

COVENANT OF THE GODDESS NEWSLETTER



SAMHAIN 2020
VOLUME 45
NUMBER 8



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





MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE AT YULE

Yule renewals are due on **December 22, 2020**. The Drop-dead date is **January 1, 2021** 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:

- ❖ Dru

EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Jae Osenbach

ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Rt. Rev Denise Dumars

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Circle of the Blood Moon
- ❖ Circle of the Moon and Sun
- ❖ Freyja

TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Zenah

NATIONAL COVENS:

- ❖ Circle of the Lavender Dragons
- ❖ Coven of the Mystical Merkabah
- ❖ Prodea

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

- ❖ Grace Moonhawk
- ❖ Gus diZZerega
- ❖ Orion Foxwood

FRIENDS OF CoG:

- ❖ Alta Nerissa Sparkman
- ❖ Darrell Riffe
- ❖ Paul Abijah Raphu



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

Somber Greetings Covenant Members,

The Great Wheel turns once more and we now journey into the month of November. As the dark time of the year unfolds, we prepare for the winter season ahead. We celebrate this final harvest of 2020, while we observe this solemn celebration of Samhain. This is a time of remembrance of those who have passed beyond the veil. We honor them for the special part they played in enriching our lives.

We have had many challenges this year, as we have fought to stay safe from the rise of the Covid-19 virus. We must remain ever vigilant now as we enter into the winter season. This horrible threat has not diminished, and we must all do our part to remain safe and protect the ones we love as well

For the Covenant, this time now marks a transfer of leadership to the Governing Board. These Reps will now take on this important role of managing the needs of the Covenant and its membership. We look forward to setting new plans in place for growth and expansion of CoG, as we move into a new phase governance. Every CoG member is encouraged to share your thoughts and ideas with your Governing Board Reps on what things we should consider for CoG's continued relevance in this ever changing world. Our main task will be, how do we encourage the younger people to join us by way of obtaining membership in our amazing magickal organization.

The continued challenges of growing our organization remain the same, however, our intention to bring about significant changes will be increasingly important as we move into a new era of the Covenant beyond the constructs and challenges of this past year. We all look forward to brighter days ahead!



With that said, we have cause for celebrations as well. The Covenant of the Goddess will be celebrating our 45th Anniversary on the eve of Samhain, from 3pm – 5pm PST. Please join us in this special online virtual gathering via Zoom. We will have some contests and other fun activities. We hope you all will join us in the merriment of the CoG’s special celebration!

Everyone please stay safe and vigilant from this life threatening virus, and remember to kindly Vote on our National Election Day.

I am wishing you all continued Harvest Blessings and Hallowed Samhain Rites!!

Compassionately yours,
Lord Verderius
National First Officer

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

FIRST OFFICER

The time between our meetings seems to go faster and faster! We have had excellent progress on two of the committees that I am participating with. The Marketing and Outreach committee has scheduled several events through the next couple months. Many wonderful and successful Wednesday with Witches has occurred over the past year. However, our “Big Event” will be our 45th Anniversary Party, virtual Open House that will be held on Samhain Eve, October 31st. Our NPIO will share with you all more details on this very special ~ Big Event.

Additionally, I have met with the Governing Board Transition Committee. We discussed many important topics and set plans for the forward movement of the Governing Board to oversee the leadership role of the Covenant at Samhain. Lady Mariah will give an update on her minutes and final report from that committee meeting. There will be several long range projects that will be the focus of the Governing Board that shall be implemented for the extend growth and viability of the Covenant.

This will be our final meeting with the National Officer’s leading CoG, as we relinquish the leadership role of the Covenant to the Governing Board. The Governing Board will have its “first official” meeting on November 1st. I look forward to working with the Governing Board Reps as they begin the essential task of revitalizing our magickal organization for growth and sustainability. We have one additional Rep who will be filling the last vacancy for the National Individual Members. More details on that shall be given at this meeting.

I recently sent out the schedule of the coming year’s meetings for the two boards and our joint meetings as well. I believe we all look forward to shorter meetings with greater focus on the needs

of the CoG membership, as we set long-range plans with a course of action for the future evolution of CoG. Many exciting things are in-store for all of us!

Additionally, I took the liberty to create a flow chart of our organization that I intend to share with the two boards for greater clarification of the roles of the differing boards and their affiliates. I believe that it is the best interest of both boards to keep some level of continuity between the way I host and facilitate meetings for each of these boards. Each board shall have four separate meetings and four combined joint meetings this coming year. I am hopeful that many new endeavors will be set and made in the coming year with everyone’s participation for the future growth and development of CoG.

At our last meeting we brainstormed and came up with a viable list of tasks we will need to concentrate on accomplishing in this coming year. Every member on both board’s plays a vital role in making these needed tasks a successful and productive endeavor for our organization. I look forward to building upon the successes we have accomplished this past year. Thank you all in advance for your commitment to the Covenant of the Goddess. ***We are stronger and resourceful when we all work together!***

With Inspiration & Enthusiasm,
Lord Verderius

SECOND OFFICER

OCLC has confirmed that the Holiday Inn Santa Ana will be available for Grand Council/ MerryMeet August 12-15, 2021.

Morgana RavenTree

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

No report submitted. (*Please see National Board Minutes, page 9.*)

PURSEWARDEN

As of 11 October, 2020

CURRENT ASSETS

- Chase Main Account: \$ 81,206.76
- Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: \$5,585.62
- PayPal Account: \$ 7,117.06
- Synchrony: \$ 33,096.99 (as of 8/31/2020)

CURRENT ISSUES/UPDATES

Please remember that our fiscal year closes on October 31. So if there are pending reimbursements, send them right away.



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

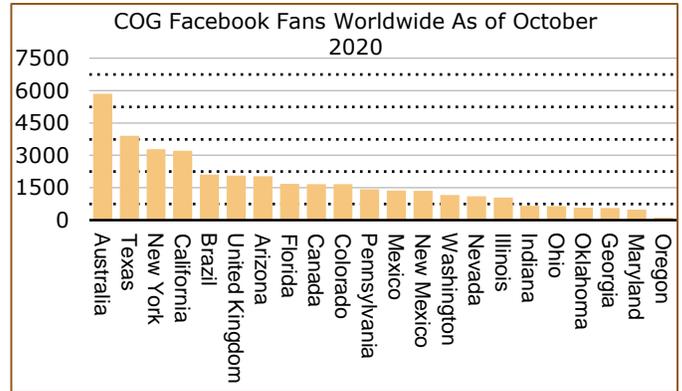
As we look back at the goals we set for 2020 and what we achieved the impact of Covid-19 is vividly apparent. There were places we planned to travel and events we planned to attend to share the work of the Covenant of the Goddess and benefits to members; except, all those plans changed.

The goals set at the beginning of the year included:

- Supporting the Membership Drive - Enroll at least 3 individuals, 3 covens and 3 Friends of CoG (met)
- The stretch goal was to support the launch of at least 1 Local Council (not met).
- Place at least 3 ads in event programs for events attended by CoG
 - The only event CoG attended was Pantheon where we placed 1 ad.
 - All other events were cancelled due to the Pandemic. The only exception was 2020 Grand Council/MerryMeet. Grand Council became a virtual event and MerryMeet was cancelled.
- Budget for Marketing & Outreach was set at \$10,000
 - We began the year with \$5,000 (if we exceed the initial \$5000 we would use the next installment of \$5000)
 - We only used \$1848 due to the pandemic and cancellation of scheduled events.

As we moved through the Wheel of the Year, our Marketing & Outreach Team met often to determine ways to stay connected with members while promoting CoG and encourage new memberships in the organization. We have shared our results monthly and will continue to do so.

- We updated CoG materials and created presentations.
- Create CoG posters to use at events and in local retail shops of members.
- Launched a YouTube Channel and continue promoting.
- Began using Facebook Live to deliver educational messages and promote CoG.
- Launched Magickal Mondays, Familiar Fridays, seasonal and special event connections.
- Launched Wednesday with Witches, a conversation with CoG to introduce CoG to the community and discuss current topics, magick and celebrate.
- Increased our promotional calendar and shared it with the team encouraging support through other PIOs, and Local Councils.



DIGITAL MEDIA:

Facebook began the year with 270K Followers. To date we have 268K. The loss constitutes removal of deactivated accounts (73%), Unlikes (14%), Suspicious Accounts (9%) and Other (3%). Our Fans are spread out over the US and Europe. This data can be useful for promotion efforts in 2021. Additional information is available. You can request it at PIO@cog.org.

Instagram has exploded in followers. We now have 2,300 followers/fans and continue to grow our connections daily.

LOOKING FORWARD:

In 2021 we will continue improving on our virtual presence and hope there will be events where we can participate and promote the Covenant. Our plans include:

- Increase our presence on Facebook and Instagram through educational and current topics.
- Improve SEO and begin using Google Analytics.
- Future workshops on magical practices and leadership.
- Update resources, such as the Bibliography, including reviews for members and the public.
- Plan and launch a summit for Next Generation of Witches in CoG.
- Increase educational videos for our YouTube Channel.
- Encourage participation of ALL CoG Members including Individual and National Members.
- Encourage CoG members (who are on social media) to share to our pages.
- Continue to support our Membership Campaigns.

If you are interested in helping to support our Marketing & Outreach efforts, please contact us at PIO@cog.org, outreach@cog.org, or on the Public Information Officer Forum.

Many thanks all those that joined our Marketing & Outreach team and supported our efforts this year - Lord Verderius, Brandon, Faelind, Galen, Macha, Dee, Ryan, Orin, Annette, and our



newest members Tyler and Nicolai. Thank you to the Membership for the opportunities and your latitude as we worked through these challenging times and moved into a virtual world; increasing our visibility, and demonstrating that CoG is an amazing organization supporting Witches and Pagans worldwide. I have enjoyed being your National Public Information Officer and look forward to what we can accomplish in 2021.

Blessed be,
Felicity Grove,
Membership number 1273S

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

Well as you can imagine, it has been an interesting season. As we go into the dark times, we will need to look inward and plan for what is to come. We must place our trust in the Lord and the Lady that this next year will bring the change and new beginnings needed for us all.

The missing links for volumes I – XV of the newsletter have been restored! Missing issues from the 90s forward will be next. The website also has a new calendar that doesn't use flash. We will have something similar on the public side soon.

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

CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER

No report submitted.

NATIONAL RECORDER

No report submitted. *(Please see National Board Minutes, page 10.)*

NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER

No report submitted.

TRANSITIONING FROM LOCAL COUNCIL TO NATIONAL

FELICITY GROVE

I would like to transfer my membership of Covenant of the Goddess **from** membership through the local council – Northern California Local Council **to** National Membership starting this year from Mabon 2020.

Many thanks,

APPLICATIONS



BRYCE WOYAK

National AoIM
Madison, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

My name is Bryce Woyak, and I am an Alexandrian Witch living in Madison, Wisconsin. I have been practicing various forms of Pagan Witchcraft for nearly the last two decades. My initial exposure to the Craft was through solitary practice, fueled by: online chat forums, such as Amber and Jet; books, especially the works of the Farrars, Doreen Valiente, Ann Moura, and Raymond Buckland; and the larger Pagan community in the Madison area. I was a member of several Pagan temples in the Madison area, none of which continue to exist sadly.

I was initiated into Alexandrian Craft in 2017 and became a High Priest in 2020. I am still working with my initial coven. We meet at the 8 Sabbats and the Full Moons. Over the last few months of COVID-19, I have been celebrating and working solitarily, but my earnest hope is that this will change sooner rather than later.

I am also a student at Cherry Hill Seminary, pursuing a Master of Divinity with a focus on Pastoral Counseling and Chaplaincy. I have completed two semesters in my degree. I have also completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and am scheduled to start another unit this fall. I believe that I work my Craft in providing spiritual care for the greater community.

My theology is panentheistic and monist: I believe in the Goddess and that She is All. In my Craft, the Goddess appears in a dynamic and fecund dualism as a goddess of the moon and a horned god of the solar seasons. I worship these gods in the turning of the year and the changing face of the moon.

I support and applaud the Covenant of the Goddess's Code of Ethics, especially as they respect the traditional autonomy, individual expressions, and secrecy of our religion. Of note, I understand the axiom "An ye harm none, do as ye will" in what may be considered a Thelema-adjacent context. I believe that all beings are emanations of the Goddess and that we therefore have an inherent divinity to live out. This is the Will. Guiding this Will is a divine Love, or Agape. Thus, we should pursue our Will with absolute Love for ourselves and all other beings.



If accepted by the Covenant, I pledge to abide by the Ethics, Charter, Bylaws, and policies for the duration of my membership.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

It is my honor and pleasure to recommend Bryce to you for election to membership in the Covenant of the Goddess. I am Dr. David L. Oringderff, Director Emeritus of the Sacred Well Congregation International and Chair of the Pastoral Counseling and Chaplaincy Department of Cherry Hill Seminary. It is in the latter capacity that I have come to know Bryce; he has been a student in several of my classes and I am his Faculty Advisor for Cherry Hill. Bryce is an outstanding student committed to excellence in scholarship. Though he is dedicated to his tradition, he values diversity and religious pluralism. Like most of us, he came to this path from a more traditional faith formation that did not meet his personal spiritual needs. This gives Bryce a unique perspective and facilitates his work in both the intra-faith and interfaith communities. Bryce has recently completed one unit of APCE accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), and began his second unit of CPE in August, 2020. Bryce described his CPE experience as "invaluable" and "incredibly rewarding"; he received a glowing review from his CPE supervisor. His academic performance has, and continues to be, stellar. Bryce's personal integrity is beyond reproach, and his sense of personal and community ethics is exemplary.

I recommend Bryce to your organization with my highest and unequivocal endorsement.

Sincerely and
 In the Service of the Old Ones
 Rev. David L. Oringderff, PhD
 Chair, Pastoral Counseling and Chaplaincy Dept
 Cherry Hill Seminary

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Bryce Woyak for application to Covenant of the Goddess membership.

As a traditional elder of Bryce's religious training and development, I can speak directly to his service, development and devotion to the Goddess and the Old Gods. In our Alexandrian/Gardnerian Tradition, Bryce has attained the 3rd Degree, High Priesthood.

I'm excited that Bryce's path has led him to a ministerial calling with studies at Cherry Hill Seminary, and I greatly encourage his involvement within the craft-community at large. His service to traditional Craft has already proven him a joyful and effective participant, a clear leader and budding scholar. Bryce brings with him a sound practice of occult knowledge and energy to help those around him heal, engage, and the vision to move us from a misty past into brighter future. I can think of no

better a candidate to C.O.G, Bryce comes to you with my full recommendation.

Thank you very much for your time, and service to the Goddess.

Sincerely,
 Jason Farnsworth (prior COG member)



MORRIGAN PROCTOR-GREENE

Friends of CoG
 Moon Township, Pennsylvania

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Merry Meet, Friends of COG Leadership!

I am a practicing solitary located in Moon Township, PA, and I'm requesting Friends of COG status in order to hopefully learn more about what you practice and how. I was raised Methodist, then became a "hopeful agnostic" until recently, when I learned of goddess worship and set up my altar.

I have two familiars, a grey brother cat and a black sister cat. They are littermates who have been together since birth. My practice consists of tarot, spell work, and ritual worship on each sabbat. I don't know very much about this area beyond those things, and am looking for mentorship, structure, and/or direction.

Professionally speaking, I am an educator, coach, facilitator, and consultant in the areas of personal, team, and organizational productivity. I work to address bottlenecks and waste in processes and people. If there is ever a need for these skills, please let me know.

I hope you feel that I may be a fit for the Friends of COG. I don't know anyone who could write a letter of recommendation for me, since I'm very new to this world. I very much hope to get a peek if you see me fit to do so.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Best,
 Morrigan Proctor-Greene

SILVERMIST



Friends of CoG
 Hereford, Arizona

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Merry Meet,

May the blessings of Rhiannon and the kindly inclined Gentry be with you.

Please let me introduce myself to you. I am Marilyn and I practice as a solitary witch of the Fairy faith.

As way of explaining what I follow in the Fairy faith is that I work with what is called the



Gentry, the Good Neighbors or as a broad term from the human perspective the fairies. I acknowledge the wide variety of spirits that for ease most call the fairies and whom inhabit Fairy, Fairyland or my preferred term as have others, the Otherworld.

The Otherworld is both separate from ours and yet connected to ours. These are the spirits some both elemental, some not that have interacted with humanity for ages. The Good Neighbors or as I prefer to call them the Gentry are magical in nature. I work to form bonds with those kindly disposed.

In addition to the Gentry, I also worship primarily two Goddesses, that have connections to the Gentry. The first is Rhiannon, known as the Divine Queen of the Fairies. I worship her for her connection to the Gentry and as the Goddess of magic and transformation. The second is Arianrhod, the Lady of the Silver Wheel, the weaver of fates, and also the opener of the way into the Otherworld and also of wisdom and magic.

As a neopagan and in Fairy craft I follow the turn of the wheel of the year, with the same festivals as many other wiccan, witch, and pagan belief systems. The full moon but also the dark of the moon is important to me as well. As a witch in the Fairy tradition, the dark of the moon represents the opening to the Otherworld and the connection to the Gentry.

I will state, that as Fairy faith does not necessarily believe in the Wiccan Rede of Three, as the Gentry has a much different morality system. Arianrhod, is the keeper of karma, and I am ever mindful as I worship her, to remind myself that she is always watching and can fathom all within the soul. As for myself, I do follow the admonition to harm none, and the rest of the code is within my aspect and acceptance and compatible with that of the Gentry.

I myself have been in the Craft for over a decade through self-study. There are few places that I have found to associate with and certainly nothing with the Fairy Faith, which in and of itself is usually a solitary path.

While a solitary path, that does not mean I do not want to share with others and learn more. I would at this time like to become a Covenant of the Goddess Affiliate, if you would be so kindly inclined to accept me as such.

Merry part, and in faith, may Arianrhod, the silver-wheel of the year, guide you and may the kindly inclined Gentry find you good fortune and health.

Silvermist



OLIVIA BRIGGS



Friends of CoG

Los Angeles, California

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Greetings!

My name is Olivia Briggs, and I very much wish to become a friend of the Covenant of the Goddess, and hopefully a fully-fledged member someday as well. I have been practicing solitary witchcraft for the past two years now, educating myself almost constantly on sabbats and traditions, spell craft, crystals, herbs and their many uses, and generally building a much deeper connection with the Earth and my ability to be a force of good within it.

I discovered the Wiccan Rede while taking an online course in Wiccan traditions, and simple as it is, I found it both a source of motivation and comfort. I would not, however, say I am a strict Wiccan, though I do incorporate both Wiccan and Pagan traditions in my solitary practice. I am a witch who celebrates the sabbats, practices spells and meditations, does her absolute best to live by-the energies of the moon, practices divination in many forms, and loves a little kitchen witchery when she has time.:) (I have two tiny goddesses of my own at home, and a busy writing career.)

In terms of deities, my worship centers around celebrating the Earth/Universe, working with my spirit guides and surrounding benevolent forces to affect positive change, ground and heal myself and others. I believe in a world full of compassionate metaphysical beings, and accept the presence of all. I have discovered through my exploration of witchcraft that there is more wonder in the world than I ever believed possible. Therefore, I always keep an open mind.

My family did not practice any organized religion or rituals, and so the search for my spiritual home is one that has spanned a lifetime, it is with such joy that I now call myself a witch, an empowered woman in a constant energetic exchange with the Earth. I have been so fulfilled by the connectedness I have cultivated, and find that my practice is always, unflinchingly, a source of joy. Being a witch has made me a better person, and now, I believe, it is time to reach out.

As I said, I have practiced alone these past two years, but have yearned to be part of a community of like minded individuals. It's difficult to find, even here in Los Angeles, a physical group devoted —to bringing-witches, Wiccans and Pagans together... and then I came across the Covenant of the Goddess in The Complete Grimoire. Once I explored your website, I thought, here it is! This is what you've been looking for!



I'm not sure where my practice will lead, but I am excited for the journey, and I sincerely hope that being a friend of the Covenant of the Goddess is the next step forward.

So mote it be.
Olivia Briggs

WELCOME TO CoG



Please welcome:

- ❖ Darikson, Friends of CoG
- ❖ Martha Cappel, Friends of CoG

NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES

~October 11, 2020

Invocation: Lord Verderius called the meeting to order and invoked Coventina.

Roll Call - (Quorum is two-thirds present): We met quorum.

National Officers:

- ✓ First Officer - Lord Verderius - Present
- ✓ Second Officer - Morgana - Present (late)
- ✓ 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 D. - Catherine present
- ✓ Chamisa LC - Polaris / Alt: Lady K - Lady K present
- ✓ Everglades Moon LC - Raven (Debby) / Alt: Lord Rieken - Raven and Lord Rieken present
- ✓ 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 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:

First Officer (Lord Verderius): *(Please see full report on page 4).* He has been active on

two efforts attending the Marketing and Outreach Meetings (MOM) and the Governing Board Transition Committee and is looking forward to CoG's 45th Anniversary virtual celebration on October 31st. He's looking forward to working with both the Governing Board and the National Officers over the next year and believes we can accomplish much by working together.

Second Officer (Morgana): *(Please see full report on page 4).* OCLC has confirmed that the Holiday Inn Santa Ana will be available for Grand Council/ MerryMeet August 12-15, 2021.

Membership Officer (Dee P.): Lady K and Canu have completed working through all the Local Councils to get everyone on the forums prior to the old elists going away at Samhain. They begin working on the National Members 10/12/20. She brought up an issue with providing Friends of CoG access to the Forums because they must have access to the member's side of the website and are not members. We only have about 7 Friends of CoG at the present time, but she is working with Canu on a solution. Right now, if you have a username and password, access to the forums and the member's side of the website is integrated.

She has also created a CoG G-Drive (Google Drive) that will be a resource for CoG Members and house ritual and other information for all members along with workshops that were recorded at Magical Mountain Mabon.

Lady K is hoping to give Friends of CoG memberships as incentives to subscribing to our YouTube Channel. Once we reach 100 subscribers, YouTube gives us our own unique url and at 1,000 subscribers, we can monetize the channel and earn money for CoG. Lady K is looking for YouTube content so Thea will be introducing someone from her local council that does virtual moots (meets) that could be uploaded to YouTube. Qabal mentioned different ways that incentives could be awarded randomly and fairly using Excel, and Lady K mentioned apps that do random number generation. We would want the choice to be random, fair, and anonymous.

Ardantane will be doing another online auction in the beginning of December so folks can buy Yule gifts from Witches instead of the big box stores. It will be done on the CoG facebook page and will be a facebook live event. The date has not been set yet.

Publications Officer (Lord Soec): *(Please see full report on page 6).* Lord Soec said the deadline for the Samhain newsletter is October 21st and appreciated everyone getting their reports together in time. Janine has been unable to access the newsletters from the 70's and 80's and Lord Soec assured her the links would be fixed soon. Janine was looking for anecdotal stories for the 45th Anniversary so the "Blast from the Past" articles



Lord Soec has included to the newsletter won't work for her purpose.

Pursewarden (Qabal): *(Please see full report on page 4).* Qabal reminded folks to get any necessary reimbursements in before the fiscal year-end of October 31st.

Qabal also suggested that we be cognizant to use different language going forward when referring to each of the National Officer and Governing Board bodies so that it is clear who we are referring to. There can only be one board with responsibility. Faelind stated that in the Bylaws, the National Officers are known as the Executive Board and the Governing Board is known as the Governing Board. He suggested that maybe the Officers should be known as the Executive Committee. Lady Mariah stated that she may submit a proposal to have the wording changed in the bylaws so that when we refer to the Board, it is only the Governing Board that is being addressed.

Deborah asked about the legal requirements and whether we have the legal language available to review for any questions concerning items when we say, by law we must... Faelind offered that Morgana is a resource to help us with the legal language and Qabal responded that the legal requirements can be found online. California only requires two names as responsible parties, our First Officer and our Pursewarden. Other states require more. In answer to a question, Qabal clarified that he was describing the legal requirements for the report CoG files with the California Secretary of State.

Public Information Officer (Janine N.): *(Please see full report on page 5).* She added that the last public Wednesday with Witches had twenty-two attendees from around the country and only a few of those were CoG Members! Janine will be speaking, virtually, at San Diego College on Paganism vs Witchcraft vs Wicca. She also will be doing a facebook live on the CoG Website's Merry Part page to share with folks.

Janine discussed plans for CoG's 45th Anniversary celebration and asked all the Officers and Board members to please attend. Janine plans to record the virtual celebration and will inform folks prior to recording so they can turn off their video if they don't want to appear. Lady K has some bling she will be giving away. She hopes to introduce Officers and Board Members. Lord Verderius will be the Master of Ceremonies and there will be some special guests and keynote speakers along with toasts throughout the evening. She is hoping our newest International Friend of CoG will be in attendance too. There will be costume contests for familiars and human attendees for looniest and most creative costumes with a prize for a one-year Friends of CoG. And we will end with what we hope to do in the next year.

Thea will also introduce her Local Council contact to Janine for the recorded moots (meets) that the member is willing to share with CoG.

Outreach Officer (Brandon P.): *No report.*

Correspondence Officer (David L.): *No report.*

Recorder (Faelind): Faelind stated that the Grand Council Minutes are complete and were sent out to the board for review. Lord Soec asked if the Bylaws would be complete by Samhain to be included to the newsletter and Faelind assured Lord Soec that she should be done with all the required documents by Samhain, even the dreaded Policy Manual which needs a lot of work, but it will be updated with this year's changes at least.

There was discussion around the Bylaws Committee and Faelind agreed to chair, with Thea, Deborah, Lord Soec, and most likely Anna Korn being on that Committee. Faelind will reach out to Anna to ensure she still wants to be on the Committee. Canu has created a Bylaws Committee Forum and added Faelind to it.

Deborah asked about a question Faelind sent to the Bylaws Committee forum and whether there had been follow up. Faelind updated the meeting attendees with the topic that she found where she had NOT updated the bylaws from the changes made the year before (2019 Grand Council) when she was making the changes to the bylaws for the 2020 GC decisions. It concerns the criteria of whether an Individual Member (who now no longer needs to be eligible for Elder Credentials) can move from a Local Council to National. Thea believes that an Individual Member must be eligible for Elder Credentials to be a National Individual Member, but others believed it was only that the Individual Member must be eligible for Elder Credentials in order to hold any Officer position. Faelind will go back and listen to the GC2019 Recordings to ensure she has the proper understanding and will communicate with the National Officers, Governing Board, and the Bylaws Committee on her findings.

Qabal brought up the Covenant's use of the terms of Elder and referring to Degrees as eligibility for Credentials is alienating to younger potential members as these are not transferable across all Witches or paths. These become barriers to young people and people of color joining CoG. These are issues that the Governing Board can and should address during the coming year.

Governing Board Rep Reports:

Calafia LC: Catherine stated that Calafia has a Book of Rites that she will make available to Lady K for the CoG G-Drive resource library. She is meeting Thursday with the Covens who have decided not to renew to review what they plan to



do with the LC website and facebook pages. The website will be taken down and the facebook page will remain as a resource. Lord Soec asked whether he should remove Calafia as an LC but it was clarified that though the membership has shrunk, the Local Council is provisional for a Year-and-a-Day before it is dissolved. Catherine asked if she would remain the LC GB Rep and it was confirmed that she should. Perhaps the LC can grow during this year and remain an LC.

Chamisa LC: Lady K mentioned that Polaris is the new GB Rep and she is the new Alternate. Polaris was not on tonight's call.

Everglades Moon LC: EMLC elected new Officers with Alpandia as First Officer, Marla is Second Officer, Lady Bridget continues as Membership Officer, Katherine is Publications Officer, PIO is Diana Kampert, Reyna will continue as Pursewarden, and Recorder is Ceos. Lord Reiken added that he is looking forward to the virtual festival.

EMLC has determined that the annual festival Turning the Tides will be held virtually this year due to the pandemic.

Hills and Rivers LC: Lauren stated that there is not much to report since they are on strict guidelines due to the pandemic in their area. Grove of the Ancient River is doing public rituals for only up to 20 people according to the guidelines. All of their Coven groups are meeting but are not offering anything to the public. Several Covens are working with another Pagan group to do a Virtual Witches Ball which is usually a big masquerade party. It will be a virtual ghost hunt in the cemetery.

Northern California LC: Thea stated they had a disappointing turn-out for their last Local Council meeting, so they were unable to fill all of their LC Officer positions. Thea is continuing as First Officer but only if she has a Co-First Officer. She is waiting for LC Membership to approve Rachael as Co-First Officer. Linnea will continue as Pursewarden. They were unable to fill Recorder or Membership Officer. They are hoping that Anna will continue as LCMO. PIO duties have been done by a Committee and that will continue as well. She will let all know who the chair is for that committee. Recorder duties will be passed around for each meeting.

Thea asked whether their LC Pursewarden could get a generic @cog.org email and Lord V suggested she reach out to Canu to set that up.

Thea also asked if all the GB Reps have been added to an email list. Lord V will reach out to Canu to ensure we have an email group for just the Governing Board reps and one for just the National Officers.

Orange County LC: OCLC had a meeting the second Thursday of October and elected

Officers. Pam will continue as First Officer, Camille will be Second Officer, Pursewarden is Mary Stuart with Co-Pursewarden Lilith as Mary Stuart will not do it next year, new PIO is Tyler, and Nikolai is the new Membership Officer.

OCLC is planning their virtual Psychic Faire for the first weekend in December and they begin promoting it on November 1st. It will be a \$5 donation for 15 minutes and you can choose your reader. They will be creating a PayPal account that will also help them with MerryMeet next year.

Southern California LC: SCLC held their meeting Sept 26 where they ratified the existing slate of Officers to continue and she emphasized to her LC that they need to communicate what they want CoG to be and do.

Texas LC: TXLC had their meeting the day after our last combined Board meeting in September and elected two new PIOs, Kenny and Dusty, and a new Recorder, Ruby with the rest of the Officers continuing in their roles. Texas LC is doing everything virtually.

Touchstone LC: Lord Soec stated they met in September where they had nominations and meet tomorrow to elect Officers. They are looking for ways to expand.

National Covens: Lord Solandrin stated that Atlanta Pagan Pride is considering going virtual, but he has no specific dates.

Faelind asked whether Lord Solandrin has been able to meet with the other National Covens, and he plans to do that soon after he takes on the role officially.

Janine asked if he would like to use the CoG facebook page to promote anything that goes on in his area because Georgia had a lot of participants on the CoG facebook page.

National Individual Members – Absent

Old Business:

Brainstorm ideas for future vision for the Covenant: Lord V thought we did a good job in the last meeting and hopes everyone reviews what was captured in the minutes. It helps to keep us focused and on track.

Select 5 most important items/missions-/tasks to work on in the future and prioritize them: Mentorship will be a big issue going forward. Social Media engagement has been great, and we will continue to build on that. One of the things we discussed was to build, sustain, and encourage Craft Culture and Lord V wants each Officer and GB Rep to continue to think about how we do this so we can create action items to achieve. We need to work on making us more inclusive to younger Witches.



New Business:

Discuss the transfer of Leadership from the Executive Board to the Governing Board:

Lord V stated that tonight is our last meeting before the Governing Board assumes leadership. He hopes we can get more involvement from our membership in the coming year.

Discuss the schedule of all meetings for the coming year starting at Samhain: The Governing Board requested changes to the times and the November and May dates. Qabal suggested if we don't respect our holy days, we cannot expect others to. Everyone agreed no business meetings on our holy days.

Qabal was hoping (as the other constitutional Officer) that there would not be a need for the Executive Board to meet. In other non-profits he is involved with, the Executive Committee only meets once a quarter. Lord V hopes that our meetings will help us to accomplish our agenda items and plans to continue.

Thea suggested that this year is going to be a transition year in that we will learn what works and what doesn't, and she is grateful that Lord V scheduled out the whole year of meetings. Lady K added that we just need to prioritize what we can attend with all that needs our attention and Lord Soec suggested that one can always read the minutes and communicate outside of meetings if one has to miss a meeting. *[See page X for the new calendar.]*

Discuss Transition Committee meeting and report for the transfer of leadership to the Governing Board:

Lady Mariah wrote a Transition Committee meeting Report that she will provide to Lord Soec for the newsletter. It will be the Governing Board report. She summarized the lengthy report with the two items that were discussed:

1. Zoom Meeting protocols – How we will share the Zoom Account and how will the meetings be managed
2. Interactions between the Executive Board and the Governing Board – Consensus was that the roles will be an evolving thing and that they know they cannot solve problems that don't exist and cannot anticipate everything

Lady Mariah believes this will be a transition year where we will learn and develop changes that can be discussed in the next Grand Council. She is optimistic about the Covenant.

Qabal said if we are talking about changes at Grand Council, he plans to submit a proposal to eliminate the Pursewarden role and hire an Accountant. The Pursewarden becomes a Secretary/Treasurer that oversees/supervises that external accountant and is still part of the Governing Board. He would like to have the

Governing Board percolate this and address issues before Grand Council. Lord Soec brought up the issue of having access to CoG Member data and Lord V stated that Accountants have to follow client confidentiality like Doctors and Lawyers so we should not have an issue with that. Qabal does not know if we can afford it, but he is concerned that we do not have people who are willing to be Pursewarden because of the necessity to have bookkeeping skills.

Discuss CoG's 45th Anniversary Party Virtual Open House schedule for Saturday, October 31st:

It will be two hours starting at 3:00 PM Pacific time. It will be a social activity and allow folks to connect. Lord Soec plans to advertise the event and our anniversary in the newsletter and asked Deborah if she would send him a few lines about what 45 years means to her!

Call for Additions to the Agenda: Faelind added suggestions for the website to include icons to all our social media accounts and to add the meeting calendar. The current CoG calendar uses Flash which will not be supported in browsers after the end of the year, so it needs a new plug-in. Faelind cannot open the current calendar on the website.

Action Items:

- Faelind to review GC2018 recordings to confirm/clarify National Individual Member requirements
- Lord V to work with Canu to ensure updated email lists:
 - One for Governing Board Reps
 - One for National Officers
- Thea to work with Lady K and Janine to get content for YouTube from NCLC member
- Lord V to publish new 2020/2021 Calendar for meetings with requested changes
- Lord Soec to update the website with social media icons and look for a solution for the online Calendar flash issue as well as fix the broken links

Meeting Adjourned: We adjourned at 2 ½ hours.

NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

TRANSITIONING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

~Sept 26, 2020

National Officers:

- ✓ First Officer – Lord Verderius (hereinafter "Lord V") – Host -- Present

Governing Board Representatives:

- Northern California LC – Thea -- Absent



- ✓ Northern California LC -- Alt: Deborah B. - Present
- ✓ Southern California LC - Lady Mariah - Moderator -- Present
- ✓ Texas LC - Orin - Present
- ✓ Touchstone LC - Lord Soec - Present

Old Business: None

New Business:

Begin Recording.

Meeting called to order at 1:20 p.m.

PDT.

Roll Call / Introductions. Attendance issues: none.

Operating Procedures of the Governing Board: Lady Mariah: We are meeting today for the purpose of determining how the Governing Board is going to operate. We ourselves are not going to take up any tasks outside of that scope. We are going to start talking about Operating Procedures and Interactions between the two boards.

Who will make written reports of Transition Committee meetings:

This meeting is being recorded so that's a lot easier now. In the absence of any other volunteers, Lady Mariah said she will write a report and submit it to this Committee. Deborah said she can relieve Lady Mariah from time to time but doesn't want primary responsibility for the job. She took some notes and provided those to Lady Mariah to assist in the task.

Access to the National ZOOM account:

The National Pursewarden, Manny Tejada, is the owner of the Zoom account. He, Lord V, Faelind and Lady K are organizers. An organizer is a person who has access to the account and can schedule and host. Lord V says Faelind is the most knowledgeable person about Zoom. Lady Mariah volunteered to phone Faelind to discuss the subject. Lady Mariah did research regarding what if two boards want to hold meetings at the same time. She found that additional Organizer Seats would have to be appointed: separate individuals who could host separate meetings from separate devices concurrently. Follow-up phone conversation with Faelind revealed that COG did not purchase additional organizer seats. Therefore, we can only hold one meeting at a time.

Questions Regarding ZOOM Scheduling Protocol:

How do we avoid overlapping meeting schedules? Orin pointed out that we established at Grand Council that the First Officer is considered the facilitator of all meetings. Lord V plans to schedule all the Board meetings for the upcoming year and publish that schedule so all Board members can enter it into their calendars. Deborah is concerned that the Governing Board cannot meet unless the First Officer is available to host. Lord V

said that since he will be setting the schedule and sending it out, presumably he will be available. But it does not limit the Governing Board from having additional meetings. The schedule will entail one meeting a month, usually on a Sunday, in the following order: Governing Board, Executive Board, Joint Meeting. Deborah asked what about working groups or committees of the Governing Board; is the First Officer's presence required? Someone on the Governing Board needs to have organizer privileges so they can meet without having to coordinate schedules with the Executive Officers. Lord V agreed. Deborah would like to know what the limit is on how many organizers there can be and would like at least two people on the Governing Board to be organizers. There was general agreement concerning all of the above points.

Deborah asked: What do the organizers have the ability to do? Are scheduling and hosting different things that different people could do? Lady Mariah stated that the person who schedules the meeting is technically the host (though not necessarily the moderator) and has to open the meeting, admit participants, begin the recording, and leave the meeting open on their device whether they choose to participate in the meeting or not. Lord V is technically the host of this meeting even though Lady Mariah is running it. Lord V had to start the recording; Lady Mariah could not do that. *Addendum: Lady Mariah could not access the recording of this meeting to write these minutes without organizer privileges, so as a result of the later phone conversation between Lady Mariah and Faelind, those privileges have been granted to Lady Mariah.

Security questions were resolved about unauthorized use of the Zoom account. You cannot access the account without organizer privileges. You cannot enter a meeting without an invitation and admission by the host. A gatekeeper is not necessary; Zoom itself is the gatekeeper. Having Lord V set up a schedule for the main monthly meetings gives us a framework so that we can avoid scheduling conflicts. Organizers are also able to see what meetings are already scheduled.

Procedures for running Governing Board meetings:

Deborah said that according to the Bylaws, the First Officer will chair the meetings, but that the Governing Board has authority to establish its own procedures, which would seem contradictory. Therefore, the Governing Board might start with the established procedures, but those procedures might change in the future. Lady Mariah feels we won't need to spend time on officer reports or local council reports, which will save time. Pretty much just Old Business and New Business, since we will be more of a think tank than a task-oriented body. Deborah thinks that we will need to have reports from committees if we establish any of those. She also feels that local



councils run their meetings differently and it might be beneficial to learn from each one how they do that and see if we wish to adopt any of their methods. Lady Mariah agreed and said that we will be able to benefit from such a discussion when the Governing Board holds its first meeting. She said that will help us decide if we will allow a free-form discussion where everyone's mike is open, or whether we want to adopt the Hands Raised type of methodology, and do we want to have Chat going on, and if so, who will monitor the Chat.

Deborah thinks we should consider how the Agenda is determined and how far in advance it gets disseminated. Lord V said that he has created a template for the Governing Board Agenda and was expecting to do that for the first meeting but is willing to share that responsibility with a Governing Board representative. He is in favor of the Governing Board finding its own Chairperson. Lady Mariah asked for consensus that Lord V establish the Agenda for the first Governing Board meeting. We have consensus.

Deborah made the point that there are diverse ways to deal with consensus process and we might want to look at options for that once the Governing Board is convened. Polls and hand signals, for example, might be considered.

Who will take Minutes of Governing Board meetings: Deborah asked is it required that the National Recorder take the minutes, or is it just a requirement that minutes be taken? According to the Bylaws of the Covenant, the National Recorder must take minutes of all Board meetings, so Faelind will be doing that. Lady Mariah stated that technically you don't have to attend a meeting because you can review the Zoom recording and make the minutes from that with as much accuracy as if you had been there in person.

Interactions Between the Governing Board and the Executive Board: Lord Soec joined the meeting at this point. Lady Mariah said that we are setting up a completely new structure for the Covenant and that a lot of the things the Executive Board has been accustomed to dealing with are not strictly in their job descriptions according to the Bylaws, Policy Manual and Working Manuals. It appears that in the future, the duties of the Executive Board are going to hew more closely to the duties spelled out in those documents. Lord V pointed out that the First Officer and Pursewarden must be voting members of both Boards. Lady Mariah agreed that her comments more appropriately concern the other officerships.

To whom shall recommendations be directed: Recommendations from the Governing Board to the Executive Board are appropriate to discuss during the Joint Meetings of both Boards.

To whom shall requests for action be directed: Lady Mariah: How shall we go about

setting in motion actions that we wish the Executive Board to take up? Who would we contact and how would we go about requesting that a specific thing be done? Lord V feels that the natural order would be to start with the First Officer since he sits on both Boards, until such time as there might be two individuals, one on each Board, who act as heads. Deborah feels a distinction ought to be made between things directed to one Executive Officer as opposed to things directed to multiple Executive Officers. She feels that funneling everything through one individual could create a bottleneck and that there is a potential for a game of telephone to develop. Lord Soec said that people need to look at the newsletter because all that contact information is already in there. Orin feels that everyone should know who your representative is and how to find information in the newsletter and on the website. Lord Soec says that as NPO, he likes people to ask him questions. But the answer is frequently, have you looked at the newsletter, or have you looked at the website. Deborah found a broken link on the website. Jack says send him an email directly about things like that.

To whom shall requests for information be directed: Deborah feels that requests for information constitute making a demand on people for their time and maybe a report. Lord V said that Executive Officers must make reports for the newsletter so those things will be available to the Governing Board. In addition, we would want to go over things at the Joint Meeting so questions could be cleared up. Deborah said she was concerned about matters between meetings and asked what kind of information we want to have on the website that isn't there now or is hard to find.

Lady Mariah summarized the discussion. We need to take responsibility for knowing who the individuals are who deal with various things, so that we can direct requests specifically to that individual. We as representatives should know, and we should work towards informing our constituencies, that they too should know the newsletter and the website so that if there is a concern about those things, they would know who to contact. Orin agrees strongly that we should know these things. He likes going directly to the source and said if he didn't know who handles something, he would go to Lord V as First Officer and ask who to contact. Lord Soec reiterated that he prefers one-to-one contact rather than a game of telephone through intermediaries. Deborah would like some additional material on the member side for people who don't read the newsletter, but want to find out about something. Orin said, do you mean perhaps have the officers' job duties on the website? Jack said the nature of websites is that pages are nested, and you often have to go down a few levels to find what you want. Orin says he can find the officers but not



what they do. Deborah said she will make suggestions at a future time.

Lady Mariah advised committee members to make notes about these issues so that we can take them up at the Governing Board meeting. But we need to be familiar with who are doing various jobs so that we can contact them directly and not have to wait three months for a Joint Meeting to convey a message to an Officer or appointee. Basically, know who you're working with. Make it part of your job to know who's doing what.

Jack wants further discussion at a future meeting of things like the public side memorial site.

How Much Collaboration is to be Expected: Orin initiated this topic and said that he envisions it falling into the "what do we do vs. what do they do" question regarding the two Boards. Deborah feels that collaboration goes both directions. She would welcome the Executive Board sending requests to the Governing Board, i.e., we would like you to address this or that. That might help us figure out our priorities. Lady Mariah envisions the Governing Board as the think tank that comes up with ideas and asks the Executive Board, how do we go about doing this, and what is involved in getting started on that.

General Discussion of What the Governing Board Should Do: Lord V hopes that the Governing Board runs with the concept of where we see the Covenant in five, ten, or twenty years. How do we continue to be relevant and interactive and more visible, especially to younger people and to the larger community? We need to get that message out there on different forms of social media. Lord Soec would like to see us become more active and gave examples of the Pentacle Quest, YouTube videos, and podcasts. We need to promote EMLC's podcast just as much as they do, and maybe start doing a COG podcast of our own. Things to get us out there. Lady Mariah said that things are going on within the Covenant that don't make it to the public eye. If we can identify members who are passionate about a particular thing, put them in touch with each other and provide our support and sanction, and if we can make that part of our public profile and our vision, it benefits everybody. Lord Soec mentioned that we have members who love to blog. What would it take for COG to sponsor these types of things? He specifically makes a request that each person pay special attention to the Blast From the Past in the latest newsletter because there's something there that we did 20 years ago regarding Ardantane, and we could do more with that. He can foresee the Governing Board looking into things like sponsorship of classes at Ardantane or the Texas LC. Lady Mariah said that we haven't done a good enough job of tooting our own horn. We don't make proud proclamations, for example, that COG

members have been editors and contributors to The Wild Hunt for many years. How can we loom larger in the thoughts of other pagan institutions and bloggers? Should the Governing Board be overseeing things like the movement for a memorial site on the public side of the website? Should we be overseeing the Timeline project and Prison Ministry? She thinks the Governing Board should take hold of things like that. We should know who's doing what and monitor, not interfere, so that we can include those things in COG's public profile and work towards expanding our slate of Covenant-wide activities. Lord Soec and Lady Mariah mentioned that COG at one time got involved in supporting various lawsuits like Iron Oak, The Pentacle Quest, etc. But you don't see much credit given to COG for having done that. Nobody is going to celebrate us if we don't. Lady Mariah stated that these are things the Governing Board needs to start identifying in our meetings once we convene formally.

Call for Additions to the Agenda

Scheduling the next meeting: Do we need to schedule another meeting of this Transition Committee? Lord Soec said, after we meet formally, we might need to meet again, but no need before. Lady Mariah said how about we not schedule a meeting right now but review the report that she will be writing and decide after that if we need one? Deborah is in favor of having another meeting after the formal Governing Board meeting, sort of a debriefing. Orin feels that we should have a meeting after the first Governing Board meeting to go over how it went, if we need to refine the process, etc. Therefore, no further meeting is scheduled at this time.

Meeting Adjourned: We thank everyone who attended today for their time. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Action Items:

- Lord V will create the schedule of meetings for the coming year and will disseminate that soon so we can notate our calendars and prepare.
- Lady Mariah will telephone conference with Faelind regarding Zoom.
- Lady Mariah will produce Minutes of this meeting and disseminate them to the Committee.

LOCAL COUNCILS



CALAFIA

~ April 12, 2020 ~

Roll call -2:50 PM (X = present)



X	Karen	First Officer
	Erik	Pursewarden
X	Catherine	Recorder

Represented: Circle Angkur, Circle Athenaeum, Circle of Wind & Wave. Quorum was reached.

Officer Reports

First Officer – Karen – no new communication on the Calafia website. Karen stated Circle Athenaeum was not renewing its COG membership, and there was some discussion about how Calafia Local Council would then become provisional. Karen reported being disenfranchised after the last Grand Council

Second Officer – vacant

Pursewarden – no report, bank balances unchanged, as there have been no transactions.

PIO – vacant. Very little activity on Calafia and Calafriends lists. Erik keeping up with Calafia Facebook page.

Membership/Correspondence – vacant.

Recorder – Catherine– will send minutes to National for publication after approval by the local Council.

Old Business

Governing Board Representative Report:

Catherine gave a summary of the last Board meeting to the local council.

New Business

Feeding America/San Diego Donation –

In order to support the community during COVID-19, it was agreed to make a \$500.00 donation to Feeding San Diego for replenishing local food banks

Next meeting –It was agreed to meet next in June, date and time to be discussed online.

Adjourn –3:10 pm



~ June 6, 2020 ~

Roll call –2:15 PM (X = present)

X	Karen	First Officer
X	Erik	Pursewarden
X	Catherine	Recorder

Represented: Circle Angkur, Circle Athenaeum. Quorum was **not** reached.

Officer Reports

First Officer – Karen – no new communication on the Calafia website. Karen stated she had heard Circle of Wind and Wave was not

renewing its COG membership, which would end Calafia Local Council.

Second Officer – vacant

Pursewarden – no report, bank balances unchanged, as there have been no transactions.

PIO – vacant. Very little activity on Calafia and Calafriends lists. Erik keeping up with Calafia Facebook page.

Membership/Correspondence – vacant.

Recorder – Catherine– will send minutes to National for publication after approval by the local Council.

Old Business

Governing Board Representative Report.

Catherine gave a summary of the last Board meeting to the local council.

New Business

Feeding America/San Diego Donation –

there was discussion about doing another donation to support the community during COVID-19 to Feeding San Diego for replenishing local food banks.

Next meeting –It was agreed to meet next in July, date and time to be discussed online.

Adjourn –2:45 pm



~ July 26, 2020 ~

Roll call –6:45 PM (X = present)

X	Karen	First Officer
X	Erik	Pursewarden
X	Catherine	Recorder

Represented: Circle Angkur, Circle Athenaeum, Circle of Wind and Wave. Quorum was reached.

Officer Reports

First Officer – Karen – no new communication on the Calafia website. Pat affirmed that Circle of Wind and Wave was not renewing its COG membership. There was some discussion about how best to disband the local council, and whether or not Circle Angkur would become a National member. Karen agreed not to renew the domain name for the Calafia website. Karen agreed to send the annual report to National in time for Grand Council.

Second Officer – vacant

Pursewarden – \$248.08 in account. no transactions.

PIO – vacant. No activity on Calafia and Calafriends lists. Erik keeping up with Calafia Facebook page, but minimal activity. There was



discussion about whether to take down the Calafia Facebook page, which was tabled.

Membership/Correspondence – vacant.

Recorder – Catherine– will send minutes to National for publication after approval by the local Council.

Old Business

Governing Board Representative Report. Catherine gave a summary of the last Board meeting to the local council.

New Business

Feeding America/San Diego Donation –

It was agreed to send half the remaining funds (124.04) in the Calafia bank account to Feeding America/San Diego supporting the community during COVID-19 by replenishing local food banks. It was agreed to send the remainder of the funds (124.04) to Adocentyn Research Library. Erik agreed to close the Union bank account after these transactions were complete.

Grand Council online – Catherine stated she had registered and would attend virtually on the weekend of 8/14, but also had to juggle work demands.

Next meeting –It was agreed to meet once more for the year, date and time to be discussed online.

Adjourn –7:00 pm



CHAMISA

~ Sept. 22, 2020 ~

Roll call: Amber K and Azrael Aryn K , Rowan, Falco, and Polaris (Our lady of the Woods); Lora Jackson Legare, David Legare (Circle of the Cauldorn); Carole McWilliams (Crowwymyn); Sylvia Webb (Circle of the Winter Moon); Jude Harrison (solitary), Blaine Proctor, Dee Proctor, Rick Proctor, Sheri Snyder, Morgana Fox (Circle of the Silver Moon); and Lady Athena.

Amber called on the Goddess Athena to bless the meeting and get us through these difficult times.

Officer reports:

First Officer Lora: “This is my last report.” That’s it.” She thanked everyone for the successful virtual Mabon. There was mention of issues involving the portrayal of Albuquerque witches in the 1960s in a TV series that is in reproduction.

Second Officer Blaine: Thanked everyone for making the virtual Mabon a great success.

Membership Officer Sheri: Reported one new solitary application, no new coven or transfer

applications. She directed us to her on-line report. She advised Oct. 31 is the deadline for username re-sets. She is willing to serve again as Membership Officer.

Recorder, Dru was unable to make the meeting. Sheri reported for Dru.

Pursewarden Sylvia: Reported a current CLC balance of \$6425.17, with no activity since she did the report on Sept. 8. Because of lack of income, we twinkled agreement that amounts for future quarterly contributions to Ardantane should be decided at each quarterly meeting instead of any set amount.

PIO Rowan and Interfaith Rowan and Lady Athena: No report. Rowan and Lady Athena have shared this job. Rowan will not be PIO again.

CoG reps Tiffany and Ryan: No report. We’ll need two replacements for Tiffany and Ryan.

Friendly reports:

Ardantane: Amber reported a very robust on-line program. In November will be a one-day on-line Hekate retreat. “We’ve re-opened the campus to a limited extent, and we’ve had Beaver work parties,” she said. The live digital auction at Mabon was very successful and brought in more than \$2,000. There was discussion of another digital auction before Yule.

Silver Moon Health: No one from their group was present.

Beltane Southwest: No one from their group was present.

Albuquerque Pagan Pride: Was cancelled due to Covid-19. It would have been this weekend. Dee said they are still taking food bank donations. Rowan suggested urging all CLC members to donate to their local food bank.

Old Business:

MerryMeet: Sylvia thinks having a one day Grand Council on Friday left out people who had to work. She thinks there would have been more people on Saturday.

CLC Mabon: Lora: “I’ve gotten a lot of messages about how great it was. It was a valuable service to our community. There are people who haven’t been able to circle in six months. This was their opportunity.” Dee said final registration was 53 people. There were some from distant states, also Canada and South Korea. Azrael and Lora said all the feedback has been positive about the auction and programs.

Dee said she’s working on putting all the workshop handouts on the CoG outreach on Google Drive. Lora reported Dru has started on the CLC Mabon handbook “so we don’t have to reinvent the wheel every year.” That will be something to



discuss at the CLC Yule meeting, especially Mabon job descriptions.

Local membership drive: Rowan said she hasn't done anything with it. She's busy now with political work. Lora said Ryan will continue his membership, but as a solitary.

New Business:

First Proposal: Lora discussed a proposal to create a replacement for Witchvox, which has been a great resource. Groups on Facebook don't do what they provided with state and local information. Now that's gone. We could provide that service for the CLC region. I don't know how we would do it, but we can explore this and figure it out.

Rowan: "I think the Witchvox site had too much stuff, and some was out of date. Information should be vetted before it goes up. Witchvox didn't do that. Neither does Facebook. Focus on the CLC area and have it vetted." She is interested in doing this and Lora wants to help her.

We twinkled support for the proposal.

Second proposal: Lora discussed holding virtual rituals for Sabbats. "The feedback from Mabon was that people wanted more." Everyone thought this is a good idea and twinkled.

Sylvia thinks she could commit Circle of the Winter Moon to one a year. Dee said Coven of the Silver Moon could do one this year. Ardantane said one. Lora said Circle of the Cauldron could do one. Sylvia suggested the Equinoxes and two Sabbats. Lady Athena said her group could host one.

We twinkled the proposal.

Az noted Ardantane's Zoom Samhain sharing circle on Oct. 30.

Lora: "That's our first one!"

Election:

- Pursewarden: Sylvia was willing to continue.
- First Officer: After discussion, David Legare agreed to take the position.
- CoG representatives – Polaris, with Dee as alternate.
- PIO: We approved Dru if she wants it, with Rowan as assistant and Lora as Rowan's assistant.
- Membership: Sheri Snyder to continue.
- Recorder - Carole volunteered and was approved.
- Interfaith - Lora Jackson Legare.

Ardantane donation - We agreed with Sylvia to address this at each meeting, with no set amount.

Mabon 2021 - We agreed to invite Oberon Zell as guest presenter.

CLC meeting dates - Yule Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. on Zoom.

Ostara meeting March 7 at 1 p.m. Rowan wants to assume the March meeting will be on Zoom, and the rest of the year, but revisit that if the COVID situation improves. We agreed. Also discuss there whether an in-person Litha retreat is possible.

Litha meeting June 6 at 1 p.m.

Mabon festival Sept. 17-18. Sylvia thinks there could be workshops on Friday.

Mabon business meeting Sept. 26 at 1 p.m.

Announcements - Lady Athena expressed concern about politicization in CLC, that the focus should stay on our religion and caring for the Earth.

We adjourned at 1:58 p.m.



EVERGLADES MOON

~ Sept 26, 2020

Meeting held Via Zoom, room opened at 1pm for reconnecting and tech testing.

Kasha opened the meeting with an Invocation to Coventina at 120pm

In attendance:

- Kasha, First Officer, Individual member
- Marla, Second Officer, Individual member
- Ceos, Individual member
- Qabal, LC Public Information Officer, National Pursewarden, Individual member, proxy for Dona Pantera,
- Alpania, Publications Office, Dragon Whisper Coven
- Amber Moon, Individual member
- Raven, LC Delegate to the National Board, Individual member
- Canu, National Netco, Beachfyre Coven
- Rayna, LC Pursewarden, Beachfyre Coven
- Dennis, Albions Spirit Coven
- Bobbi Joe, Albions Spirit Coven
- Trish, Albions Spirit Coven
- Eric, Albions Spirit Coven
- Lady Bridget, Membership Officer, Witch and Famous Coven
- Lord Riekin, LC alternate delegate to the National Board Witch and Famous Coven
- Cat, Witch and Famous Coven
- Diana Kampert, Spiraling Heart Coven
- Tanit Heru, Silver Sanctuary Coven
- Franks, Silver Sanctuary Coven

Guests:

- Martha Capo- Friend of CoG member, South Florida
- Christina Gastesi (joining at 315pm)



Roll call/check in

- Review of Friends of CoG (explaining invited guests to the group).

Guest introductions/discussions

Officer Reports

First Officer (Kasha)

- Kasha, not much to report from last meeting in August. Context of last meeting, a hurricane impacting Texas and California fires. No reported losses from CoG members, but status is unclear.
- Focused on outreach to local councils.
- July minutes went to the newsletter. Finalizing August minutes.
- No monthly meetings have been missed.
- Historic Grand Council – completely virtual. We showed up, we participated.
- We are planning an annual gathering event virtually. We continue to build community and networking.
- First Officer Kasha will not be running again. This position will be open for election.

Second Officer (Marla)

- No retreat this year due to COVID but group of members from Jacksonville area together at Fern House Farm for local meeting. If public health guidelines, consider retreat in 2021, perhaps not combined with Annual meeting. Consider changing retreat to a different time, maybe January – February 2022.

• Reminder from Raven, the combined meeting is only within the last 2 years. Previously were separated, the retreat in the Spring, the Annual Meeting in October.

Membership Officer (Bridget): Considering what a time we've had in 2020 so far (is your Bingo card full yet?) our local council seems to be weathering things well. This year we welcomed two new members, Silver Sanctuary Coven, and Albion's Spirit, plus one new Friend of CoG, Marth Capo. We have not lost any members this year, so we now have 20 members consisting of 7 covens, and 13 individual members. We remain one of the largest and most active local councils in CoG.

Folks due to renew at Samhain are Marla Roberson, and Spelcastor. All members who were due to renew at Mabon have done so.

I am in my third year as Membership Officer - this time around! and while I am willing to continue to serve in this capacity - the membership would need to consense on allowing that, as they did last year. But I do caution us about having the same officers on the board year after year. It can create the perception of a "clique" of people that are always in charge. It can also seem discouraging to new folks to volunteer if they get that perception, and it can mean that we don't get new

ideas and new perspectives. Those things can lead to stagnation. I am warning all of us to be wary of this. Our strengths lie in our diversity! Let's make certain that our leadership reflects that diversity as well. I will happily mentor someone who would want to take over this position and help them make good decisions to the best of my ability.

In Her service, and yours,
Lady Bridget

Publication Information Officer (Manny)

- There were two inquiries from students, who were appropriately referred.
- There was the Blue Moon Murders in Pensacola, motive: money, witchcraft was not a focus.
- PIO description: assists FO for releasing info to public.

Publications (Alpandia)

- Alpandia is ok to continue as PIO and keeper of website.
- 2020 – has been a quiet year.
- Migrated website and email to new server. So far both have been unaffected.
- Website includes Covid resources for Wiccan and podcasts.
- Facebook profile is still up. Reviews requested.
- Podcast is in various mediums.
- PIO: to post about events...few events in 2020, quiet this year

In our Mabon, 2020 episode you'll find: * Pandie's Pagan Projects - where Alpandia teaches us how to make salt candles* Mythology - where Coyote MorningStar gives us information about the fall Zodiac signs* Book Review Corner - Shaylee reviews "Initiation - a Memoir"* Workshops - Part 2 of the song workshop offered by Crow Women at Merry Meet 2012 in New Mexico

Click this link to listen, and be sure to subscribe and leave reviews!
<https://emlc.net/reaching-for-the-moon-episode-63-mabon/>

Pursewarden (Rayna): Ahoy me hearties!

Avast Ye! This is your Old Salt Rayna here with an accounting of our loot.

As of the last quarterly report, EMLC has \$5406.74 in our checking account and \$2854.93 in our paypal account, for a total of \$6958.36 in liquid cash assets. This is \$1303.31 more than we had at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

We continue to make monthly donations of \$25 to The Wild Hunt, and a number of annual philanthropic donations to support The Turtle Hospital in Marathon, The Florida Panther Refuge in the Everglades, and Friends of Oscar Scherer Park in Osprey, Florida, where we have adopted an endangered scrub jay. In 2020, we added an earth element animal donation for balance, and we are



now donors to the Center for Great Apes in Wauchula, where we adopted a chimpanzee who is living her best life after a career in television and the circus. We are always open to new suggestions for philanthropic organizations worthy of our support! Yo-ho-ho!

Turning the Tide is our largest annual fundraiser, and we usually make about a thousand dollars in profit after covering our expenses. We will miss that source of income this year, with Tides cancelled in 2020 due to covid-related concerns. However, the Local Council remains financially healthy (plenty of booty!) for a tiny non-profit religious organization, with a comfortable cushion of savings that we roll over from year to year and no large expenses on the horizon. In fact, the Goddess has provided for us this year with a large donation of Craft books and statuary from a friend of EMLC who has downsized and found her path leading to Buddhism. We will begin auctioning some of these items on Facebook soon, with another auction at Tides. Some of the items are quite valuable and we should be able to recover almost all the income we are losing from the cancellation of Tides. We are very grateful to our bucko Val for this second donation to EMLC.

The plans I had to create a new fundraising event for EMLC were put on indefinite hold due to covid. Prior to the quarantine we talked about hosting a Witches Night Out over the summer, maybe with a Midsummer Nights Dream theme, somewhere in south Florida at an indoor venue. Through readings of various kinds and vendors, we could make some money and have a good time with the broader pagan community. Hopefully we can pick those plans up again in 2021. Savvy?

All quarterly reports were filed mostly on time, and the National Pursewarden, that Carouser of the Seven Seas, seems satisfied with them. Lady Circe, that Seadog, remains with us via our Paypal account, which is too annoying to change and I have come to find it comforting that she is still watching over our books. I have enjoyed serving EMLC in this manner, we are shipshape, and I am willing to continue on as LC Pursewarden.

Godspeed,

Pyrate Rayna Templebee, Keeper of the Coffers

Old Business

What EMLC ers are doing

- Ceos became certified Kundalini Yoga instructor
- Cat became certified health coach
- Reikin got national wildlife certification for home property
- Diana is working with her local theater company on a virtual cabaret and will be on Tallahassee radio show next Wednesday

- Canu is working with his county on COVID compliance enforcement
- Raven is fostering kittens
- Kasha is participating in Postcards to Voters campaign
- Amber has opened a community center with partners, space for classes and metaphysical services
- Publications: if any members have a website, please forward to the Publications officer for our arts and services page.
- Eric – works within the prison system and finds there is need for Wiccan prison ministry. Florida is lagging in this behind other parts of the country. He can act as resource/contact for FL prison system. Manny will share this with the National Board who is working on prison ministry resources.

Grand Council 2020

- At last meeting, we mentioned that the location of 2021, will be Orange County, California. No specific dates, early August 2021.
- This event was 100% virtual this year due to COVID

Report from Local Council representatives to National Board

- Raven missed last meeting due to illness and did not create a report.
- Raven – exploring a committee to decide what a 'local council representative' does.
- Lord Riekin, provided update has ideas for membership. Board structure and function is in transition.
- Raven and Riekin are the LC reps for another year (it is a 2-year term, she completed her 1st year).

Turning the Tide 2020

- Kasha – reviewed decision from last meeting. No in-person event will be held, but commitment was made for virtual event weekend of December 5. Vision: entertainment, learning, ritual. Amber will host a 'virtual happy hour'. Her vision, some kind of dress up, a way to socially connect.
- Events/point people:
 - Amber- Happy hour
 - Alpandia- open mic talent show
 - Marla and Alpandia- workshops/scheduling
 - Rayna-online auction, together with Alpandia for tech
 - Coyote and Bridget- ritual
- Some events live, some pre-recorded
- No cost to attendees
- Raven – has a son-in-law who has equipment for this.
- Rayna – Aequitas (Joseph) offering to do Astrology Workshop again.



- There will be a test auction run on EMLC webpage. We will do a small sale of just 4 items, to see how it works. There will be a more robust sale during Tides.
- Cat – is going through stuff (nice stuff) and some of that could be part of this.
- Kasha – discussion of the theme. Brainstorming. Some suggestions: Closer to the Moon, Going Within Together, Physically Apart Spiritually Together, Turning the Wheel To A New World Kasha will throw a list on the thread.
- Lord Riekin – the difficulty sitting in front of a computer all day....consider breaking it up over several days or several weekends. The construct of an 8 hour time slot that must be filled might not be needed. Flexibility. Breaks.
- Kasha, possibly have different people videos of their outdoors? Maybe five (5) minutes from different nature sites across the state. Generally good feelings about this. Alpania can loop them together in her media.
- Tanit – thought of splitting it into weekends, to parallel the 12 Days of Christmas.
- Kasha – do a pre-weekend event the weekend before, maybe pre-recorded?
- Cat – tokens of the class....would we send them out?
- Kasha – Custom Tides Masks.....Cat will follow up on costs.

Fundraising and Outreach

- Standing agenda item. We will revisit the Witches night out fundraiser and other projects once gatherings can happen safely.

Local Council Timeline:

- CoG national is working on National Timeline. This is just a reminder from Kasha.
- The 3 things EMLC would submit: Tides 13, talking about the history of time (Pandie, content, Bridget would work on podcast, Marla – philanthropy piece).
- Unsure if Andrea has a deadline for this.
- Local Council Timeline (Alpania)...looking for submissions about the history of EMLC. Maybe consider submitting milestones of anything (funny, serious, silly). In Memoriam without pics

2:43 pm – (10 minute bio break)

3:00 pm – return

New Business

Membership Variances: All 3 variances were reaffirmed by the LC membership at the EMLC annual meeting on October 6.

1. A Coven or a Solitary that applies to Everglades Moon Local Council for membership

needs two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a member of the Local Council.

Bridget: The variance on this; one of the letter to be of an EMLC member to make sure they get to know us. If they apply and have not met us, they could technically get letters outside of Florida and we would not know who they are.

Discussion: Kasha – we get stuff done because we work closely together. Familiarity helps this and helps functionality.

This variance....twinkled (approved) from all people on this call.

2. Any person who is a former member of an EMLC member coven, needs to have one of their letters of recommendation be from their former HP or HPS or designated CoG coven contact. This does not apply to a solitary member of a member coven who wishes to hold dual status as a solitary member also. The Local Council Board can waive this requirement on a case by case basis at the Board’s discretion.

Bridget: Reading Variance #2, and explaining its purpose, history. This came about to prevent ‘Witch Wars’, e.g. – someone walking away from their coven (on bad terms) and then applying to EMLC. This is to avoid their potentially being an “ass-at”.

Discussion: none

Consensus to keep variance #2 for the next year.

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

Bridget: Reading Variance #3 and explaining its purpose & history. To ensure that there would be maximum opportunities to meeting members. This counts as in-person. We interact well together, for the most part, we want applicants to be proactive. It gives prospective members to see how we work via consensus.

Discussion: Pandie – old requirement we used to have them attend 3 EMLC meetings in person. If the purpose is so that they will see consensus at work, should the variant be amended to read that one of the events needs to be a monthly meeting?

Proposed: Alpania: New applicants must attend 3 EMLC meeting or events, one of which must be in person and one must be a meeting.

Discussion: does ‘in-person’ include virtually? various ideas on this.

Rayna...suggested adding “at least one of which is a regular business meeting”.

Manny – National CoG – some covens coming through which have never met physically.



This will be addressed, discussed at Grand Council next year.

REWORDING OF VARIANCE #3: New applicants must attend 3 EMLC meetings or events, at least one of which must be a regular business meeting, and one of which must be in-person, before membership application materials will be forwarded for National publication.

Consensus for re-wording of Variance #3.

Kasha will forward this to National Newsletter to make deadline of Samhain newsletter.

Community announcements

- Rayna – discussed Arts & Services page on website has not been updated in a while. Publications has repeatedly asked for updates, weblinks...please send weblink, events, etc. Any member can be hosted there, for any service.
- Pandie – send pandie@gmail.com – send it to this email. How you would like to be listed, web link, Facebook page....etc.

Annual Donations & Suggestions

- Where should we be spending our charitable money? Continue what we are doing? New suggestions?
- Suggestion from Manny: Lubee Bat Sanctuary Conservancy (Gainesville) at least to look at the page because the bats are cute. This is a non-profit. Founded by a founder of Bacardi. They offer bat tours. Members west of Jacksonville can research in person. More discussion later on this. Kasha – take video of flying fox bat landing on visitors.
- Ceos – motion: keep current 4 nature contributions (Turtle hospital, panther sanctuary, FL scrubjays, and Great Apes) and explore Lubbee for possible future (agenda for next meeting). Continue monthly contribution to the Wild Hunt (Manny and Alpania recused themselves from the discussion about donation to TWH)
- Consensus reached

LC Officer elections

- First Officer – open position. Suggestion: have a co-first officer. Kasha offering to mentor.

Discussion:

- Scheduling and facilitating meetings
- Support of other officers
- Being contact for the Local Council.
- Be a signer on the accounts, local EMLC Account.
- Alpania willing to be co-First Officer until January 1, 2021, and then assume the role fully thereafter.
- Second Officer – Marla expressed interest in continuing. Unopposed.

- Membership – Lady Bridget expressed interest in continuing, but offered to mentor. Unopposed. Passed. This will be Lady Bridget's 4th year.

Variance to Membership By-Laws to allow Lady Bridget to continue for 4th year. Consensus. Approved.

- PIO – Diana Kampert expressed interest. Manny has been in this position for multiple years and is willing to mentor. Diana requested co-PIO. Manny ok with either co-PIO and/or mentoring Lady Diana.

Lady Diana is the new PIO Unopposed.

- Publications - Alpania expressed interest in continuing, but offered to mentor. Lady Cat is expressed interest. Alpania offered to mentor Cat.

Cat is the new Publication Officer. Unopposed.

- Purserwarden - Lady Rayna expressed interest in continuing, this will be the end of her 2nd year. but offered to mentor. Unopposed. Passed

Variance to Membership By-Laws to allow Lady Rayna to continue for 3rd year. Consensus.

- Recorder – Ceos offered to step forward for this position. Unopposed.
- Delegates to CoG National Board : Raven and Reikin (alternate) for second year of two year term.

Roster of LC officers to be sent to CoG National:

First Officer: Alpania
 Second Officer: Marla
 Membership Officer: Lady Bridget
 Public Information Officer: Diana
 Publications Officer: Cat
 Purserwarden: Lady Rayna
 Recorder: Ceos
 And there was much rejoicing!

Suggestions:

- Have another meeting in October / November to help plan for Tides. Discussion. Just the Tides people.
- Kasha – November is tough to have a meeting and then Tides hits in December.
- October 18, Sunday, @ 1 pm via ZOOM. Purpose, planning Tides.
- Alpania – try to have auction before then in order to allow analysis (an auction autopsy)

Meeting adjourned at 4pm



HILLS AND RIVERS

~ No report~

Last published minutes in the Lammas 2020 edition.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

~November 17, 2019~

Attendance: Macha, Linnea & Rachel online; Anna, Deb, Thea, Rita, Felicity, Don & Jae in-person (quorum)

Start time: 2:08 pm

Old Business:

- Minutes from September are approved.
- Macha is engaging with Pat Corlone regarding note from July 2019 meeting; she is meeting him on Tuesday. Will address more in New Business.
- Process: Governing Board Rep and Alt selection. Thea is currently the placeholder until we have a process.

Job description: no one knows the job description except that you are representing the Local Council on the Governing Board. The Governing Board will take on all responsibilities that the National Board is doing now. The National Officers will transfer the duties of running CoG to the Governing Board members. Any reps selected or identified are currently in "observing mode" where they observe the board meetings. Transition will happen Nov 1, 2020.

Discussion of process proposals:

- Election with a requirement that the nominees have been officers in the last five years
- A requirement that the nominees have been to Grand Council in the past two years.
- Needs to be capable of doing online meetings (e.g., WebEx, Zoom, etc.)
- Must have a history of getting along with everyone
- Needs to have an understanding with familiarity with NCLC and CoG, and familiarity with the Bylaws.
- Exceptions will be considered.
- Is a 1-year term at first, but 2-year term thereafter.
- Be able to remove this person if they are unsatisfactory.
- have a vote of confidence after 1-year during 2-year terms
- Deb requests a set of guidelines to be in this position
- Don would like to leave description vague
- Anna would like to have the description specific
- Thea points the bylaws do not say "election" on purpose, we can choose any selection method, and that we must also have an alternate.

- Will meet a minimum of 8 times per year but potentially once a month, Anna's preference is meeting 4 times per year.

- At the January meeting the membership will decide process, if a process is decided upon in Jan meeting (in consensus), we will hold an election. This proposal will go out as a separate email to the local council; include in the email that if you are interested you should attend the meeting or let Thea know. Thea will be personally calling every coven leader and individual member to make sure that they have received the email about whether or not they received the process email. (Note: this didn't happen.)

- Policy: NCLC assets question moved to next meeting, to discuss in Jan 2020 meeting.

New Business

- NCLC logo will be discussed during the first PIO committee meeting. Next PIO committee meeting will be on Zoom. Rachel will send out meeting info within the next week.
- Felicity and Thea are now both on I4C council and Thea will send info to Linnea in order for us to make our donation.
- Interfaith: Is there something Linnea can use to as backup for her payments (she needs to know who and where to send the money) - e.g., Silicon Valley, I4C, and Marin

Reports

First Officer:

- Samhain variance will be in Yule newsletter.
- Nat'l Board approved \$350 to use towards the ToT Suite at PantheaCon
- January meeting: decide what NCLC wants to do for ToT party
- Santa Cruz Community Seed is interested in presenting at ToT
- CoG Board Reps from National covens and individuals will be announced after CoG moves to a new server. Nat'l Board is trying to decide how to handle observing reps, including elists (potentially: everyone list, Nat'l board list, observing reps list). [EDIT: This is what the Board decided to do.] Thea is currently unable to observe, on NCLC behalf, on what is going on with the Nat'l Board because she has been removed from the email list. [EDIT: Thea was added back to that list.]
- End of Year - goal for new server & email list move
 - o New server host: An Honest Host (Pagan owned)
 - o Canu will transition our website to new server then move us to WordPress Forums
 - o This process will break our current elists
 - o Thea is Point of Contact with Canu, and will help NCLC with troubleshooting problems when the move occurs.



o Purse Warden:

Attached is the report I have filed with national for Q4 2019. It may not come through the list, but here is a summary:

We had no expenses since Merrymeet and took in \$215.00 in tithes.

Current account balances are:

General Fund: \$724.10

Travel \$362.48

Interfaith \$564.45

Grace of the Goddess \$153.00

Total \$1804.03

We are due to pay \$150 in interfaith dues if authorized at next meeting, and Tree of Traditions funding (if we decide to join in) will probably be between \$600 and \$700 in January.

- \$1,004 Balance
 - o 724 general funds
 - o 362 travel
 - o 564 interfaith
 - o 153 grace of goddess
 - o ToT: National will give 350
- Deb will donate \$50 to acct for ToT
- Jae and Deb paid NCLC tithes to Anna today
- Linnea needs to connect with Felicity to pay for website
- Linnea needs to set up PayPal
- Membership:
- Still transitioning from Thea to Anna; will pass off by Jan mtg
- PIO Committee:
- Rachael will post to everyone when meeting will occur
- Interfaith:
- Macha
- Fundraiser in Marin – honored UU Minister and Chandra Alexander. She is CEO of Marin Action Committee.
- Spoke at a panel to Berkeley Buddhist Fellowship about place of justice in our religions
- Still working on values statement for MICA
- Thea and Felicity
- I4C has asked for more non-Abrahamic representation (Only have 3 people representing earth-centered faiths), asked Thea to join (must live in Contra Costa County).
 - o Felicity may step down in 2020.
 - o Programming potential for ToT suite recommendation is the evolution of

interfaith to discuss how an interfaith council can include Pagans (actively welcomed).

- o Thea met Juvenile Detention Chaplain, and he has native American ancestry that he honors; met Rodney at UU as well, and will visit.
- o Thea has a book on understanding Islam that anyone can borrow after she's done reading it
- Don is providing United Religions Initiative bylaws assistance
- Jae represented Wiccans and CoG at CA Scouting event
 - o Jae will write an article on experience at Wood Badge for website (give to Felicity) with Interfaith stuff before Jan meeting.
- Rachel is looking for someone to take over as the NAIN Rep
 - o If anyone is willing to do NAIN chats you should reach out to Rachel (monthly or bimonthly via Zoom)
 - o Rachel was invited to conference on Jewish earth religion.
- Courtesy request: It's really important for anyone who is doing interfaith activities that we share what we are doing with each other.
 - o Having a united front and have a basic set of talking points so that we all have the same message.
 - o PIO committee come up with ideas and what info is being provided publicly?
 - o We need to have group access to all info that we can distribute (e.g., Macha's pamphlets, other papers we may have).
- General
- Please include brief synopsis in reports for National minutes for Jae
- Scheduling
- Jan 19th at 2pm at Jae's house
- Feb meeting at PantheaCon – 7 pm on Fri (mostly a party)
- Mar 15 at 2pm LBD
- Announcements
- In October, MIC member Aline O'Brien (Macha) has been awarded the degree of M.Div. (honoris causa) by Cherry Hill Seminary in South Carolina.
- PantheaCon 2020 will be the last one.
- Thea would like to discuss the Consensus Process document at Jan meeting that is attached to an email she sent



- Can Rachel request that Greg give Felicity permission to get on Facebook – Felicity will send info to Rachel by end of week
- South Based Circles – craft fair in South Bay Nov 30, 11-7 Cupertino Lodge
- Napa State Hospital is looking for someone to come in.
- Felicity will provide info on Thanksgiving event.
- Folsom is looking for someone to do services there, Macha will send info to Deborah.

End: 4:23pm



~January 19, 2020~

Attendees	Representing:
Thea - FO	Daduchos Coven
Linnea - PW	Owl Moon
Rachel - PIO	Daduchos Coven
Anna - MO	Coven Trismegiston
Jae - Recorder	AoIM
Rita Rippetoe	AoIM
Deborah Bender	AoIM
Don Frew	Coven Trismegiston
Dark Moon (Proxy to Council)	

Quorum was met

Call to order: 2:06 pm

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 Trad's / 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 Trad's:
 - 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 Trad's (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, 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

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in Mabon 2020.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ Sept. 30, 2020 ~

Time: Tom called the meeting to

order at 7:20 p.m.

Covens Attending:

- The Circle of The Dragon and the Phoenix -- Tom; Monica
- Ashesh Hekat -- Doug; Paula
- Dragon's Weyr Circle -- Lisa; Stone

OFFICERS REPORTS

First Officer (Tom): I attended Grand Council via Zoom this past August. It went smoothly. We had few proposals to consider and the meeting was concluded in the space of one day. Personally, I liked the virtual format and wouldn't mind if we adopted that as a rule in the future.

A slate of Officers has been elected. They are documented in a separate section of these Minutes.

Variations have been discussed and agreed upon. They are documented in a separate section of these Minutes.

Our Governing Board representative and alternate were selected for a two-year term, of which they have now served one year, so we don't need to deal with that until next year.

Membership (Doug): The Council has now settled down with three covens in good standing.

No further membership inquiries have come to hand.

A policy regarding transfers was adopted last year and published in the national newsletter. For the sake of currency, it is being repeated in the Old Business section of these Minutes.

Some months ago the National Membership Officer held a meeting with all the local Membership Officers, which Doug attended. At that time it was suggested that each local council attempt to recruit three new members. We have seen so many local witches pass away or move out of the area in



recent years that most of us don't have the contacts that we used to have. Lisa said she might be ready to have a hive-off coven in a couple years or so, but not now.

Pursewarden (Monica): All Pursewarden reports have been completed and submitted in a timely manner to date.

There has been no financial activity during the past quarter. Because it has been some time since the account has seen activity, we received an escheat notice from Wells Fargo. Escheat is the process whereby the state takes ownership of financial assets held in long-inactive accounts. In order to prevent this, some sort of action must occur. Monica proposed that she be given permission to spend an amount in the neighborhood of \$10 on office supplies in order to reactivate the bank account. We have consensus and the proposal was passed.

PIO/Correspondence (Lisa): Lisa requested to be given privileges on the SoCal Facebook page so that she can make posts. Other than that, nothing to report.

Recorder (Monica): These Minutes are my report. They will be sent to the National Newsletter Editor for publication in the Samhain newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

We have no actionable tasks that qualify as Old Business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

OFFICERS FOR 2021: The following officers have been selected for the coming term, November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021:

- First Officer: Thomas Henke
- Membership Officer: Doug Kopf
- Pursewarden: Monica DiFranco
- Recorder: Monica DiFranco
- PIO: Lisa Morgenstern
- Correspondence: Lisa Morgenstern
- Representative to the Governing Board: Monica DiFranco
- Alternate to the Governing Board: Lisa Morgenstern

VARIANCES: We hereby enact the following Variances.

"We hereby waive term limits for uncontested Local Council offices. Local Council members will hereby be allowed to serve multiple terms in the same office as long as no one else is willing to accept the post."

"Local Council meetings may take place via in-person get-togethers or by any other virtual means, including but not limited to: Zoom, Skype, Facetime, Facebook, telephone conference, chat room, text, email, etc. This variance shall also apply to discussions, decision making, and voting."

While not strictly a variance, we would like to reiterate our Criteria for COG Members Transferring Into Southern California Local Council, as published in the Imbolc 2020 national newsletter.

GOVERNING BOARD PRESENTATION:

Monica talked about how things will change when the Governing Board takes over on November 1st. The Executive Committee will continue to handle the day-to-day business of the Covenant such as membership processing, check writing, etc. The Governing Board will oversee operations, hone the future direction of the Covenant, come up with ways to make COG more relevant and attractive to potential new members, and handle extraordinary situations that require attention. We currently have Ardantane, Cherry Hill, Adocentyn Library, and Interfaith as causes we support. We will try to identify more things of broad interest to witches that might spur them to join the Covenant.

We need to be in closer contact with our members. The Governing Board reps must learn what their constituents are passionate about so that we can put people with similar interests in touch with each other to form a sort of COG coalition for that subject. Although individuals have been active in various things in the past, the Covenant hasn't promoted them. So the Governing Board has a lot of fact finding to do. The more things we can identify that COG members are doing, the more attractive we can make COG to future members. Doug said that we might be able to obtain information from other groups that would be useful. Paula said that we should do a very targeted survey of our members about what they would like COG to participate in. There was a survey sent out some time ago, but it didn't deal with concrete things that would spark people's interest. It needs to be concise and focused, with instruction to answer in two or three sentences.

Lisa said that we need guidelines for how people can join human relations commissions or hate crime task forces; having people that are witches represented on those types of things. Lisa served on her local hate crimes task force for quite some time but was unable to drum up much support locally.

Stone is in favor of clergy training and support. She currently meets with military on the China Lake base every Thursday, teaches and leads services there, and feels that having materials to give to them would be great. A coven sister of hers is working as hospital clergy. There are issues that clergy run into. More support would be extremely helpful in their work.

Doug said that COG could begin making contributions, even small ones, in the name of the organization, to causes that are reflective of our



values as an earth religion, such as the GoFundMe page for firefighters who had equipment stolen.

Stone said the one thing COG does that no other organization does is it allows every member to follow their own path. Other organizations require members to follow one path. This is a very attractive thing.

Lisa would like to see COG adopt an anti-racist statement as part of our foundational materials. (Although there is such a statement on the website, it is part of a rotating set of statements that appear and disappear and is easily missed.)

Monica said COG has a YouTube channel, and Lisa said we could do something like that for our local council. She said that some organizations encourage members to take short videos of themselves and then create a compilation for posting online. Young people like sound bites, YouTube videos, and social media posts. This is where they put their attention so that's where we ought to be. We need to get local members motivated to do things and feel like they're being heard on the national level. Paula suggested "The Faces of COG," so people can see us in everyday life, as employees, grandparents, etc.

We discussed the next meeting, and decided on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021, at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL

~ No report ~

Last published minutes in the Mabon 2020 edition.



TOUCHSTONE

~ August 3, 2020 ~

In attendance: Ecclesian Fellowship (Stachia, Jack, Val), Circle of the Emerald Forest (Val w/proxy), Circle of the Obsidian Oak (Lari, Chad).

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Jack): We are all in lock-down. However, MerryMeet is just around the corner and it will be virtual.

2nd Officer: No report, we are in lock-down.

Pursewarden (Jack): There have been no changes due to the lock-down.

PIO (Chad): No report, we are in lock-down. However, there is a fire in Cherry Valley.

Membership Officer (Joanne): Not present.

Recorder (Val): No report except still sheltering at home, but I am excited that we were able to talk with each other again.

Governing Board Rep (Jack): No report.

Old Business:

MerryMeet is coming up quickly. It will be a virtual meeting and will be held on August 14th, 15th, 16th.

New Business:

Covens are coming up for renewal. Also, we need to talk about nominations at our next meeting.



~September 21, 2020 ~

In attendance: Ecclesian Fellowship (Jack, Stachia, Val), Circle of the Emerald Forest (Val w/proxy), Circle of the Obsidian Oak (Lari, Chad).

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Jack): We are all in lock-down. However, we're lucky to be able to meet via phone conferencing. Also, Andrea Kendall is putting together a Time-Line for C.O.G. and asked for us to input Touchstones' milestones.

2nd Officer: No report,

Pursewarden (Jack): There have been no changes and no money has been spent.

PIO (Chad): No report,

Membership Officer (Joanne): Not present.

Recorder (Val): No report except still sheltering at home, but I am again excited that we were able to talk with each other. Also, we were able to decide upon our new Board nominations for the upcoming year.

- First Officer - Val Sorrels
- Second Officer - Chad Shipley
- Membership Officer - Joanne Van Kolken
- PIO - Lari Clark
- Pursewarden - Jack Prewett
- Recorder - Val Sorrels

Governing Board Rep (Jack): No report.

Old Business:

Grand Council decisions: Reviewed

Proposed Officers:

- First Officer - Val Sorrels
- Second Officer - Chad Shipley
- Membership Officer - Joanne Van Kolken
- PIO - Lari Clark



- Pursewarden - Jack Prewett
- Recorder - Val Sorrels

New Business:

To be discussed at next meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, October 5th, 2020



~October 12, 2020~

In attendance: Ecclasian Fellowship (Jack, Stachia, Val), Circle of the Emerald Forest (Val w/proxy), Circle of the Obsidian Oak (Lari, Chad).

Announcements: Circle of the Obsidian Oak/Chad ~ Some restaurants in certain areas of Palm Springs are starting to open up to a 25% capacity. Would we all like to discuss possibly meeting again at a later time? Also Big Boys is still open.

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Val): We are all still in lock-down mode so not much is happening. However, I am very excited to hear about this 45th anniversary of CoG coming up shortly, and the possibility of us meeting again in the near future, hopefully.

2nd Officer: No report, we are in lock-down.

Pursewarden (Jack): There have been no changes.

PIO (Chad): No report.

Membership Officer (Joanne): Not present, and no report.

Recorder (Val):

Governing Board Rep (Jack): No report, except for the 45th anniversary of C.O.G. coming up on the 31st of October.

Old Business:

All nominated officers were elected by acclamation

Variations were approved

New Business:

It was mentioned earlier in the meeting about possibly having a physical meeting at a restaurant in Palm Springs, but was tabled until the next meeting. Next physical meeting to be discussed at a later time due to Covid-19 crisis.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 2nd

THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN

By Aline O'Brien/M. Macha NightMare

There was a time when Witches (and Wiccans) kept deep within the broom closet, for all

manner of reasons, most involving fear of discrimination at work, school, or housing.

I remember the first MerryMeet held on the East Coast in the mid-eighties, at [Rowe Camp & Conference Center](#) in Massachusetts. That was when I first met some of the wonderful folks at the then-Northeast Local Council: folks from [NECTW](#), [EarthSpirit](#), and the then-Lone Star LC from Texas, among many others. At that MerryMeet I saw my first tea dance. It seemed to have a very New York flavor, especially with [BrightShadow](#) in leathers.

I distinctly remember at the follies, the time when members from all over show their talents. A Witch from Seattle (who shall still remain nameless unless when he reads this, he gives me permission to name him) played guitar and sang; someone took a photo. The second he finished his song the musician tromped up an aisle in a rage toward the person with the camera and grabbed it away from him. I don't know if he took the film canister or what – this was, of course, many years before digital cameras or the Internet. What I, as a newish Witch brand new to East Coast Pagandom, do remember was shock. Of course, I knew well enough at that time not to name names or take photos. I was mildly surprised to see someone taking snapshots, but to me it didn't seem to really matter in this instance because it was only a photo of a man in street clothes singing and playing guitar, with nothing indicative of witchiness visible in the shot.

Over the years since then, photos of outgoing and newly elected Board members have been taken, but only for those in the photos and for CoG's archives. Several years at PantheaCon former National First Officers were rounded up for photos. Again, these photos were taken with cameras that had film. I do have some of them. They're especially valuable to me because some of those pictured have departed this plane.



Several former NFOs, taken at PantheaCon 2002. L-R: Finn, Amber K, Allison Harlow, Rhiannon. Rear: Don Frew, Macha, Russell Williams, Rowan Fairgrove.

Also, back in those days, one needed to warn one's children of speaking freely about their parents' religion. I did so. My daughter was a friendly, chatty girl, and I knew it would be easy for



her to mention something about home and her mom's being a Witch that would only encourage teasing and maybe even ostracism. Further, for many of those years I was a single mother, a situation that made me feel more vulnerable when it came to potential harassment. So, but for hanging with other children of Witchen friends, she learned to be discreet about the witchy goings-on at home.

The fact that I was known in the Craft by a Craft name rather than my mundane name helped us maintain a more conventional image. Still, I hated to have to do this. What other religion requires that its children hide? For that matter, what other religion doesn't teach its children? This is fodder for a different feeding, but suffice it to say that back then Witches were discouraged from involving their children. The Craft, with its secrecy and mysteries, was considered not suitable for children. I'm happy that Pagan/Witchen culture has

Several former NFOs, taken at PantheaCon 2002. L-R: Finn, Amber K, Allison Harlow, Rhiannon. Rear: Don Frew, Macha, Russell Williams, Rowan Fairgrove.

changed in that regard. Now there are [Spiral Scouts](#), children's programs at festivals, teen camps, and the like. Not to mention CoG's Hart & Crescent Award for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and other youth groups and their leaders.

There were good reasons for maintaining anonymity back then. Today I'm glad to say there are far fewer. This is due, in large part, to the work over the years of CoG and other groups, as well as to individuals who have a public face, whether using a Craft name or not. The day when CoG can proudly and openly publish the names and faces of its National Board officers has arrived. Praise be!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

COG CONFERENCE NOTES: FIRST COVEN AT LARGE A HUGE SUCCESS

Vol 6, No 8

Samhain 1981

You would never know it from all the minutes of those dull-but-necessary meetings, but we all had a spectacular time at this year's C.O.G. Festival. Credit is especially due to Diane Adler, Alison Harlow, Macha, Dorcas Evans, Glenn Turner and Owen and Ardell for their organizing and keeping-it-all-running-smoothly skills. The food was great and the group rituals really pulled us together.

I could go on and on with my rave reviews and reminiscences, but if I do the Newsletter will not get edited. When are we going to figure out how to use the space between the worlds to expand the 24 hour day to, say, 24 years? One important

event transpired which I must officially record. The first free-floating Coven at large, a category invented to include solitaires in COG, has been formed. In fact, it was formed right on the spot at the conference, at the end of the second session of my Stuck in the Second Chakra workshop. By the end of the second session we all loved each other so much that we decided we were a coven. But since we hailed from such diverse places as Georgia, Wisconsin and all points in California, logistics looked tricky. Voila! Presto! The first Coven at large, called the Coven of the Beautiful Person.

This coven-at-large aspires to become a coven-at-huge, so we are open to Witches of all locations. To become a member you must have one of our ever-increasing number of missionaries (not our only position open) initiate you with our secret ritual song. So far all the Holy Terrors have joined and diverse others have been converted as well. If you would like to announce your membership publicly, please send your name (magic or mundane, whatever you dare to see in print) to the COG Newsletter. I lost the original list of names although Aphrodite and Do It Some More (otherwise known as Dorcas and Bud) stick in my mind. The Coven of the Beautiful Person can also be contacted through Astral Airways Fantasy Flight Attendants.

Love to all the Beautiful People,

Ceridwen C,
★

LOCAL COUNCIL VARIANCES

EVERGLADES MOON

All 3 variances were affirmed by the LC membership at the EMLC annual meeting on September 26.

1. A Coven or a Solitary that applies to Everglades Moon Local Council for membership needs two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a member of the Local Council.
2. Any person who is a former member of an EMLC Member coven, needs to have one of their letters of recommendation be from their former HP or HPS or designated CoG coven contact. This does not apply to a solitary member of a member coven who wishes to hold dual status as a solitary member also. The Local Council Board can waive this requirement on a case by case basis at the Board's discretion.
3. New applicants must attend 3 EMLC meetings or events, at least one of which must be a regular business meeting, and, one of which must be in person, before membership application materials will be forwarded for National publication.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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

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

PROCEDURES FOR JOINING THE COVENANT OF THE GODDESS THROUGH THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: To join Covenant of the Goddess through the Northern California Local Council, the prospective coven representative(s) or individual must:

- 1) Come to a Local Council meeting to introduce the Coven or individual applying.
- 2) Become familiar with the Local Council and allow the Local Council to become familiar with the applicant.
- 3) Present the application to the Local Council, with completed application form, tithes, statement of practice, and two letters of recommendation. Ideally, at least one recommendation should come from a member of our Local Council. This is a preference, rather than a requirement.
- 4) Current annual national tithes are \$110-170 per coven, or \$50-90 per individual. Local Council annual tithes are \$25 per coven or \$10 per individual. If the tithes are a hardship, it is possible to arrange for them to be reduced or waived, or to apply for National or Local "Grace of the Goddess" funds. Tithes cover the expenses of CoG projects.
- 5) Await a discussion of your application at subsequent LC meeting(s) until an opinion is formed. The decision on your application must take place at a meeting following the meeting at which you applied, once your paperwork is completed. Admission takes, at a minimum, about 3 meetings. There have been a few applications where discussions went on for several meetings, or applicants were asked further questions. We understand that some meetings will be quite distant for some prospective members and would not ask you to be present at all of them. We prefer physical presence at least one meeting, but exceptions will be considered, and virtual attendance may substitute on a case-by-case basis. There are rare admissions where application occurred at one meeting and admission at the next, but in practice, this is rare, partly because paperwork takes time to gather. This paragraph is intended to allow prospective applicants to understand that admission

(and subsequent credentialing) is not possible in just a few days.

PROCEDURES FOR TRANSFERRING INTO THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:

Requirements to Request to Transfer to NCLC: The following are not eligible to transfer to NCLC and must use the New Application process:

- An individual or Coven Membership which voluntarily lapsed more than a year and a day prior to the transfer request, or which was canceled by CoG for any reason.
- A Coven hived from a member Coven.
- A sub-group of a member Coven (some BTW traditions have sub-groups run by 2nd degrees, prior to hiving at 3rd degree).

As soon as the applicant knows that they need to transfer to NCLC in order to continue their CoG Membership, but **no later than a year and a day from date of their Membership lapse**, they shall submit to the NCLC Membership Officer

1. Their most recent Renewal Form with updated information as needed, with new date and signature, or a New Application Form with a note explaining where they are transferring from.
2. A Statement of Practice (SoP). A previously published SoP, updated to reflect the current situation may be used.
3. The following recommendation for their specific type of transfer:

Transfer from within NCLC

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF NCLC MEMBER COVEN TRANSFERRING INTO THE NCLC ASSEMBLY OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (AoIM):

- a written and signed Letter of Recommendation (LoR) from either their Coven leadership (strongly preferred), or
- a written and signed LoR from a person known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the person requesting the transfer, or
- a verbal recommendation from a member of NCLC at a meeting and recorded in the meeting minutes.

Transfer from another Local Council

MEMBER COVEN FROM ANOTHER LOCAL COUNCIL TRANSFERRING INTO NCLC:

- a written and signed LoR from either the leadership of a different Coven in the previous Local Council (strongly preferred), or
- from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the person requesting the transfer.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF A MEMBER COVEN FROM ANOTHER LOCAL COUNCIL TRANSFERRING INTO THE NCLC ASSEMBLY OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (AoIM):



- a written and signed LoR from either from their Coven leadership in the previous Local Council (strongly preferred), or
- from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the Coven leadership requesting the transfer.

AoIM MEMBER FROM ANOTHER LOCAL COUNCIL TRANSFERRING INTO THE NCLC AoIM:

- a written and signed LoR from someone in the previous Local Council (strongly preferred), or
- from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the person requesting the transfer.

Transfer from National

NATIONAL COVEN TRANSFERRING TO NCLC:

- a written and signed LoR either from another Coven's leadership (strongly preferred), or
- from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the Coven leadership requesting the transfer.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF A NATIONAL COVEN TRANSFERRING TO NCLC AoIM:

- a written and signed LoR from either their Coven leadership (strongly preferred), or
- from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the person requesting the transfer.

MEMBER OF NATIONAL AoIM TRANSFERRING TO NCLC AoIM:

- a written and signed LoR from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the person requesting the transfer.

Upon receipt of a completed transfer request, the Membership Officer will confirm previous/current CoG Membership with either the Coven's leadership, the Local Council Membership Officer, or the National Membership Officer as needed, including the date the membership would have ceased had a transfer request not been made (to keep to the year and a day time-frame for transfers).

The MO will then add the request to the agenda for the next meeting, and publish the transfer request, including the SoP and LoR, to NCLC's elist. The MO will also bring the SoP and the LoR to the next meeting so the Membership may review them.

Additionally, to allow time for the NCLC Membership to become aware of the request, to ask questions of the applicant, and to submit written objections, the applicant must attend at least one meeting prior to the meeting when the decision on their transfer request will be made. Physical presence at this meeting is preferred, but requests for virtual attendance instead will be considered for

reasons such as being out of the local area at the time of the meeting, physical disability, or illness.

In order to meet this requirement, the applicant may attend the meeting announcing the transfer request or a future meeting. At whichever meeting the applicant attends, a future meeting date will be chosen for the Membership to decide the transfer request in the same manner as new membership applications are decided.

If the transfer request is approved, a short note to that effect shall be added to the meeting minutes for publication, and the Membership Officer shall forward one set of the completed application materials to the National Membership Officer for publication in the newsletter as called for in the ByLaws. The transfer request is not final until after the 45-day period for objections is complete and the NMO announces the transfer and its effective date in the Newsletter.

If the transfer request is denied, a short note to that effect shall be added to the meeting minutes for publication, and the Membership Officer shall notify the applicant and the National Membership Officer within 15 days of the decision.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

We hereby enact the following Variances:

1. We hereby waive term limits for uncontested Local Council offices. Local Council members will hereby be allowed to serve multiple terms in the same office as long as no one else is willing to accept the post.

TOUCHSTONE

1. For All New Applicants Touchstone Local Council requires that:
 - a) One of the letters of recommendation be from a current member of Touchstone Local Council; and
 - b) Prospective applicants attend a minimum of three council meetings in a nine month period prior to the submission of their application. The purpose of this requirement is to provide the prospective applicant an opportunity to become familiar with the Council and vice versa.
2. Current members who are in good standing with CoG at either the National level or who belong to another local council within the Covenant may apply for membership in Touchstone Local Council by:
 - a) Providing a letter of recommendation from a member of TLC;



- b) Submitting a letter of intent detailing the reasons for joining TLC;
 - c) Attending three TLC meetings; and
 - d) Making an effort to engage as a member of the local community by socializing or attending local council events. When the above criteria are met, TLC will then endeavor to come to consensus concerning the applicant's request for membership within Touchstone Local Council.
3. Touchstone local council allows member covens and Assembly of Individual Members to assign their proxy verbally or by electronic means.
4. Current members of Touchstone Local Council who are in good standing may transfer their membership from Coven to Individual Member by:
- a) Attending three TLC meetings; and
 - b) Making an effort to engage as a member of the local community by socializing or attending local council events if they have not already been doing so. TLC will then endeavor to come to consensus concerning the applicant's request for Individual Membership within Touchstone Local Council.

REBUS PUZZLES

<p>1.</p> <p>STONE STONE STONE STONE STONE STONE STONE STONE</p>	<p>2.</p> <p>DOft.OR</p>	<p>3.</p> <p>GO</p> <hr/> <p>Jan. 6 Jan. 6</p>	<p>4.</p> <p>GREENNV</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>s d cousin</p>	<p>6.</p> <p>tax GAINS</p>	<p>7.</p> <p>Y T I L I B O M</p>	<p>8.</p> <p>QQ ME</p>
<p>9.</p> <p><u>21 lb.</u> <u>18 lb.</u> HAND FOOT</p>	<p>10.</p> <p>SUIT SIT IT T</p>	<p>11.</p> <p>KNOW IT TI</p>	<p>12.</p> <p>1.D 5.U 2.R 6.L 3.A 7.A 4.C</p>

1. Leave no stone unturned... 2. Foot in the door... 3. Go on a double date... 4. Green with envy... 5. Second cousin once removed... 6. Tax on Capital Gains... 7. Upward Mobility... 8. Excuse me... 9. Wait on hand and foot... 10. Suit to a T... 11. Know it forwards and backwards... 12. Count Dracula!