady K is hoping that the Committee will bring proposals to GC for implementation

Prison Packet Material Content Update

Since David was absent, Lady K will work with him and this effort will be part of the bigger Prison Ministry Committee

**New Business:**

Brainstorm ideas for the future vision for the Covenant

Find ways to build a culture within CoG to make it more enticing for members

Mentors and leadership

Build, sustain, and encourage Craft culture

Become Pagans with a purpose

Emphasize the social aspects of CoG and make them a selling point (building further on the PIO and Outreach efforts)

Back to basics as an earth-religion/based organization – wildlife and/or wild lands conservation – be identified as an org that supports the environment

Education

Prison ministry

Re-establish defunct local councils

Governing Board as a think tank to brainstorm ideas – create a visionary structure for the board

Develop language about what we offer – what CoG can be for people

More marketing data with feedback from not just internal but also from external to CoG – how are we viewed externally?

Establish/re-establish LCs in metropolitan areas

Focus on establishing LCs in places where we might have National members (not necessarily where we were established before)

As more LCs are created and the Board gets larger, the GB reps could have a different role in

their local council if we were to consider all members as National Members. Local Councils would then be free to have different kinds of responsibility and activities instead of being a path to membership

Select 5 most important items/missions/tasks to work on in the future

New members/establish LCs/re-establish defunct LCs – determine what LCs need

Build a culture within CoG by emphasizing the social aspects of CoG and develop language about what we offer

Outreach and mentorship with education to reach new people and support existing members with leadership to build, sustain, and encourage Craft culture

Becoming Pagans with a purpose by supporting and performing conservation and/or activism for wildlife and wildlands – get back to basics

Prison Ministry

Meeting Adjourned:

It was another three-hour ride!

**Appendix:**

Creation of a Transition Committee

Goals

To help prepare the Governing Board to take up its responsibilities, by identifying questions that are likely to arise and making recommendations. To help clarify the relationship between the Executive Board and the Governing Board.

Duties

This committee will be advisory. It will consider three topics: the operating procedures of the Governing Board, the relationship between the two Boards, and interactions between the Boards.

The Committee will submit written reports addressed to both Boards. The reports will contain recommendations and identify areas that need further consideration.

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Meetings

The Committee will meet ahead of the joint Board meeting in September and submit a written report to the Boards. It will meet again before the joint Board meeting in October and submit a written report. The Committee will meet after Samhain and



submit a report to the Boards. The post-Samhain report will recommend whether the Committee shall continue meeting with the same purpose, change its purpose, or disband.

Duties of Chairperson

The Chair of the Committee will see to it that the Committee meets at least three times and produces timely written reports

Don Frew                      AoIM  
 Dark Moon                  Coven  
 (Proxy to Council)        Trismegiston

Quorum was met  
 Call to order: 2:06 pm

**LOCAL COUNCILS**



**CALAFIA**

~ No report ~

Last published minutes in the Ostara 2020 edition.



**CHAMISA**

~ No report ~

Last published minutes in the Lammas 2020 edition.



**EVERGLADES MOON**

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in the Litha 2020 edition.



**HILLS AND RIVERS**

~ No report ~

Last published minutes in the Lammas 2020 edition.



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

~January 19, 2020~

<b>Attendees</b>		Representing:
Thea - FO		Daduchos
Linnea - PW	Coven	
Rachel - PIO		Owl Moon
Anna - MO		Daduchos
Jae	Coven	
Recorder		Coven
		Trismegiston
Rita Rippetoe		AoIM
Deborah		AoIM
Bender		

**Consensus decision-making discussion:**  
 Over the next few meetings, NCLC agreed to review materials on consensus decision-making that Thea provided and decide how to adopt it for use in our Local Council to improve our meetings. Agreed - Add to Group discussion techniques: twinkling and other hand signals.

**Reports**

*First Officer / Tree of Trads / National Representative*

- National CoG is beginning a membership drive which will be kicked off at the ToT suite on Saturday, at 1:30 pm.
- Tree of Trads:
  - Need additional assistance with bar and publicity
  - Call for funds
    - NCLC had previously approved \$650, but ToT requested \$700.
    - Acknowledge and thank the donations from Deborah Bender and Anna Korn of \$50 each (\$100 total), and a gift \$350 from National CoG to NCLC.
    - \$50 of this donation to go towards food at the NCLC reception/CoG membership drive kick-off meeting.
    - Approved NCLC will give \$700 to ToT.

**MO**

**Pursewarden**

Income:

There were donations for Tree of Trads (ToT):

\$350 from National  
 \$50 each from Anna and Deborah  
 Other income - \$10 tithe

Outgo:

\$50 I4C  
 \$50 Marin Interfaith





I have not sent check to SiVIC yet - haven't looked up address.

Account balances:

General: \$1184.10 (includes \$450 earmarked for ToT)

Travel: \$362.48

Interfaith: \$464.45 (\$50 reserved for SiVIC)

Grace of the Goddess: \$153

Total \$2164.03

Note: I have not checked this balance with the bank yet.

**Interfaith**

**Old Business**

- November 2019 minutes are approved.
- Decide on the process to select a Representative and Alternate to National Governing Board.
  - Currently, Thea is representing NCLC until a Representative is selected.
  - Must select a Representative and Alternate by Oct 2020, but preferably by Beltane to allow travel to Merry Meet/Grand Council and to be seated in Observing Mode with the current Board.
  - Governing Board takes effect Nov. 1, 2020.
  - NCLC will hold an election for the positions of Rep and Alternate at the March meeting. (Thea to send out a call for nominations, self-nominations are ok.)
  - The first Representative and Alternate will have a 1-year term, afterward each term will be 2-years (starting at Samhain).
  - Governing Board will meet a minimum of 8 times per year, but possibly more, and Governing Board meetings are averaging 2-hours long.
  - The Alternate does not have to attend all meetings, they may choose to only go to meetings when the Representative is unable to do so. However, the Rep must keep the Alternate up-to-date in case the Representative can't attend a meeting, and it's a good idea for both to attend at the first or second meeting so the Governing Board can have a chance to meet them

and the Alternate have a chance to know the other members of the Governing Board.

- In the future, elections for Rep and Alternate will happen with the other Officer elections.
- Guidelines for elections:
  - Notice of elections will be announced at least one meeting prior so everyone knows which meetings the elections will be held in.
  - Nominations will be solicited prior to that meeting, and nominations at the election meeting are permitted.
  - Election by secret (anonymous) ballot with only winners announced, not vote count.
  - Separate elections for Rep and Alternate, with Rep being first. People who ran in the first, but who did not win, may run in the second.
  - Anyone may run for either office.
  - Both electronic ballots (possibly via groups.io or via SurveyMonkey) for people attending the meeting online and paper ballots for people attending in person will be used.
  - The person who counts the ballots (usually the Membership Officer) cannot be running for Office.
- Requirements for either position:
  - Nominees must be eligible for Elder credentials.
  - MUST create reports to both the LC Membership and to the Governing Board for every meeting of either body (the essence of this job is to represent this LC to the Governing Board, and report back to the LC the discussion and actions of the Governing Board).
  - MUST have the technology and internet connection to meet virtually online.



- Guidelines for the election process (can be changed in the future if needed):
  - Nominees should have been an Officer or Interfaith Representative within the last 5 years AND have been to a Grand Council meeting in the last 2 years.
  - Nominees should be familiar with the Bylaws of National CoG and Local Council.
  - Nominees should have a history of getting along well with (almost) everyone.
  - Exceptions to the above will be considered.
- Guidelines for removal
  - The National Bylaws state that Governing Board Representatives may be removed at any time by their respective constituencies according to procedures approved by these constituencies. In accordance with this, NCLC will conduct a Vote of Confidence for the Representative after the first year of a 2-year term as a matter of course. [NCLC may also conduct a Vote of Confidence at any other time, as is permitted by the Bylaws.]
  - The National Bylaws state that the Governing Board may reject the Representative put forward by a Local Council, in which case the Alternate will become the Representative and a new election will be held for a new Alternate. [Article 3. The Officers and the Governing Board, A. Governing Board of the Covenant, 10. Removal for Cause]

**New Business**

- Next meetings: March 15, 2 pm at ARL; May 17, 2 pm at TBD
- Thea suggested that NCLC move its email list to groups.io until National elists are

- fixed. Approved. (*Invites to CoGNCLC@groups.io have been sent.*)
- CoG will have a reception at PantheaCon on Friday at 7pm
  - ice cream & sorbet
  - Anna will be in-suite, and will create new Triptych (emphasize we are not a place to come learn about witchcraft, we are a place to network with those who are already witches).
  - Review and update text on (ToT, NCLC, National CoG) websites.
  - Create ads for handouts in-suite (business-/post-card size).
- Food for the Membership drive: cupcakes (light frosting, some w/o)
- PIO committee:
  - NCLC discussed limiting statements on our positions on major issues unless they are related to Witch or Pagans, specifically.
  - Start interacting regularly with social media.
  - Logos - add something on the NCLC website about the history of our logos, including current design proposals.
- Assets of NCLC
  - In the case of the dissolution of NCLC, all assets will go to National.
  - As of right now, the only non-monetary, physical assets are 2 banners in Anna's garage.
- Membership Recruitment
  - Deborah to attend the monthly Sacramento Pagan Nite Out on the 4th Wed. of the month at Cafe Dantorels, 2700 24th Street, Sacramento and will promote CoG and distribute materials.
  - Suggestions for future recruitment:
    - 1-2 public rituals per year
    - Online Pagan events calendar on our website.
    - Add to website calendar Interfaith events
    - Add a Friends of NCLC page to the website, and put ARL on it.
- Assistance to Lady Bhride - Anna will send out a request for electronic or print copies



of her graphic design work as her original work was destroyed in a house fire.

- We agreed to send Thank You note to both Ken Crater and Canu for their service to CoG regarding the server and the move, Anna will send.
- Kitty has submitted a request for healing for vasculitis.

Adjourned at 4:40pm



**ORANGE COUNTY**

~May 14, 2020~

Called to Order at 7:10 pm

Time Keeper – Mary

Evocation – Pam

Introductions/Sign-in complete

Quorum achieved – Pam

**Virtual Attendance:**

- Coven – Greenwood Glen: Pam, Camille
- Coven – CCoW: Mary
- Coven – BFR: Janine
- Coven – Ghostwheel: Morgana
- Individual - Mata
- National - Athena

**Officer Reports:**

**First Officer** – **Pam:** New National member in Southern California, Lady Avera, has expressed an interest in joining in our virtual meetings and possibly our future events.

**Second Officer** – **Camille:** Pagan Pride LA/OC Sept 27<sup>th</sup> open for vendor applications; Mary to send in application.

**National 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer** – **Morgana:** National Board approved a Virtual Grand Council due to COVID-19 social lockdown. OCLC volunteers to host Merry Meet 2021. Mary spoke with Hotel Banquet Manager Annette about postponing to same weekend 2021; she will verify the dates and confirm. She stated rolling the deposit to 2021 should be possible. Morgana needs to know by May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Pursewarden** – **Mary:** Balance \$4815.75 minus upcoming PPLA/OC application and 2 pop-ups.

**PIO** – **Janine (National):** Meeting for Marketing and Outreach tomorrow afternoon, going over some changes for National to increase membership campaigns, more videos (facebook, Instagram, etc) live.

Once we get onto Forums, there is a Forum for OCLC (each council has their own forum).

**Camille (OCLC):** Facebook is having lots of postings. We need to post

**Membership Officer** – **Morgana:**

Morgana will contact new National Individual member, Lady Avera who is interested in joining our OCLC meetings via Zoom. Also Athena wants to join our meeting regularly via Zoom.

**Acting Recorder** – **Mary:** Apparently there are missing minutes from OCLC. Those minutes will be resent to the [newsletter@coq.org](mailto:newsletter@coq.org) and copied to [LordSoec@aol.com](mailto:LordSoec@aol.com);

**Old Business:**

1. We need to replenish the “What is Wicca” brochure before the Pagan Pride LA/OC, but will also need additional of all Trifold flyers.

**New Business:** Mary will acquire 2 more Pops on sale til June 30, 2020.

**Closing:**

1. Next meeting will be held on June 11, 2020 virtually.

2. Next Acting Recorder will be Mary

3. Next Invocation / Blessing – Camille

4. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm with a blessing from Pam.



~June 11, 2020~

Called to Order at 7:10 pm

Time Keeper – Mary

Evocation – Camille

Introductions/Sign-in complete

Quorum achieved – Pam

Virtual Attendance:

- Coven – Greenwood Glen: Pam, Camille
- Coven – CCoW: Mary
- Coven – BFR: Janine
- Coven – Ghostwheel: Morgana
- Individual – Rev Dee

**Officer Reports:**

**First Officer** – **Pam:** Could the National Board look at By-laws that require physical attendance to vote and to carry proxies due to local, state, and Federal restrictions on gathering size of groups in 2020. Please add to this month’s Board Meeting Agenda.

**Second Officer** – **Camille:** Pagan Pride LA/OC Sept 27<sup>th</sup> open for vendor applications; Mary has sent in the application.

We are proceeding with the December Psychic Faire assuming it will be permitted.

**National 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer** – **Morgana:** National Board approved a Virtual Grand Council due to COVID-19 social lockdown. OCLC volunteers to host Merry Meet 2021. Mary spoke with Hotel Banquet Manager Annette about postponing to





same weekend 2021; she will verify the dates and confirm. She stated rolling the deposit to 2021 should be possible. Morgana needs to know by May 24th meeting.

Virtual Grand Council moved to August 14-15, 2020

Volunteer positions needed are:

Queue Minder;

Time Keeper,

Bibe Watcher;

Parliamentarian;

Tech Support;

Monitor to aid all people getting the chance to speak

Moderators for Point of Process

**Pursewarden – Mary:** Balance \$4815.75 minus upcoming PPLA/OC application and 2 pop-ups \$35 for PPLA/OC Booth leaving 4780.75

**PIO – Janine (National):** Wednesday with Witches virtual meeting for CoG members and chatted about what is going on. Brandon had updates on materials he has produced, etc and we are planning to do this monthly; we will consider opening it up to the public. Discussed a Virtual Solstice ritual through FaceBook Live. Discussed creating Posters for local councils to use for their events.

**Camille (OCLC):** No comments on our post regarding the murder of George Floyd; very few views.

Facebook:

In the past 28 Days

We have 11,197 page Views

Post Reach is 4,267

Post engagement, 2,971

15 New Page Likes

16 New Followers

a total of 2,975 Followers

Most Popular day is Monday at 2:30PM

Most Popular Post is "Witch Bingo" 113 clicks, 110 reactions

2nd Most Popular is "Faith Keepers" 43 clicks, 105 reactions

our Fans are 84% Women & 15% Men

**Membership Officer – Morgana:** Also Athena wants to join our meeting regularly via Zoom. Athena is free to join OCLC by applying to join, OCLC votes whether or not to accept her membership into our local council. There is no longer a geographical requirement in the by-laws.

**Acting Recorder – Mary:** Minutes from September 2019 through April 2020 have been uploaded to newsletters@cog.org with copies sent to Jack and Canu. May's minutes are pending and have been sent to board members for approval.

#### **Old Business:**

We need to replenish the "What is Wicca" brochure before the Pagan Pride LA/OC, but will also need additional of all Trifold flyers.

Mary will acquire 2 more Popups on sale til June 30, 2020.

#### **New Business:**

Next meeting will be held on July 09, 2020 virtually.

Next Acting Recorder will be Mary

Next Invocation / Blessing –Mary

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm with a blessing from Camille.



#### **~July 9, 2020~**

Called to Order at 7:10 pm

Time Keeper – Mary

Evocation – Mary

Introductions/Sign-in complete

Warden (Vibes Watcher) – n/a

Quorum achieved – Pam

#### **Virtual Attendance:**

- Coven – Greenwood Glen: Pam, Camille
- Coven – CCoW: Mary
- Coven – BFR: Janine
- Coven – Ghostwheel: Morgana
- Provisional Coven – Dream Walkers of Delos: Rayna, Natalie, Carol, Dannie, Tyler, Lee
- Individual – Rev Dee

#### **Officer Reports:**

**First Officer – Pam:** Working on Annual First Officer's Report for National that we can discuss.

**Second Officer – Camille:** Pagan Pride LA/OC Sept 27<sup>th</sup> open for vendor applications; Mary has sent in the application. City of Long Beach has not announced if it will be cancelled. PPLA/OC Board will make a determination to proceed or not at their next Board Meeting.

We are proceeding with the December Psychic Faire assuming it will be permitted.

Camille recently attended a virtual ritual hosted by Lyceum of Auset Hauhet and we will post links to these rituals on OCLC social media sites.

**National 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer – Morgana:** National Board approved a Virtual Grand Council due to



COVID-19 social lockdown. Start time is suggested for 8:30 am Pacific Time

OCLC Voted to move next Board Meeting to Aug 20<sup>th</sup> to avoid conflict with Grand Council.

**Virtual Grand Council moved to August 14 to 16**

- Volunteer positions needed are:
  - Queue Minder; Janine
  - Time Keeper,
  - On-line Editor for Proposal drafting changes - Morgana
  - Vibe Watcher;
  - Parliamentarian;
  - Tech Support;
  - Monitor to aid all people getting the chance to speak
  - Moderators for Point of Process

National Board suggests that, for this year only, we suspend certain provisions in the By-laws that require physical attendance to vote and to carry proxies due to local, state, and Federal restrictions on gathering size of groups in 2020.

**Pursewarden – Mary:** Balance \$4816.08 minus \$35 for PPLA/OC Booth and \$86.14 for two pop-up canopies, leaving 4694.04;

**PIO – Janine (National):** *Wednesday with Witches* virtual meeting for CoG members next week on June 15<sup>th</sup>, email Janine to get a link to that meeting;

Wed August 5th will be open to public; suggestion to watch a video by Dr. Robin DiAngelis, *White Fragility* at <https://youtu.be/45ey4jgoxeU>

**Governing Board Rep Report** – We discussed how to obtain membership and password information to log on to the member section of the CoG website.

Janine & Brandon hold Marketing and Outreach meetings once or twice a month depending on what’s going on. Brandon will host a Pandemonium Day event on Facebook Live June 14th, and the week following may be another event about New Moon Magick; these events will be posted on CoG Facebook page.

**Camille (OCLC):** Witch Tok appears to be a witch channel on TikTok and may be worth looking into.

**Facebook:**

From June 10th to July 7th

Post Outreach- 6.5k; Engagements- 2.6k; Link Clicks- 108

*Posts* - Most Engaging: Lunar Eclipse- July 4<sup>th</sup>; Reach-260; Engagements- 431

Second Most Engaging: Anti Bad Vibe Spray-June 25<sup>th</sup>; Reach-1.3k; Engagements-231

*Discovery* - Page Reach-6489, up 731 in last 28 days

Page Views-9,054, down 2.3k in last 28 days

Posts, 6,479

Event Responses-14

Grand Council Save the Date: Reach-751; Responses-182

New Page Likes-16; New Followers-17; Clicks to Website-1

**Membership Officer – Morgana:** July 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for sending in Proxies for Grand Council.

Dream Walkers of Delos have submitted for provisional membership through OCLC. The members introduced themselves to the OCLC Board.

**Acting Recorder – Mary:** May’s minutes have been uploaded to [newsletters@cog.org](mailto:newsletters@cog.org). June and July’s minutes are now out to board members for approval.

**Old Business:**

- We need to replenish the “What is Wicca” brochure before the Pagan Pride LA/OC, but will also need additional of all Trifold flyers.
- Mary has acquired 2 more Popups.

**New Business:** We reviewed and discussed Pam’s draft of Annual 1<sup>st</sup> Officer’s Report

**Closing:**

- Next meeting will be held on August 20, 2020 virtually.
- Next Acting Recorder will be Mary
- Next Invocation / Blessing – Janine
- Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm with a blessing from Mary.



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in the Imbolc 2020 edition.



**TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL**

~ September 13, 2020 ~

X = present P = Proxy A = Absent

**Covens**



<b>x</b>	Circle of Danu: Bonnie, Orin	<b>x</b>	Circle of the Star: Rae
<b>P</b>	Circle of Earth, Sea, and Sky – Proxy to Faelind	<b>x</b>	Circle of the Unicorn: Chuck
<b>x</b>	Circle of Shadow and Light: Willow McKenna	<b>x</b>	Circle of the Wild Wood: Breila
<b>x</b>	Circle of the Blood Moon: Chaos	<b>x</b>	Coven Firemoon: Bastion, Michael
<b>x</b>	Circle of the Moon and Sun: Ruby, Dragan	<b>A</b>	Coven of Diana’s Moon
<b>x</b>	Circle of the Serpent: Gaelen, Kenny, Dusty, Guinevere	<b>x</b>	Tree of Knowledge Coven: Faelind

Solitaires	
<b>x</b>	Anastasia
<b>x</b>	Debi
<b>x</b>	Glenda P.
<b>x</b>	Q'est

**Guests**

**Invocation to Coventina by Gaelen & meeting begins at**

**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).

Ruby says we do meet Quorum. It was great to see such a good group of us here today.

**Call for additions to the agenda or any other nominees for officers.**

**Officer Reports**

**First Officer:** Gaelen

Check in – It is particularly good to see everyone during this pandemic. A few people spoke on how they were doing.

Texas Local Council Variation: It was agreed by consensus that our local council will do online virtual meetings when needed and accept all business conducted in these meetings.

Elections via Election Runner is set up for Elections of Officers if needed.

Arlington UU Donation – They sent us a note of Thanks for our \$500 donation to help the church where we do classes and occasional events during this pandemic. See below:

Thanks for your very generous and considerate donation. It helps a lot, and we hope to be able to see you here before too long.

AUUC

Larry Heath, Treasurer

Gaelen said she also spoke at length with John, one of their founding members, who was excited and grateful for the donation.

**Public Information Officers:** Willow M./Gaelen

Social Media Update – Willow has been dealing with medical issues and apologized for being unavailable. She reached out to Gaelen who stepped in and has done a great job with keeping up with the social media, including increasing activity on Instagram and Twitter. Facebook is almost 3000 likes. Discussion was on other ways to get us out on other social media areas. We now have a YouTube Channel that Gaelen started this summer and we are working on increasing our subscribers. We have had good feedback with what has already been put out there on the channel.

**Pursewarden:** Michael L.

**Bank:** \$2,609.49

**PayPal:** \$1,798.09

**Cash app:** \$83.00

**Cash:** \$50

**Total:** \$4,540.58

**Class donations received:**

**June:** \$52.93

**July:** \$387.48

**August:** \$122.54

We made a \$200 donation to Dallas Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression. (Discussed at last meeting) and a \$500 donation to The Arlington UU Church. (done via online discussion).

**Membership Officer:** Dragan

Mabon - due - Circle of Earth, Sea & Sky – Dragan is going to reach out to Delfin.

Samhain - due but have already turned in their Renewals are:

Circle of the Unicorn and Coven Firemoon

Yule - due - Circle of the Moon and Sun, Circle of the Blood Moon, Q'est, and Freya

**Recorder:** Ruby

The last meeting minutes, with the help of Gaelen, were turned in and was in the National

Lammas Newsletter. If all possible, even though the deadline was yesterday, Ruby is going to try and get today’s minutes turned in today. If not able to get them in today for the National

Mabon Newsletter will be sent in plenty of time for the National Samhain Newsletter.

**Pagan 101 Classes Online:** Breila, Faelind, & Ruby

Faelind and Ruby figured out how to transfer ownership of the Google Meet for the classes.



Faelind facilitates the 2nd Week Class of each month

Ruby facilitates the 4th Week Class of each month

The classes are going very well. We are averaging 30+ attendees to our twice monthly Virtual Pagan 101 Classes. Attendees are coming from all over the country which is a wonderful benefit to going online. This last class we had someone from Oregon and Canada. Breila is doing a great job posting the classes in many Facebook Groups along with several emails. Breila is, during the class, posting in the comments and reminding people to take time to go and fill out our questionnaire. Ruby is, during the class, posting and reminding about donations. The teachers are doing a great job at teaching the classes. Now that we have the discussions the week after each class, it has helped the new people get the chance to ask questions. We are enjoying the short interactions with the new people while giving the teachers more time to teach. It was brought up that since we are getting more out there in the other areas of Texas would it be possible to start encouraging them to join TXCOG? The response was if we see that there are others that want to join or start another Local Council in their area, we would love to help them do so. Most everyone that we are seeing on the classes as of right now are all new to the Craft and we have been helping them locate local resources. Gaelen also said she would add the donation information to the questionnaire.

We currently have confirmed teachers through the end of the year, and I will start reaching out to confirm first quarter 2021 teacher's schedules over the next few months.

The website has been updated to reflect confirmed classes.

**Webweaver:** Faelind has the online classes added to the website and social media links are there. Guinevere asked her if she could add the video for the Moonschools directly to the website. There was a discussion to either do that or to mention they are on the YouTube channel to direct traffic to our YouTube.

The website has been updated to reflect that the Witches Ball has been cancelled and the Sabbat assignments have been updated as well.

Faelind will compile the timeline submissions and send out to the Local Council before submitting to Andrea who is heading up the National CoG Timeline project.

A new Google site will be created after the National Recorder work has been completed.

- ☐ **Sabbats: Gaelen:** Gaelen shared that Sabbats would remain online for the rest of the year. They are as follows:

- ★ Sept 20 - Autumn Equinox – Circle of Shadow and Light
- ★ Nov. 1 – Samhain – Sunna's Dance
- ★ Dec. 20 – Winter Solstice – Circle of the Serpent

The video of these will be posted on or just before the Sabbat date to all of our social media platforms and our members egroup.

**Moon School for the Kids: Guinevere:** Is putting out a sabbat video as well as activity book for older elementary aged children and for the families with toddlers/preschool children. These books include information about the sabbat, activities, games, rituals, recipes and more. Guinevere thanked Gaelen for her help on the Moonschool materials. She asked for help and she had a couple say they could help. Bonnie said there was a woman at her church that could sing, and she would reach out to her and put her in contact with Guinevere if she was interested in helping. Anastasia asked for Guinevere to email her and they would talk on how Anastasia could help.

National is doing some online Sabbats – Faelind was letting everyone know about the upcoming online events for the Sabbats that National is going to be doing and encouraged all to attend.

**Sabbat Sub-committees - Gaelen:** She thanked Guinevere for her hard work on the materials and expressed how it's reaching people not only locally but much farther out and it has been met with enthusiasm and appreciation.

**Marketing:** Gaelen is posting online Sabbats in all social media platforms we are using Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. All other Sabbat sub-committees are on hold during the pandemic. Sabbats will remain online for the rest of the year.

**Governing Board Liaison:** Jason mentioned the board would be meeting part of the year with the national officers and part of the year by themselves. He said they were forming committees to work on different items for the future of CoG. Linda mentioned that this year, the governing board will be taking over the governance of CoG National and that Orin is doing a great job. Gaelen mentioned that she had heard good things as well from other national members regarding Orin.

#### Old Business

- ★ **2020 Witches Ball: 10/24/2020**  
- canceled - We are sad that we have had to cancel this year, but we feel it is necessary at this time. We look forward and hope for a better next year for the Witches Ball as well as all our other events. We are tentatively set with the UU Jefferson





Church to do it next year on October 23, 2021.

- ★ All 2020 events are online only this year - we will reevaluate in 2021.
- ★ **2020 Grand Council** – was great and everyone that went says that having it all online and all in one day was really wonderful! They really enjoyed being a part of the meeting. It was effective and productive. It was encouraged for all to join the next one if all possible. Faelind says that there is discussion in National of having another one online.
- ★ **Online Discussion Group** – Gaelen has been facilitating and it is going really well. We are reaching out to more people and everyone is enjoying this time of asking questions, discussing the previous week's class and then letting the discussion flow where it will. It's been a great connecting time with pagan socialization that is sorely needed during this pandemic. We've had three so far and our lowest attendance has been 12 and highest was 22.

#### New Business

- ★ **Elections: Current Nominees**
  - **First Officer:** Gaelen
  - **Membership:** Dragan
  - **PIOs:** Dusty & Kenny
  - **Pursewarden:** Michael
  - **Recorder:** Ruby
- ★ Call for any other nominees and info – none – Faelind proposes we accept the new officers, both new and returning, as a whole slate. Debi seconded it. All were in favor. The above list is our incoming officers for 2021. Welcome New Officers
- ★ **Gaelen thanked Coventina. Adjourned at 11:37 am.**



#### TOUCHSTONE

~ No report ~

Last published minutes in the Lammas 2020 edition.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

### THE ARDANTANE PROJECT: A PAGAN DREAM

Vol 24, Issue 7

Mabon 1999

Imagine a place where Witches and Pagans live. Imagine a place of trees and meadows, mountains and high desert, with buildings that are so friendly to the land that they seem to have grown there.

Imagine that Pagans come here to learn the arts of magick, the skills of Earth-friendly living, the lore of healing, and the disciplines of coven leadership. That the teachers are experienced, wise, and friendly: some live here, others "magically" appear through the Internet from a thousand miles away.

Imagine, at the heart of this community, a ritual space shaded by great pine trees, and marked with standing stones... lit by flaming torches, echoing chant and drum, host to the magick of a hundred traditions.

Imagine walls built to last a thousand years, and within them a great library recording the arts of generations of magicians, ritualists, elders, priestesses and priests. Imagine light from the fireplace illuminating both the spines of old grimoires and the screens of state-of-the-art computers.

Imagine the gatherings: a handful of scholars seeking the mysteries of the tarot, a larger class learning the techniques of herbcraft or pastoral counseling, a procession of hundreds come to celebrate the ancient sabbats. Imagine a community of Pagans living on the land, and cottage industries to support them: the harvesting of organic herbs, the creation of ritual tools, the weaving of cloaks and robes. Imagine Pagan children playing in the forest, bardic circles singing in the moonlight, people gathered at the rustic pub where candlelight gleams from carvings of the Green Man. Imagine shrines and temples, sacred groves and grottos where the Goddess and the Old Gods are celebrated by many names, and share their blessings with the land and the people.

*Imagine...*This is the dream or Ardantane.

A group of Witches from New Mexico and Colorado has launched a long-term project to create a Wiccan residential seminary — and you are invited to be part of it. Ardantane is an Anglicized spelling of "Arth an teinne," which means "the light of the fire." Firelight. We envision Ardantane as a beacon of knowledge for all Pagans, and the staff as keepers of the flame.

We will draw our teachers from many traditions, teach knowledge and skills useful to all



traditions, and welcome all Witches and Pagans who follow the Rede at Ardantane programs. Highly qualified volunteers will serve as Ardantane's teachers, initially. This will include experienced priestesses and priests who support the vision of Ardantane and have proven themselves to be extraordinary teachers. Some will be in residence, others will visit as guest faculty, and still others may teach via conference call or the Internet.

Coven/group leadership skills will be a big part of the curriculum: teaching, counseling, ritual design and presentation, administration and group process. In addition, there will be courses on magick: divination, spellcasting, nature magick and some ceremonial systems. A likely third area will be Pagan living, with classes on ecology, alternative energy sources, sustainable communities, eco-friendly housing, organic gardening, etc. And a probable fourth field is alternative healing: herbalism, energy work, homeopathy and the like.

Many of its programs will be designed for priests and priestesses of Wicca; that is, initiates. Certain programs may have prerequisites of training or experience beyond the initiate level; that is, they will be designed for elders. Ardantane will also offer programs to a more general Pagan audience, for service, outreach and fund-raising.

For the past few years Ardantane has had no campus, but sponsored programs "on the road," at festivals and in rented facilities. Now we plan to purchase land and build a model energy-efficient, eco-friendly campus in Northern New Mexico. Of course this will require some major fund-raising and lots of volunteer help.

How will Ardantane be financed? Some programs will be offered at no charge. But if we are to realize the dream in its entirety, we will have to do fund-raising, and probably have a combination of room-and-board fees, work-study and minimal tuition for other programs. Ardantane is part of a non-profit corporation and we are committed to making its programs affordable.

Ardantane is not an alternative or replacement for traditional training within the coven. Ardantane programs offer an extension or supplement to coven training: advanced training for coven teachers and solitary elders—a chance to receive as well as give, and to share with experienced peers. Ardantane will tap into a network of resources far wider than most individual covens have ready access to, but it will never replace the coven learning environment.

Ardantane was initially a project sponsored by Our Lady of the Woods, which is an IRS-recognized, tax-exempt church. Now we are in the process of "spinning off" the Ardantane Project from Our Lady of the Woods, and already have members on the board from three Craft traditions, and Advisors from others.

## THE SEARCH FOR A HOME

So many Wiccans dream of land, and a home — either for themselves, their families, or their local Pagan community. When Ardantane finds a home, it will be for all of us.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the Ardantane vision will best be served if we have a physical focal point: a campus. We have sponsored some good programs at summer festivals and in rented facilities, it is true; but our rootless approach so far has not inspired the kind of commitment and involvement that Ardantane needs. We are after all "creatures of Earth" during each incarnation, and we need a material-plane place to call our own.

Practically speaking, it is easier to build attendance and a "regular clientele" if the core Ardantane programs are always in the same place, in attractive and comfortable surroundings. As people identify with Ardantane programs in a particular place, they will be more willing to put energy into building that place; that involvement will in turn generate more commitment to the vision. It is precisely because of this interplay between material and spiritual that we are here in the first place, inhabiting bodies on the physical plane. It is time that we connect Ardantane to the energy of this interaction.

In addition, a home campus will be a powerful symbolic rallying point for all that Ardantane wants to accomplish. It will make the Ardantane Project more real to millions of Pagans, in the way that Harvard and Oxford and the Sorbonne are real to us. Ardantane will always be about ideas and processes, but ideas and processes in a place tend to focus energy more effectively.

The energy of the main campus, in turn, can catalyze Ardantane programs around the world, possibly in satellite campuses, certainly in satellite programs conducted in homes, parks, and rented facilities.

The main campus will be in New Mexico because most of the key organizers are here or nearby. It has other advantages, however: the climate, the richness of diverse cultures, the history, and the widespread feeling that "The Land of Enchantment" is a special place, a sacred place.

Choosing a site will not be easy. Ideally the campus should be in a beautiful, uncrowded natural setting, but close enough to major population centers to allow students and volunteers to reach it easily. This means it should be in range of Santa Fe and Albuquerque, but not in a place that is likely to be overrun by suburbs. Much of northern New Mexico is either National Forest or Indian land. This reduces the acreage available, but the good news is that a campus on the border of a National Forest would give us immediate access to large amounts of outdoor space without having to purchase it.



## ACADEMIC SURVEY ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

Hello!

My name is Angela M. Chamberlain and I am a sixth year Clinical Psychology doctoral student at Fielding Graduate University. I am also a pagan woman. I am writing to request your permission to recruit participants through your publication/Facebook page, in a study which seeks to examine how the spirituality of Wiccan women is impacted by their experience of infertility.

The Spiritual Identity of Women in Religions Stressing Fertility When Coping with Infertility

Primary Investigator: Angela M Chamberlain, M.A.

Faculty Supervisor: Elaine Hanson, PsyD, JD

This study is limited to pagan women, between the ages of 25 and 45 years old, with a diagnosis of primary or secondary infertility. The participants should not have or have had a diagnosed mental illness or be currently under the care of any mental health professional. Initial demographic questionnaire and information will be emailed. Information obtained from the participant will be used for the purposes of this study, however, the participant's identity will only be known by the researcher. Any identifying materials will be kept under lock and then destroyed 3 years after the study has concluded. Recruitment is expected to begin on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and end on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Participation is voluntary, and participants may withdraw from the study at any time without consequence. Informed consent procedures will be followed. It is not anticipated that participants will experience any harm or distress by participating in this research. Participants will be provided with resources to contact if discomfort occurs as a result of participating. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I would be happy to address any questions or concerns you might have. I can be reached at: [achamberlain@email.fielding.edu](mailto:achamberlain@email.fielding.edu)

Sincerely,

Angela M. Chamberlain, M.A.  
Fielding Graduate University  
573-855-6025

[achamberlain@email.fielding.edu](mailto:achamberlain@email.fielding.edu)



We will be looking closely at land in or near the Sandia Mountains (east of Albuquerque), the Jemez Mountains (west of Santa Fe), and Sangre de Cristo Mountains (east of Santa Fe); and on the Turquoise Trail, which runs between the two cities.

Once the land is purchased, we hope to create a corps of volunteers who will volunteer time, energy and skills to build the buildings and care for the land.

### COG SUPPORT FOR ARDANTANE

The 1999 Grand Council of the Covenant of the Goddess has endorsed the Ardantane Project, and will support it by providing a "check-off" box for contributions (any amount over the minimum tithe) on the COG membership renewal form. In addition, the Grand Council encourages members to consider individual donations and has directed that newsletter space be made available to the Project.

COG endorsement of the Project does not in any way preclude support of other efforts on behalf of the Craft, but simply indicates Grand Council consensus that Ardantane can be a valuable resource to the entire Craft community when the dream is realized.

### HOW CAN I HELP MAKE ARDANTANE A REALITY?

You can:

1. Personally make a tax-exempt financial donation. All donations will be put in a land and building fund; contributions are needed now for the down payment on a land purchase.

2. When you renew your coven or individual COG membership this fall, give more than the minimum tithe and check "Ardantane" on the form. Your contribution over the minimum will then go to the Ardantane land and building fund.

3. Sponsor an Ardantane event in your town or city; write for details.

4. Sign up for our volunteer building crew, the "Blessed Bees." In time, we will need contractors, carpenters, masons, electricians, roofers, etc., and lots of unskilled but enthusiastic labor.

5. Give "in-kind" donations. Right now we need postage stamps. Soon we'll need a copier and supplies. Eventually we'll need everything to furnish and equip the Ardantane campus.

6. Teach. If you are a skilled, experienced teacher, and can give some time and energy, join the Ardantane faculty. Write for details.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Write to The Ardantane Project, c/o Our Lady of the Woods, P.O. Box 1107, Los Alamos NM 87544