

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership Renewals due at Ostara..... 2

Our Governing Board 2

Letter from The First Officer 2

Reports of Officers 3

 FIRST OFFICER3

 SECOND OFFICER3

 MEMBERSHIP OFFICER.....3

 PURSEWARDEN3

 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER3

 PUBLICATIONS OFFICER3

 CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER3

 NATIONAL RECORDER3

 NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER3

Welcome to CoG..... 3

Governing & Executive Board Minutes 4

Local Councils 7

 CALAFIA7

 CHAMISA7

 EVERGLADES MOON.....7

 HILLS AND RIVERS.....7

 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA7

 ORANGE COUNTY.....7

 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA8

 TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL.....8

 TOUCHSTONE 11

Thank You from Adocentyn Library.....12

Blast From the Past.....12

 LITTLE RED HEN MANIFESTO 12

Happy Valentine’s Day.....14

Back Matter18

 DISTRIBUTION CENTER.....18

 COG ARCHIVES.....18

 YOUTH AWARDS18

 SUBSCRIBING TO THE COVENANT’S ELECTRONIC FORUMS ...18

 GENERAL INFORMATION19

 COG SOCIAL MEDIA20

National Officers.....21

CoG Interfaith Representatives.....22

Local Council Lists/Contacts22

Applications and Forms.....25

Bylaws and Policy Manuals.....25



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 OSTARA

Ostara renewals are due on March 21, 2021. The Drop-dead date is March 31, 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:

- ❖ CIRCLE ANGKUR

CHAMISA LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ KariIsis

EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Witch and Famous Coven

HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ COVEN OF BRAN-FAOL RENNAG
- ❖ GHOSTWHEEL
- ❖ GREENWOOD GLEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Circle of the Dragon and the Phoenix

TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Coven of Diana's Moon

TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

NATIONAL COVENS:

- ❖ Raven Star Coven

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

- ❖ Amber

FRIENDS OF COG: NONE

OUR GOVERNING BOARD

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

LETTER FROM THE FIRST OFFICER

Imbolc Blessings to all members of CoG! The ongoing national events happening in DC have captured the attention of many of us, as we watch this continued saga unfold with affairs our former President.

We, as Americans, must seek to find more constructive and unifying ways to work together for the betterment of our nation and the American people. We must all look for ways to help heal our nation and its people. We, the members of Covenant of the Goddess feel a fervent call to conscientiously work to keep our spiritual organization alive and relevant during these challenging times.

As we continue to face the ongoing hazard of the Covid-19 virus, we are happy to know that relief is finally in sight with several different vaccinations that will become available to all very soon. Additionally, we have had to deal with the severe sentiment and actions of the ultra conservative base. We are more aware of the constant need to face threats that would persecute us and try to take away our rights of Religious Freedom. Paganism is a growing trend in the world populace.

Many people self identify and embrace the Pagan religions as their primary form of faith. The Covenant of the Goddess is here to assure our own pagan rights!

Behind the scenes the two boards have been working actively to create growth and transformation within our organization. The Governing Board has been dialoging together on what the future of our organization should be and to take steps to assure its continued existence and continuous growth into the future.

The Executive board of national officers continues to do the work of keeping the Covenant active and accessible to many pagan, wiccan and witch folk out there that are seeking to participate and have fellowship with the members of CoG. Although our growth recently has been quieter, we expect that once the Covid virus has been controlled





that we should once again see more new growth in our overall membership.

As your National First Officer, I am committed to getting back out into the public arena once I have received my vaccination against this virus. It is my hope to re-grow the former footprint of CoG nationally with many more new members and Local Councils. Our strength is in our numbers, however, we must find ways of inspiring younger people to become active members and participate in our organization to keep it vibrant and relevant to the youth of tomorrow.

Let's make 2021 a year of unity and prosperity for all people as we work to build a brighter future together. May the Goddess bless you all in continued strength and perseverance during these challenging times.

With Determination,
Lord Verderius

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

FIRST OFFICER

No report, please see Board Minutes pg 4.

SECOND OFFICER

No report, please see Board Minutes pg 4.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

No report, please see Board Minutes pg 4.

PURSEWARDEN

CURRENT ASSETS

- Chase Main Account: \$ 88,942.82
- Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: \$5,585.62
- PayPal Account: \$ 445.12
- Synchrony: \$ 33,099.74 (as of 10/31/2020)

CURRENT ISSUES/UPDATES

As a reminder we received a letter in November noting "You haven't filed a required annual return or notice for two consecutive years. If you do not file for a third year, your tax-exempt status will be automatically revoked." Our previous communication with the IRS involved their acceptance of annual extensions. I contacted our accountant, Melanie Hendrickson, who submits our CA state and federal filings on 11/1/20 about this matter. She wrote on 11/5/20: "I reviewed the letter you sent and my records. I thought the returns had been filed but they did not process through. I have electronically resubmitted both years (2017 and 2018) and they have both been accepted. I apologize

for the inconvenience. If you receive any further correspondence from the IRS please let me know."

As of today the 2017 return is now visible but the 2018 and 2019 return are not yet visible. I continue to monitor the IRS site for updates and I will follow-up with our accountant if there is no updated by the end of January.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

No report, please see Board Minutes pg 4.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

This has been a very trying time for me personally and I'm not functioning too well. My oldest son, Jonathan, passed into the Summerlands on January 21st. It's hard on a parent to outlive a child. The hole left in my soul feels huge, but I know he is no longer in pain and I look forward to seeing him again. Until the next time my son, enjoy your time in the Summerlands. Always remember that what is remembered lives.

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

CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER

No report, please see Board Minutes pg 5.

NATIONAL RECORDER

No report, please see Board Minutes pg 5.

NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER

No report, please see Board Minutes pg 4.

WELCOME TO COG



Please welcome:





GOVERNING & EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

~January 3, 2021

Invocation:

Verderius invoked Coventina.

Roll Call – (Quorum is two-thirds present):

We have Quorum.

National Officers:

- ✓ First Officer – Lord Verderius – Present
- ✓ Second Officer – Morgana – Present
- ✓ Membership Officer – Lady K – Present
- ✓ Publications Officer – Lord Soec – Present
- ✓ Pursewarden – Qabal – Present
- ✓ Public Information Officer – Janine N. – Present
- ✓ Outreach Officer – Brandon Proctor – Present
- ✓ Correspondence Officer – Grace Moonhawk – Present (late)
- ✓ Recorder – Faelind – Present

Governing Board Representatives:

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

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Lord Verderius): No written report since he just submitted two reports for the Yule newsletter and December meeting.

Second Officer (Morgana): Morgana asked if we do plan to have another virtual Grand Council, she would like the boards to be thinking about the following questions. Would it be up to OCLC to plan a Merry Meet and does GC and MM need to be on the same weekend? The combined boards discussed planning for a virtual event in the instance that it takes longer for the vaccinations to turn around the pandemic and large gatherings are still prohibited.

Membership Officer (Dee P.): Lady K has had family issues and will be playing catch up this week. She will get a report out as soon as possible.

Publications Officer (Lord Soec): They have been working on the newsletter and getting the

website updated. Lord Soec added that Zenah delivered the archives to Northern California so she had to stay in a hotel overnight and will be submitting an expense reimbursement. Qabal asked Lord Soec to let Zenah know that the USPS PO Box renewal will be coming up in February.

Pursewarden (Qabal): Qabal sent in a written report. He has also started working on a revised Pursewarden position and hopes to have this ready by the next combined meeting. The revision is to hire a bookkeeper or an accountant because we cannot get anyone to do the Pursewarden role. He is suggesting that whoever we hire not have access to PayPal or Chase Bank. Lord Soec said he would hope we could keep this in-house. Deborah asked if Manny could get something out sooner than the meeting so that it could be reviewed even if it is a draft.

Public Information Officer (Janine N.): Janine submitted a report in the Yule newsletter. She added that we will have a marketing and outreach (M&O) meeting on Monday, January 4th at 5:30 pm Pacific Time. We have an opportunity for a virtual discussion at Paganicon we will be discussing at our M&O meeting.

Our next public Wednesday with Witches (WwW) is January 6th, and the topic will be New Beginnings, a meditation, and the New Year. The link has been sent out and an event set up on FB. Our members only “Wednesday with Witches” is scheduled for January 20th and the topic is Civil Rights, *Roe vs. Wade*, and the New Year.

Deborah mentioned that she sees the website and the Mail Chimp notices and there is not always a topic listed. Janine mentioned that she likes to keep things flexible to be able to respond to current events, but we do publicize when we have topics and Lord Soec added that we list them in the newsletter and on the website as well.

Lord V asked GB Reps to get out the word about our Wednesday with Witches especially our members only one to increase attendance. Janine remarked that we had a large attendance at our last public WwW and would appreciate more CoG members.

Outreach Officer (Brandon P.): Brandon emphasized that he would like to see the Governing Board Reps work with their Local Councils to attend our Wednesday with Witches and help connect our LCs to National happenings. Morgana added that she has been including a link for WwW in recent Pagan Pride LA/OC newsletter in community events, but only the public WwWs. The combined board discussed how we now monitor public events to quickly address hackers who try to disrupt using several admins in addition to the virtual host.

Correspondence Officer (Grace Moonhawk): Currently she does not have anything to share other than we are waiting for a response from Amber K as



she has 12 or 13 letters from inmates, and we would love to get the pdf of the Amber K Ardantane packet to be able to print and send out. Grace also suggested that she may not be receiving NCO emails yet so Lord V will reach out to Canu to check. Faelind suggested that the old server may be impacting this because Thea is still receiving CoG Board email and David, the former Correspondence Officer was still receiving CoG Board and CO email as recently as two weeks ago.

Recorder (Faelind): These minutes will be my report.

Governing Board Rep Reports:

Calafia LC: Calafia is just Catherine’s coven now. Catherine is recovering from COVID and is also caretaking a covener who is not recovering as quickly. She will publish the CoG events to help get the word out on the Calafia facebook page.

Chamisa LC: Polaris reported our last meeting to her LC and hopes to get any agendas before the LC for feedback prior to the meetings. She will speak to Amber K about whether the Correspondence Officer can get a pdf of Amber’s packet she prepared for inmates.

Everglades Moon LC: Raven reported they did their annual Turning the Tide event virtually and it went very well. They were able to raise some money. She will communicate with their LC webmaster to be sure that National CoG announcements are posted. Lord Rieken noted that Alpania did a great job with their Virtual event, Turning the Tides. It is on their YouTube Channel and Manny posted the facebook videos in the chat.

Hills and Rivers LC: Lauren says Pennsylvania is still under pretty strict restrictions so there is nothing happening.

Northern California LC: Thea asked whether the calendar on the website will allow for different views. She also wondered whether the Interfaith Forum has been created. Faelind and Orin added that they can help her with that so she will send a note with her requests. She is still getting CoG Board emails. Which is another reason that Lord V said the old server needs to be shut down.

Thea mentioned that NCLC has a Coven member who has mini-Moots they are putting on YouTube now and that Thea was interviewed for one of their programs. She sent the link to the channel so that as soon as it is posted, we can watch it.

Orange County LC: Janine shared that OCLC has their next LC meeting on January 14. OCLC had their virtual Psychic Faire in December and it was their first virtual event. It was a two-day event. They did fairly well, and it was a big learning curve. It will be helpful moving forward for other virtual events and for MM and GC.

Southern California LC: Most of Lady Mariah’s work in SoCal is her work on the Governing Board. Their next meeting is in February.

Texas LC: Orin stated that Texas had their last meeting after the GB Rep meeting, and he has not received any feedback from his LC. Texas LC continue to do virtual classes and Sabbats. He will continue to post the agenda to the LC if it comes out soon enough. He will also reach out to his LC with the National Events.

Touchstone LC: Lord Soec mentioned the LC is scheduled to meet tomorrow. He really enjoyed Turning the Tides and hopes we continue to have virtual events that allow folks from far away to attend.

National Covens: Lord Solandrin is hoping to meet with the National Covens in the next month or so. He will work with Lord V and Lady K to do this.

National Individual Members: Grace has been reading through the forums and hopes to open a dialogue with what the National Individual Members want. Lord V will meet with Grace Moonhawk and Lord Solandrin and the National members to discuss moving forward. Thea suggested that both Lord Solandrin and Grace Moonhawk read back issues of the newsletter to see if there is any information there to help them understand what the National Members might want.

Old Business:

- Website public side memorial site – Grace said that she and Macha discussed addressing the concerns that were brought up at GC and are looking for solutions to create a public memorial space. Grace will continue to work with Macha. Lord Soec said the major concern was that anyone posted on the public side were actually public – and perhaps well-known authors, etc that were associated with CoG could be published now. Of bigger concern are folks who might be published and then later found to be horrible. What do we do?
- GB should consider appointing a Speaker of the Board – Thea and Lord Soec nominated Lady Mariah. Deborah suggested that this topic be addressed at the next Governing Board meeting in case there are others who might want to serve. Lady Mariah is willing, and this topic will be new business at the next GB meeting.
- Membership Transfer Proposal – This will be done after the Bylaw Review Committee meets January 21, 2021. Faelind said she would have a proposal ready for the GB to review for next meeting.

The following are the updates to action items from 11/8/2020:



1. Communications –

Lord V contacted Canu and scheduled a meeting with Faelind and Orin to go over the task of updating the forums for the two boards. Orin and Faelind updated the Forums so that all the Governing Board Reps are listed in the Governing Board Forum, all the National Officers are listed in the National Officers Forum and all reps and Officers are listed in the Combined Board Forum.

Canu has also updated the email lists.

The Governing Board Reps asked to see if there is an option to allow members to see the other members of any forum, they are a member of. Canu has been unable to find a solution for that or for allowing Friends of CoG to access the Forums. Thea showed us how we might see which individuals are signed up to which Forums using the members tab. Thea walked the Combines Boards through how to tell if someone is in a forum, or all the forums they might be a member of by looking at the members list in the forums.

Lord V also made sure he included all the GB Rep emails so that the GB Reps could see each other and communicate with each other.

Lord V reiterated that the old server is going to be turned off.

Thea suggested we consider putting AIR and DD on another platform. (Something like Groups.io which is an eList similar to Google Groups or the old Yahoo Groups that are now retired.) She said this is something we need more discussion around. Lord Soec seconded this suggestion as he feels he is missing items if he is not subscribed to all topics. Lady Mariah related how to view the notification bell to see new posts.

2. Synchrony –

Qabal to present a report for the Governing Board to review regarding the Synchrony account. It is possible that the money will be invested elsewhere due to the access issues we have with that account. He will present a report at a later date. (Probably not the next GB meeting.)

3. Survey –

Lady Mariah to develop a strategic and detailed survey of membership to find out what they are involved in. She will get to it, hopefully by the next GB meeting.

4. Forums –

Faelind confirmed that there was only one discrepancy between actual forums and what was listed online. Lord Soec was informed.

[The Website should be updated to move the Timeline discussion to the Committee Lists instead of the Special Interest Discussion Lists. Otherwise, the Website list matches what is available in the Forums.] The website has not been updated yet.

New Business:

A request from Deborah from the 11/8/2020 GB meeting :

- Deborah requested that we devote some time to internal Communications for the Covenant. Deborah thinks we have covered much of this and would like to move on.

Call for Additions to the Agenda:

Deborah submitted the following items for the Agenda from an email that went to several people in NCLC. She suspects it went to folks listed as Outreach:

1. Action on Petty Officer Sierra Bennett's request and the attached Lay Leader Candidate Form. *[Appendix contains the new form]*
1. Filling vacant Military Liaison position. We need a volunteer and currently do not have anyone who has stepped up.

Deborah asked, "Is the email to military@cog.org going to anyone?" Lord V will ask Canu.

The Combined Board discussed how we would handle. Lady K spoke to our current processes as she and her husband currently do this kind of work in the Chamisa Local Council. Currently, we require anyone who wants to become a Lay Leader to have Credentials. We want to keep our standards high and our reputation spotless for the Military.

The combined board determined that we need a Committee to determine procedures and a policy to support Military personnel who wish to become Lay Leaders. Qabal suggested that we create a document that says you swear to abide by these ethical principles that CoG affirms, have them sign it, join CoG as a Friend of CoG, and we offer them a Lay Leader confirmation.

Grace offered that CoG helped create the Military Chaplain's Handbook and believes that there is a middle-of-the-road path. We need to open up and broaden our spectrum to support and enable not just lay leaders in the military but also for prison ministry, etc.

Military Liaison Committee – Develop procedures to support Lay Leader confirmation and present a proposal to the Governing Board at its next meeting on 2/6/2021:

- Lauren
- Lord Soec
- Deborah Bender
- Lady K
- Grace Moonhawk
- Lady Mariah
- Rick ricksphone69@gmail.com (Lady K's husband)



The Correspondence Officer will respond to Petty Officer Sierra Bennett's request and let her know that we will be getting back to her soon.

Thea would like to add an agenda item to discuss the calendar.

She wants to know if the calendar function can have a month or week view. Currently it is only a scrolling option. Lord Soec stated that they looked at three different ways to do a calendar and this scrolling one was the best way. Thea asked, is there a way to condense? Lord Soec said, not at this time.

Qabal brought up that we expect our website to do many things that perhaps we should use other tools for. Thea agrees that perhaps we need a Tech Committee or Tech Team to look at that. Qabal would like a timeline we could put in place to look for alternatives. Faelind suggested this be a Committee.

Lord Verderius reminded all the next GB meeting will be on Saturday, February 6.

Action Items:

- ✓ Lord Verderius – Confirm with Canu the old server is shut down, the NCO email is updated, David and Thea are removed from the old CoG Board list, and find out who is receiving email at military@coq.org
- ✓ Faelind – Proposal for Transfers
- ✓ Lord Soec – Update website to move the Timeline Discussion Forum to the Committee Lists instead of the Special Interest Discussion Lists
- ✓ Qabal – Synchrony Report
- ✓ Lady Mariah – Member Survey
- ✓ Grace Moonhawk – Respond to Petty Officer Bennett
- ✓ Lay Leader Committee – Develop procedures to support Lay Leader confirmation

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting convened at 5:06 PM and ended at 7:45 PM Central time.

LOCAL COUNCILS



CALAFIA

~ No report~

Last published minutes in the Yule 2020 edition.



CHAMISA

~ No report~

Last published minutes in the Yule 2020 edition.



EVERGLADES MOON

~No Report~

Last published minutes in the Samhain 2020 edition.



HILLS AND RIVERS

~ No report~

Last published minutes in the Lammas 2020 edition.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

~No report~

Last published minutes in the Yule 2020 edition.



ORANGE COUNTY

~ October 8, 2020 ~

Invocation by Camille
Roll Call – (Quorum is two-thirds present):

Covens/Solitaires:

- Bran Faol Reannag (BFR) – represented by Janine Nelson
- Celtic Circle of Wisdom – represented by Mary Stuart and Lilith
- Dream Walkers of Delos – represented by Rayna Hamre or Ravenhawk
- Ghostwheel – represented by Morgana RavenTree
- Greenwood Glen – represented by Pam Mottes and Camille Lockyer
- Rev. Denise Dumars – solitary member

Officer Reports:

First Officer – Pam – no report

Second Officer – Camille

There were a few issues with the Psychic Faire. Some people complained that when they attempted to reserve more than three time slots, their credit card charges would not go through PayPal. We were contacted by Andrea about getting pictures for an infographic for COG. Janine forwarded it to Pam in November, since Pam has pictures of earlier days. Camille has some pictures she could send. Pam said to make sure not to send pictures of people without their permission. Andrea also asked for pictures of past events & history of OCLC.



Membership Officer – Pam, acting Membership Officer – no inquiries for membership
Pursewarden – Mary (Lilith trainee)

Our account has a balance of \$4,764.94 as of today and \$95 in petty cash. PayPal received \$287.67 from proceeds of the Psychic Faire so we have a total of \$5,147.61 in funds.

Public Information Officer – Ravenhawk

We are up 20 likes on Facebook, 2,938 likes total, 3,067 follows up, up slightly from 3,044.

Currently, OCLC has 985 Twitter followers, 787 likes.

We received 188 impressions for video for transgender awareness day last month. Our 1st announcement regarding the Psychic Faire had 584 impressions; 22 interactions, a follow-up post on December 2nd had 122 impressions, 1 interaction. Remaining posts were under 100.

The OCLC Psychic Faire page had a total of 147 unique visitors from 11/12 – 12/10, 89 attempts at purchasing appointments, 27 timed out and cancelled, 62 confirmed. 56% of traffic came from OCLC-COG page.

Recorder – Morgana

Minutes of the November meeting were sent to the OCLC officers and representatives November 12th, and there being no objections, the October and November minutes were sent to the Newsletter November 18th. List of new OCLC officers sent to Newsletter as well.

Governing Board Representative Report -

Janine:

Janine reminded everyone that we should talk with the members of our respective covens to make sure they have signed up for COG member forums (if they are signed up). AIR & DD will no longer be used shortly. There will be a combined meeting of the National Board and the Board of Governing Representatives on January 3rd.

Old Business:

Virtual Psychic Faire December 5-6, 2020

- Pam asked if we could set it so that people can make a single purchase for multiple session. RavenHawk pointed out that there is a problem with multiple purchases for sessions, because the plug-in ties each person to one reader and there was a problem with people dropping off when they switched. The Developer would have to do a mass rewrite. We may need a custom-built one, but he'll keep looking. PayPal did not have the same problems. Mary asked if we could set it up a "cart", so people could buy segments with various people all in their cart before final purchase. RavenHawk replied that would require a separate plug-in for each time slot
- Mary had blocked out times for breaks, but clients still were able to book those times

- Janine said that now that we have this platform we can use it to host workshops online as fundraisers
- No one reached out for tech support
- Morgana asked if Roxanne was able to sell any tamales, but Pam said no. We should post on page & Facebook that tamales are available to for order
- We received positive after-event comments from clients

Thank you to Ravenhawk and Janine for setting up Tech!

Grand Council/MerryMeet 2021

- Morgana reported that National requests date for decision about live virtual event (March 1st suggested); Manny needs to know for budget purposes
- She also mentioned that Manny said the hotel has not charged National the deposit, though they have the signed contract and deposit authorization

New Business:

- There was a general discussion about doing workshops on Zoom, now that we have that capability. Camille suggested we start talking about this at Wednesday with Witches to see if there is any interest
- There being no further business, Camille closed the meeting.

Next meeting January 14th at 7:00pm.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

~No Report~

Last published minutes in the Samhain 2020 edition.



TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL

~ January 17, 2021 ~

Covens			
X	Circle of Danu - Bonnie & Orin	X	Circle of the Star - Rae
P	Circle of the Earth, Sea, & Sky - by Chuck	X	Circle of the Unicorn - Chuck and Christal
P	Circle of Shadow and Light - Willow	P	Circle of the Wild Wood - by Faelind
X	Circle of the Blood Moon - by Gaelen	X	Coven Firemoon - Bastion & Micheal



P	Circle of the Moon and Sun – Ruby, Dragan, Rowan	P	Coven of Diana’s Moon – by Bonnie & Orin
x	Circle of the Serpent – Gaelen, Guinevere, Dusty, Kenny	x	Tree of Knowledge Coven – Faelind

Individual Members		
x	Anastasia – 2/2	Dallas, TX
x	Debi – 12/21	Dallas, TX
A	Glenda P. – 2/2	Alvarado, TX
x	Q’est – 12/21	Dallas, TX

Guests

Keala
Breila

Invocation to Coventina by Gaelen at 10:33 am.

Quorum determined by Recorder

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

Ruby did roll call and has determined we have met Quorum.

Call for additions to the agenda. There were none.

Officer Reports

➤ **First Officer:** Gaelen

- ★ Gaelen request that we have a moment of silence for the loss of Oralee C. and Margarita S., after Anastasia spoke a minute about Margarita. These High Priestesses were both members of the Texas Local Council and active participants of our local community for many years. They will both be missed.
- ★ Check in

Ruby spoke on how close to home COVID is getting, Breila spoke on struggling in these times. It was brought to our attention that a couple of our TXCOG members and community have COVID and are doing well and recovering. Bastion, who is a nurse on a COVID floor in a local hospital, gave her update on how bad things are and encouraged all to make sure they keep safe and wear their masks. She also gave an update on the vaccine if it is approved by their doctor and encouraged people to take it.

- **Public Information Officers:** Kenny and Dusty
 - ★ Need bios and class information from those who are teaching. They have

sent out a request by email on the TXCOG members list. Faelind sent emails to teachers who are not on the CoG Members list to get their bio’s and class descriptions updated.

- ★ We are continuing to post on social media on a regular basis, tracking engagement and addressing any email requests that have come through as well. We are still seeing growth in our engagements even though they were down during the holidays. Facebook is showing over 5800, Instagram is showing close to 200 and things are cross-posting to Twitter. Overall social media is good.
- ★ We have had some requests for mentors. Dusty and Kenny will put out a list to the TXCOG Members email for all that would like to help in this area.

- **Pursewarden:** Michael L.

Bank: \$2,484.49
 PayPal: \$1,922.19
 Cash App: \$83.00
 Cash: \$50.00
 Total: \$4539.68
 Class donations
 Sept: \$61.59
 Oct: \$53.09
 Nov: \$9.41
 Dec: \$18.82

- **Membership Officer:** Dragan

- ★ Renewals from Mabon to Imbolc
- ★ As far as we know, these members have currently renewed.

Circle of Danu – 9/21 Done
 Circle of Shadow and Light – 9/21 Done
 Circle of the Unicorn – 10/31 Done
 Coven Firemoon – 10/31 Done
 Circle of the Blood Moon – 12/21 Done
 Circle of the Moon and Sun – 12/21 Done
 These, with the help of others, were able to get theirs taken care of after the meeting.
 Debi – 12/21
 Q’est – 12/21
 Delfin came on at Chuck’s and let us know that she will be renewing or reapplying and will get with national to get this taken care of. Circle of Earth, Sea, and Sky – 9/21
 These will be taking care of theirs quickly.



Circle of the Star – 2/2

Anastasia – 2/2

- ★ New memberships will be handled in new business.

- **Recorder:** Ruby

- ★ 2021 Newsletter deadline for Imbolc is Jan 21st
- ★ Ruby spoke on that we were able to get our minutes in for the last meeting in time for that newsletter.

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

Faelind spoke about how our number of attendees have been running around 30 each class even though we were down around the holidays. We actually had over 30 this last class. Due to holidays and things going in each of our lives, Faelind said she didn't have the Paypal and survey links. Gaelen said she would get them to her. Faelind, Gaelen, and Ruby all spoke on how attendance has been not only from our local area but more and more each time from out of state. It was also brought up that once we are able to go back to in person classes that we keep doing the virtual classes as well.

- **Online Discussion Group:** Gaelen

The online discussions are going well. Gaelen spoke on how we are filling a need for so many. We have new people coming in all the time. Sometimes they set back and just listen and sometimes they open up and join in.

- **Webweaver:** Faelind

- ★ **G Suite:** New Website Status

There are many things that are still being worked on. Faelind asked if anyone else was interested in taking on the new Google Suite Site and Debi expressed potential interest. She is going to speak to Gaelen about what is involved and then let Faelind know if she is able to take it on.

- **Sabbats: Gaelen** asked for members to consider taking a sabbat for 2021. She'll be reaching out after the meeting for any not taken. Willow signed up for Lammas.

- ★ **2020:**
- ★ Autumn Equinox was Circle of Shadow and Light
- ★ Samhain was Sunna's Dance
- ★ Winter Solstice was Circle of the Serpent
- ★ **2021:**
- ★ **Imbolc:** Coven Firemoon
- ★ **Spring Equinox:**

- ★ **Beltane:** Circle of the Ancient Mother

- ★ **Summer Solstice:**

- ★ **Lammas:** Circle of Light and Shadow

- ★ **Autumn Equinox:** Circle of the Moon and Sun

- ★ **Samhain:** Circle of Danu

- ★ **Winter Solstice:** Debi & Other Solitaires

- **Sabbat Sub-committees:** On Hold During the Pandemic: Gaelen

These sub-committees are on hold until the local council determines we can meet in person again.

- ★ **Vending –**

- ★ **Grounds –** Essynce

- ★ **Parking –** Dragan

- ★ **Community Table & Food –** Bastion

- ★ **Marketing –**

- In Shops - Bastion
- Online - Gaelen

- ★ **Moon School –** Guinevere - Online Version

Virtual Moon School has been going well with an overall positive response and a fair amount of views and interaction. Imbolc is on schedule and will be ready to post on time. I plan to complete a video and a packet set for each sabbat even if we can go back to in-person events later this spring. I would also like to redo Lammas to make it less year-specific- These can then work for families regardless of the year going forward and be used as an ongoing resource for families that are not able to make it the public sabbats and moon schools. The Moon School has received over 5000 views. Guinevere was recognized for her hard work.

- **Governing Board Liaison:** Orin

Orin gave a reminder that Air and DD will be going away. New groups are being discussed. He gave an update on the last Governing Board meeting.

He mentioned there is a need for a Military Liaison. They need someone that can help our military officers become Lay Leaders. Anastasia mentioned that she would like help in and be a part of the committee. Faelind said she would get her in touch with the committee.

He also brought up the Wednesday With Witches that National is hosting online. He suggested that it would be great if there was more local involvement.

- **Old Business**

YouTube Channel



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOQ1anB36Ja5f_2czQHLhag/featured

Gaelen talked about that on our YouTube Channel, we have our Sabbats and Moon School. It seems to be going well. National has even liked it. She encouraged the council to go to the council channel, subscribe, like, and check it out.

> **New Business**

★ **Counselor Pages on Website**

Gaelen spoke on why we are in need of adding this page.

Several mentioned counselors they knew that might be able to be on the and would reach out to them then get back with us. Gaelen said she'd get with Faelind or whomever would be the new webweaver about the page and what was needed on it.

★ **Individual Member Applications**

Dragan addressed that we have 2 today applying for Individual Membership: Keala and Breila. Keala read her Statement of Practice. Then Gaelen and Anastasia read their letters of recommendation for Keala.

Breila read her Statement of Practice. Then Gaelen, Faelind, and Ruby read their letters of recommendation for Breila.

Gaelen asked if there were any questions for each of the applicants. Then they were moved to the waiting room due to meeting being held on Zoom. There was a short discussion. It was pointed out that Wild Wood Coven would be ending their membership at their renewal date as the coven was retired. Ruby then called for a vote. It was unanimous to welcome both Keala and Breila as new members into TXCOG. The applicants were brought back into the meeting and Dragan welcomed them as new members into TXCOG. He has both of their applications and money to be turned in to national this next week.

★ **Inauguration**

Gaelen asked if we would like to put out a statement on what has happened and what is or might be happening having to do with the riots at the Capitol and the inauguration coming up and requested input. There was discussion and everyone agreed that we should, and several gave suggestions on what might be said in the statement. Gaelen will put a statement together and will send it out for approval then posting to social media.

Gaelen thanked Coventina.

Adjourned at 12:23pm.

In attendance: Ecclisian Fellowship (Stachia, Jack Val); Circle of the Emerald Forest (Joanne); Circle of the Obsidian Oak (Joanne had proxy).

Announcements: Obsidian Oak is going to have a Yule on December 21st (Monday). Community: (Stachia) The Everglades Moon did (Turning the Tides) and was live on Facebook (Jack & I) were able to attend some of the workshops and the ritual which were really good. They were recorded live on Facebook which means that they will be posted on YouTube and there will be links on their website shortly for them so, look them up if you need a pick-me-up. ☺ They also had a nice Yule ritual and a Devotional to Hecate which was wonderful.

Other Announcements: Also a former Ecclisian member (Loree Crawford) and a former TLC member (Theresa Lynch) have recently passed away due to unforeseen circumstances so let us give them a moment of silence in prayer as we give them our blessings on their journey to the Summerlands.

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Val): Guess what? We're still in lock-down mode so not much is happening and it looks like that won't be changing anytime soon. However, I'm very excited that we were able to get together again even if it is via phone conversation.

2nd Officer: (Lari) no report

Membership Officer (Joanne): Present no new membership applications.

PIO (Chad): no report

Pursewarden (Jack): Status quo. There have been no changes

Recorder (Val): I'm glad that we're able to get together somewhat and have these fun little meetings and after I finish typing up these minutes, I will send them off to National.

Governing Board Rep (Jack): We met for the first time to try and figure out what is happening. The Board are in the process of determining exactly what steps we need to make. Basically trying to figure out what needs to be accomplished. We are also scheduled for a big meeting next month. So the Governing Board met in November, the Officers met in early December and then we'll have a combined meeting of Officers and Governing Board meeting in January.

Membership Applications: No new membership applications.

Old Business:

None. Not until they let us out of lock-down.

New Business:

None. Not until they let us out of lock-down.



TOUCHSTONE

~ December 14, 2020 ~



Closing: There was no closing; we were all kind of shook up due to the passing of 2 of our former members.

Next Invocation: Jack

Next Meeting: Monday, January 4th, 2021

☾☽

~January 4th, 2021~

In attendance:

Ecclasian Fellowship,
Circle of the Emerald Forest,
Circle of the Obsidian Oak.

Ecclasian Fellowship: Stachia, Jack, Val

Circle of the Emerald Forest: Joanne

Circle of the Obsidian Oak: Joanne had their proxy.

Beginnings:

Invocation – Val

Vibes Watcher – No

Time Keeper – No

Quorum – Yes

Introductions/Sign-in Sheet - N/A no guest

Announcements:

Ecclasian Fellowship: (Stachia) No announcement.

Circle of the Obsidian Oak: (Joanne) No announcement.

Circle of the Emerald Forest: (Joanne) No announcement.

Community: (Stachia) No announcement.

Other Announcements: (Jack) Zenah has completed all of the scanned C.O.G. archives and they have been returned to Northern California so they are no longer in our possession. Also, healing energy was sent to Catherine from Calafia by the council who contacted the Covid-19 virus.

Officer Reports

1st Officer (Val): We're still in lock-down mode so nothing much is happening here on the local level. However, I'm very thrilled that to hear that things are happening on the National level.

2nd Officer (Lari): No report.

Membership Officer (Joanne): Present but nothing to report and we have no new membership applications.

PIO (Chad): No report.

Pursewarden (Jack): No changes to report.

Recorder (Val): I finished the minutes for our last meeting and sent them to Newsletter@cog.org and after I finish typing up these minutes, I will send them off to National for approval also.

Governing Board Rep (Jack): We had our combined meeting yesterday (January 3rd) of National Officers and National Governing Board members and we were discussing including a specific speaker of the Governing Board. Also there were several

discussions about adding a military liaison to the board.

Membership Applications: No new membership applications.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Closing: Was done by Val and was very short and sweet. Also a few other members chimed in as well which was greatly appreciated; everyone is doing their best under the current situation. BLESSED BE!

Phone meeting

Next Invocation: Jack

Next Meeting: Monday, February 1st, 2021

THANK YOU FROM ADOCENTYN LIBRARY

Dear COG Board:

Please convey our thanks to the COG membership, Califia LC, and to Zenah Smith of TLC.

The Adocentyn Research Library (ARL) would like to thank COG members who gave funds to support ARL, a Pagan Library in the San Francisco Bay Area, when renewing their COG memberships. Thanks also to Califia Local Council for the recent cash gift of support. It really helps!

Finally, last weekend Zenah traveled up to Northern CA all the way from Touchstone LC with her car packed full of boxes of NCLC's collection of COG Archives, which were loaned several years ago. Zenah returned the files, after she had scanned them, so that the COG website can benefit from this historical resource. As she scanned the files, she organized the files in fresh clean uniform boxes. They are in really good shape- much better than when we sent them!

Thank you Zenah! Excellent work!

Sincerely,

Anna Korn

NCLC Membership Officer,

ARL Treasurer

BLAST FROM THE PAST

LITTLE RED HEN MANIFESTO

Vol 5, No 2

Imbolc 1980

Once upon a time, there was a Little Red Hen. When she planted her crops, she asked all the other animals for help, but got none. "Then I'll do it myself," said the Little Red Hen. And she did.

The same thing happened at weeding time, at harvest, and when the time came to grind the grain. Nobody helped her, so she did it herself. She made the flour, mixed the dough, and baked the bread unaided. And when the bread was freshly-baked and smelling delicious, all the other animals came round offering to help her eat it. "No thanks," said the Little Red Hen. "I'll do it myself." And she did.

Outreach in the Craft is very much like raising food-crops: seeds must be planted, seedlings nurtured, crops harvested and prepared. The benefits of increasing the number of witches should be obvious. Aside from the selfish reasons of safety in numbers, increased income and so on which we would derive from the presence of a larger population of actively-involved witches in CoG, there is the fact that there is a large audience of receptive people just waiting for us to come along. The seeds have already been sown, and we have only to check out where they are growing and give them a little encouragement. In order to a goodly crop or new witches in a short time.

Many of these people are getting together on their own without waiting for us to help them; why should they let us help them eat the bread that they have grown when we never helped them in the process of getting it to the table? There is going to be a large population of witches around in the next few years, and we might as well tap into their strength and enthusiasm in order to keep CoG going.

My own experience in the past year has taught me that the effort is worthwhile. Out of a mailing list of approximately 80, generated last year's Haight St. and 24th St. fairs, I got some 10 or 15 people who were interested enough to come to an organizing meeting at my house; after dropouts and the usual attrition, I now have 6 energetic apprentices who will be coming up for initiation into Compost Coven in the next few months, plus a waiting list of 6 or 7 for the next study group, to begin in May. These people will be a source of physical, psychic and financial energy to the Craft for years to come.

As anyone involved with direct-mail selling will tell you, a success rate of 10% is absolutely PHENOMINAL. And the neat thing about it is that these people will in turn generate new people coming into the Craft. If we are to be a real-live, healthy and growing organization rather than an elitist hobby, we must put some energy into outreach. It's really easier than you'd think.

Here's my proposal: once again, have literature/info tables at the Haight St. and 24th St. fairs, and also at the Beltane ritual planned for Golden Gate Park. From the mailing lists thus generated (plus individual inquiries), do a direct mailing which will bring interested respondents to an organizing meeting, or series of meetings, for study

groups. Here (as well as by participation at the information tables) is where CoG people can tap into the pool of seekers – by forming study groups to which they can be directed, correspondence courses for them to take, open rituals and workshops for them to attend, some sort of oversight for those who want to get it together in groups on their own (a visiting-expert sort of trip), books to recommend (and to have on hand for immediate sale – get 'em while they're hot and maybe raise a little bread for CoG at the same time). Coordinated follow-up, in other words.

What's needed to carry this out? For the street fairs: approximately \$50 in entrance fees; three or four people per fair to sit with the tables, talk to people, take names and addresses, and hang out; a table and folding chairs; a sign stating who we are, etc.; if possible, somebody to do tarot readings or some other attention-getting device (mojos were not an overwhelming success, but something like Jo's spellmaking kits would be good); either transportation to and from or a nearby house to use as a staging area for each fair. I can supply table & chairs, and am willing to send in entrance applications. Money for fair fees could be collected from a) any convenient spot in either Local Council, Grand Council or Compost Coven budgets, b) passing the hat (we could also put out a contribution box or charge for literature & get reimbursed, at least partially).

For organizing meetings: CoG people who are interested in organizing study groups, doing correspondence courses, being occasional resource people for self-starting groups, taking on individual apprentices, or whatever, to be present and talk to whoever shows up. THIS IS IMPORTANT. I had to call everyone on both mailing lists myself last year, and it would have been a lot easier had there been help. This year, I have several apprentices to help me, and plan to divide the load; but I can't develop too much enthusiasm for following up leads that are outside the city limits, and even taking all the San Francisco respondents could be pretty heavy. Surely there are covens aside from Compost who are trying to increase their membership?

As to literature to hand out at fairs and other public events: there is a leaflet written by Otter & Morning Glory, which we can have reproduced at approximately \$12 per 100 copies (again, pass the hat); the Mojo paper I wrote for last year's fairs, of which I have adequate supplies; the Tables of Correspondence done by the Zells, suitable for reproduction, which would make a nice package to sell at slightly over cost; Robin Goodfellow's dittoed handout; the broadside used at the first Witches' Ball; perhaps copies of Starhawk's and Margot's book to sell – I'm sure there are lots of possibilities which haven't occurred to me.

Doing this the second time will be much easier than it was initially. We already have much of the materials we need available. And the returns, both in the short and in the long run, will be tremendous. I would like to get CoG's sponsorship

for this, as well as financial and physical help. But if nobody wants to help, I plan to do it myself, as high priestess of Compost Coven. And when the bread is baked, and smelling delicious, who will help me eat it?

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

1. In which country is it customary for women to give men chocolate on Valentine's Day?

- a) Japan
- b) Canada
- c) Italy

- Candle Light
- Cards
- Chocolate
- Cupid
- Date
- Dinner
- First Kiss
- Memories
- Movie
- Pink
- Poem
- Proposal
- Red
- Romance
- Roses
- St. Valentine
- Sweetarts
- Teddy Bear
- True Love



Happy Valentine's Day

B Q Q J D F I R S T K I S S N T I U K O
 O C Q E Z Y D P K K G E Y O D H J Q K A
 X Z T S H E J F P I U I W C U G R J T U
 I A C R L H V W L V B U G K E I O C C Q
 D V V J U P O R D V L V C I I L M N D F
 Q I L H G E A Q B A P O V I Z E A M V Z
 I K N I P I L A S O P O R P S L N E G X
 O K O N P M P O E O M P Z T Q D C H M H
 K H J X E W R M V O S Z V L P N E F A F
 Y P I S M R A L P E P A G S W A U G D E
 P N K D Z K A K S D L T O T X C H W W L
 E T U R D P E O O E S W Z R P B W M O P
 S E L A A Y R Z N U M I L A E D E R Z Y
 S D E C R L M T E N E P X T S W X Y H L
 B D G C O S I M Y A M Z G E N O L I J X
 F Y G R N N D D X M O L T E C K L M Y N
 P B W Q E Y T S A Z R U O W D D J V Z P
 D E H K Q K U D V T I G E S N C G Q C C
 B A C H O C O L A T E B Q D I P U C T O
 J R V D C F X T N E S Y R J J I Z T A F

Swiss Chocolate

- 2. Which movie was NOT released on Valentine's Day?
 - a) Silence of the Lambs
 - b) A Good Day to Die Hard
 - c) Daredevil
 - d) 50 Shades of Grey
- 3. Which fast food chain offers tableside service on Valentine's Day?
 - a) KFC
 - b) Burger King
 - c) Quizno's
 - d) White Castle
- 4. In Roman mythology, who is Cupid's mom?
 - a) Psyche
 - b) Venus
 - c) Juno
 - d) Luna
- 5. Which president lost his first wife on Valentine's Day?
 - a) John Tyler
 - b) Millard Fillmore
 - c) Theodore Roosevelt
 - d) Woodrow Wilson
- 6. What was the name of the small heart-shaped sweets, manufactured by Swizzel, which had short romantic messages printed on them?
 - a) Parma
 - b) Chews me
 - c) Jelly Belly
 - d) Love Hearts

Answer Key

- 1. D
- 2. C
- 3. B
- 4. C
- 5. d