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 IMBOLC

Beltane renewals are due on May 1, 2021. The Drop-dead date is May 10, 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:
  ❖ Merlyn

EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:
  ❖ Beachfyre Coven
  ❖ Kathleen Lezon

HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL: None

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: None

ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL: None

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: None
  ❖ Coven Ashesh Hekat

TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:
  ❖ Circle of the Serpent
  ❖ Tree of Knowledge Coven

TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL: None

NATIONAL COVENS:
  ❖ Marian Dawn

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:
  ❖ Avera Vreeland
  ❖ Jennifer Bennet
  ❖ MacLamont
  ❖ Sophia
  ❖ Yesod

FRIENDS OF COG:
  ❖ Aspen May

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

LETTER FROM THE FIRST OFFICER

Healthy Greetings CoG Members,

A new dawn breaks on this Vernal Equinox day and the fullness of Spring shines brightly during this season of rebirth and renewal. May the joy of Spring fill everyone’s heart with happiness. The recent increase in the distribution of the vaccines is cause for sensible celebration on this Sabbat of Spring. I am hopeful that we shall all get vaccinated in the weeks ahead. Please remain vigilant until you get your vaccine shots.

We have been discussing the needs of the Covenant as the year continues to move quickly through the Wheel, as each Sabbat celebration comes and goes so quickly. There has been much discussion on the impact that the pandemic has had on many folk, both emotional and financially. Additionally, there is still concern that we will be able to host this year’s Grand Council in person, since many people are awaiting the vaccine shots, both our CoG members and the greater public overall. Our main care and concern is hosting a safe and joyful gathering. Everyone’s health, safety and wellbeing on this matter must come first!

We have had a busy and somewhat productive winter season with the differing board meetings. We will be having our joint board meeting in April and we will further discuss the thoughts and concerns pertaining to hosting a in person Grand Council and Merry Meet in August this year. Please feel free to share your thoughts and concerns with your Governing Board Representative before our upcoming meeting in April. This will aid us in the decision process and it will give us a clearer idea of what the CoG membership thinks we should consider doing this year.

As you know, last year we had great success with hosting our Grand Council virtual via Zoom. We can of course do the same this year, but extend it to be two days instead. We were thinking two shorter days on a Saturday and Sunday, so more CoG members can join us on another virtual Grand
Council. We were thinking that perhaps we would do a total of six hours each day with a three hours in the morning session and a three hour in the afternoon session. We would also extend it with a longer lunch break incorporate for some rest away our computer screens. However, we are most certainly open to other suggestions on this important topic.

Ultimately, I am excited to see that so many people are getting the vaccine shots completed. Several members of the board have gotten at least their first shot. The have lowered the age group to 50 and older, so I believe that in June we should be nearly over this pandemic.

Wishing you all a Happy Ostara and Bright Blessing to all!

With Love & Light
Lord Verderius

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**FIRST OFFICER**

Spring has finally arrived and the warmer days and the growing sun light inspire us at this time of renewal and rebirth. It has been a long a quiet winter for most of us, as we continue to deal with the threat of the Covid-19 virus. However, we know that better days are ahead with the three vaccines currently being distributed and given throughout the United States.

At the beginning of February the Governing Board met to discuss many differing topics. I personally believe the Governing Board has a good handle on the growing needs for the Covenant and they are making plans for the Covenant’s future in growth and vitality. Additionally, I am pleased to announce that they have also selected a Governing Board Rep to be their main “Speaker” to take up the task of managing the concerns of the Governing Board Reps and the LC’s concerns for the Covenant, as we make plans to implement new and exciting changes during the future months.

At the beginning of March the Executive Board of national officers met to discuss what things we are working on and how to we can further assist the Covenant during these challenging times, while we are all trying to stay safe and sheltering in place. We know that many Local Councils have opted to take their classes and meetings online utilizing several differing media format, such as Zoom and WebEx.

Many of these same Local Councils have said this has been a great success and they will continue to offer online classes after the pandemic has ended. This might be something we (CoG National) will eventually need create to offer potential future members a means of study and education, while offering them a form of mentorship to grow them as future leaders within our organization.

Another important note is we have finally retired the older server that hosted our website and email functions, since it was no longer working adequately to meet the needs of our membership. We are now fully integrated an online using the new server and the forums to communicate amongst our membership. I know that many of you have had some challenges getting use to this new system, but this was our only remedy to the systematic issues we were having on the old server. We will look for further ways to improve our new communication system, but in the meantime, we must all try to adapt to the new system for our communication.

Also, with the call for greater communication, I am asking all members to join us for a “Wednesday with Witches” talk and conversation on a member’s only evening. On the third Wednesday of the month, we host the members only meeting to discuss topics that are important to us as an organization. We have had lighter than anticipated participation from our members, so I am putting out a call to please join us!

Once we are all fully vaccinated, I hope to have the opportunity to get out to former areas where we once had Local Councils and to meet with former members to see if we can rebuild relations with them and inspire them to rejoin CoG. Let me know what areas you think I should consider to visit first, since many of you are still in contact with these former members. Let’s re-grow our wonderful magickal organization together!

With Fortitude,
Lord Verderius

**SECOND OFFICER**

At the January 14, 2020 meeting of OCLC, we discussed whether we think we will be able to have a live event in August. The general feeling was that we most likely cannot. Even if the County will resume allowing large events by August, there will still be a perception among many people that crowds and indoor events should still be avoided, especially in Southern California. Further, people involved with retail or the service industries have been hit hard by pandemic business closures and may not have the funds to travel. We must also take into consideration the slow rollout of the vaccination programs in California. Therefore, OCLC agreed by consensus that we would not have a live event this year.

OCLC is still willing to host a virtual event. This virtual event would not necessarily have to take place the same weekend as Grand Council, since there will not be any travel to either event. Before we can commit to a virtual MerryMeet, we need to
know if that is what the Membership really wants. A virtual event would consist of Leadership Institute and 1 day of workshops. The planned Friday night ritual would not be possible without being completely rewritten as an online event. A Saturday night concert will still be possible (online), but there would be few, if any, social events. Nevertheless, we have a list of potential workshops. Before we begin contacting potential presenters and vendors, we need to know if the Membership wants and will attend a virtual MerryMeet this year.

Finally, members of OCLC have already purchased gift bags and ritual supplies which would not be useful for a virtual event. Regardless of whether or not we have an online event this year, OCLC wants to host a “live” MerryMeet at some point in the future. It has been suggested that we “bid” for 2023.

Morgana RavenTree

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Please accept my apologies for my absence these last couple of months! Personal health issues and family matters have delayed membership renewals and applications. Thank you for your continued patience while I catch things up!

Yule and Imbolc pre-filled renewal forms were mailed out on March 7th and Ostara forms will be mailed on the 9th. Due to this delay, all will have a revised deadline of May 10th 2021. Beltaine renewal forms will go out on schedule on March 21st 2021 and also be due by May 10th 2021.

Just a reminder that our National Covens and Individual members still have some Zoom meetings coming up! Lord Solandrin from Grove of the Willow Wood is the National Covens GB delegate, but still needs an alternate. The National Individual members will have Grace Moonhawk as their GB delegate and I’m sure more information will be coming soon for a meeting to decide on a GB alternate.

The NEW FORUMS LIST began going out with the Mabon renewal packets. If you would like to subscribe to any of the Forums, please contact me or the NetCo. We have transitioned to individual usernames and passwords for better security. Contact us if you need this information reset.

As always, please know that there is money in the Grace of the Goddess fund to assist those who might need it, and the NMO is willing to work with you for deferred tithe payments. Please do not let a temporary situation keep you from your membership in CoG! We are here to help! However, Grace of the Goddess funds may only be used for tithes and cannot be used to pay for Credential renewals.

APPLICATIONS

Please read these statements and letters on AIR and DD! They can also be found below. If there are any objections, please contact me at membership@cog.org

- Friends of CoG
  - None
- Covens and Individuals
  - Keala Datura (Texas)
- WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND FoC!
  - Bryce Woyak (National)
  - Marilyn Wardlow (Silvermist) (FoC)
  - Laura Kimpel-Matthews (Morrigan Proctor-Greene) (FoC)
  - Olivia Briggs (FoC)
- TRANSFER REQUESTS
  - Caim of the Desert Moon (Coven) to Ryan Coe (Solitary) Chamisa LC
  - Breila of Circle of the Wild Wood requests Solitary Membership (Texas LC)
- OVERDUE/LAPSED MEMBERS (Contact me immediately to avoid cancellation!)
  - Bendith y Cyn National
  - Circle of Earth Sea Sky Texas
  - Spelcastor Everglades Moon
  - Witches of Aradia Hills and Rivers
  - Lady Pythia National
- CANCELLED MEMBERS
  - None

MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

We currently have 131 Members total, consisting of 68 Covens, and 63 Individual Members; and we now have 10 Friends of CoG. Our growth has been increasing all year despite losing several covens and individuals due to retirement and crossing over.

Because things can change quickly between the Newsletter publishing deadline and the actual date of publication, this may have changed by the time you read it.

The following members were due at Yule and Imbolc and have until 5/10/2021 to renew:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roster Name</th>
<th>Local Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dru</td>
<td>Chamisa</td>
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<td>Darrell N. Riffe</td>
<td>Friend of CoG</td>
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<td>Alta Nerissa Sparkman</td>
<td>Friend of CoG</td>
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<td>Paul Abijah Raphu</td>
<td>Friend of CoG</td>
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<td>Gus diZerega</td>
<td>National</td>
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<td>Orion Foxwood</td>
<td>National</td>
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<td>Coven of the Mystical Merkabah National</td>
<td>Orange County TX</td>
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<td>Rt. Rev. Denise Dumars</td>
<td>Texas</td>
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<td>Q’est (Dragon)</td>
<td>Touchstone</td>
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<td>Zenah Smith</td>
<td>National</td>
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<td>Church of the Earth</td>
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<td>Ecclasian Fellowship</td>
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<td>Our Lady of the Woods</td>
<td>Chamisa</td>
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<td>The Sylvan Forest</td>
<td>Everglades Moon</td>
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<td>Dragonweyr</td>
<td>National</td>
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<td>Circle of the Cauldron</td>
<td>Chamisa</td>
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• Circle of the Star  Texas
• Grove of the Willow Wood National
• Jeffrey Wolf  Friend of CoG
• Kirk White  National
• Eibhlean  National
• Aracos Arendel  National
• Amber Moon  Everglades Moon
• Jerrie Hildebrand  National
• Glenda Phillips  Texas
• Raniananda  National
The following members are due at Ostara and have until 5/10/2021 to renew:

**Roster Name** | **Local Council**
---|---
Circle of Dragon and Phoenix So. Cal  |  National
Raven Star Coven  |  National
Witch and Famous Coven  |  Everglades Moon
Dragon's Weyr Circle  |  So Cal
Circle Angkur  |  Calafia
Coven of Bran-Faol Reannag Orange County  |  California
Coven of Diana's Moon  |  Texas
Kari Tornow  |  Chamisa
Amber  |  National

Brightest Blessings,
Dee Proctor (Lady K) NMO

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**Pursewarden**

**Current Assets**

- Chase Main Account: $89,047.08
- Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: $5,585.62
- PayPal Account: $1,526.09
- Synchrony: $33,102.60 (as of 12/31/2020)

**Current Issues/Updates**

- No updates at the moment.

**Public Information Officer**

Marketing & Outreach (M&O) began the year with our first meeting on January 4th covering discussion topics for Wednesday with Witches. Brandon shared his goals for outreach in 2021. We also discussed possible promotion/advertising through eZines and magazines. Morgana shared that Pagan Pride LA/OC has an E-Newsletter and suggested that we could contribute to monthly releases to help promote CoG.

There are a couple of interview/panel discussion opportunities through online groups and podcasts. We are determining their size, audience and what/how we want to share.

After the actions of January 6th in Washington, DC Verderius and several members wrote a statement. It was released to the public and promptly received a majority of negative comments on Facebook. While the statement was not political, many Facebook followers implied political aspects in the statement. Our Facebook page has been a place where fans and followers can share their opinions safely and openly. However, this time there were adults behaving so cruelly and disrespectfully — on both sides I decided we needed rules for our page. I had to ban about 4 people, and hide 80% of the comments. Rules have been implemented stating our encouragement of respectful dialogue and that our page will be a safe space to share ideas and comments. If the rules are not followed, people will be warned, or ultimately banned for bad or disrespectful behavior. Be they witches, pagans, members or fans.

Our marketing calendar for 2021 has been posted and will be updated as needed since January, there were 3 Wednesday with Witches salons. The first, on January 6th, was our public gathering focused on the new year and new beginnings along with a meditation provided by Stachia. Our next event was held on January 20th which we continued the discussion on new beginnings. With several members present, we had creative discussions about future Wednesday with Witches. Thanks to all those who attend our January events. It helps us gauge what our fans are looking for and information that new witches want.

Wednesday with Witches on February 3rd our topic for this event was on tool consecrations, dedications and rededication’s and the latest Sabbats, Imbolc/Lammas. It was a good event where attendees shared from their own experiences and asked some great questions. It was learned after the meeting that the most current link was not available to some members. We will work to confirm that MailChimp, CoG Calendar, Forums and social media have the current link for each event. Our next event will be for members only on February 17th. Our topic is “Love the one you’re with — 2 and 4 legged fins, furs, feathers or scales. We clarified what we could do for future podcasts, events (in addition to workshops offered by other CoG members).

In March the public Wednesday with Witches salon will be on March 3rd and our topic will include “Ask a Witch”, Women’s Empowerment and Goddess Worship in celebration of Women’s Month and International Women’s Day on 3/8. The members only Wednesday with Witches will be 3/17 and we will cover Ostra/Mabon.

Our Outreach officer is planning an event for later this year and our M&O team will help and support their efforts for their virtual event.

**Publications Officer**

As we approach Ostara and the equinox, things have been quite a roller coaster ride. So far this season, Stachia, my love of my life, wound up in
the hospital for 8 days. Needless to say everything got put on hold for a while, but I’m happy to report that she is back home and doing well.

With our new President and administration, it looks like we are turning the corner on Covid especially with everyone getting immunized. Hopefully soon I’ll see you all in person and be able to give you all big hugs.

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

Merry meet from the Great Pacific Northwest.

Over the course of the last several months I have received and replied to incarcerated pagans (5), requests for assistance for their incarcerated Pagans and Wiccans from Department of Corrections facility administrators (2), seekers (4) and requests for collaboration and networking. I will be bringing the collaboration and networking requests to both the Executive and Governing Boards for discussion, review, and response. I would like to publicly express my gratitude to both Boards and also to Amber K for their mentorship and support during this transition period. I know that I am looking forward to Spring and the growth, warmth and return of the Sun’s light on each of us and the Covenant of the Goddess.

Respectfully yours in Service,
Julia Grace

NATIONAL RECORDER

No report submitted. (Please see Executive Board Minutes.)

NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER

No report submitted. (Please see Executive Board Minutes.)

WELCOME TO COG

Please welcome:

- Already welcomed at Yule

TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY

RYAN COE

From coven membership in Caim of the Desert Moon to Individual Membership in Chamisa LC

BREILA

Texas LC
Dallas, Tx

STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

My name is Breila, and it is my intent and request to transfer my membership in CoG from a member coven to the Local Council Assembly of Solitaires. I have been a member of Circle of the Wildwood since 2014 and achieved all degrees through the same, under the tutelage of Rhys Eavan, HPS. Circle of the Wild Wood has been a CoG member coven since Litha, 2004 (charter #1170C). As a solitaire, I plan to remain in service with the American Tradition of the Goddess. I am a believer and follower of the Old Religion, and I identify and am recognized as a witch within my community. I worship the God and Goddess and celebrate all holy days according to the wheel of the year and the cycle of the moon. I sincerely subscribe to the Wiccan Rede and live my life by its code, in addition to the rule of 3. I have pledged my body and soul to Wicca. Further, I pledge to abide by all provisions of the CoG Charter, the bylaws, and any and all policy decision of the national and local councils, as well as agree to hold harmless any officer or Committee of CoG or any members of the Officers, Governing Board or Committee members for actions taken in their official capacities. I believe that I am a valuable member of my community and can offer my skills and abilities in service to the community and through that, to the Gods. I appreciate the opportunity to join and for your consideration.

Bright blessings,
Breila

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

KEALA DATURA

Texas LC
Dallas, TX

STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

I am requesting membership to the Texas Local Council of the Covenant of the Goddess as an Individual. Below you will find my statement of practice:
I am a practicing Wiccan High Priestess of the American Tradition of the Goddess.

I honor the Wiccan Rede

I honor the Goddess and the God in all their forms, the natural cycle of the sun and the moon, the Sabbats, and how they relate to spiritual growth. I practice these both in my solitary work and in my study group (Labyrinth of the Willow).

I believe in inclusiveness within my community regardless of race, gender, or orientation.

I believe there are many paths within Wicca and respect others regardless of their tradition or standing.

I believe that we are all students of life and have lessons to learn from each other.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

Dear CoGkin,

I am grateful to know Keala Datura. She is an upstanding member of AMTRAD. We met at a gathering in 2002 and have worked together over the years.

Personally, over the years, our children have grown up together. Keala has worked devotedly to her her children learn about themselves and grow to do community service. For the past 8 years, she has also been a Girl Scout leader and has worked with helping girls learn skills to become amazing young women.

Keala worked with me for 3 years to do Yule for public ritual at the COG CCDS events. We were frozen out the first year. The next year, we did a ritual she wrote. The next year, she helped with a ritual I wrote. Although not a member of COG at that time, she was willing to help me put together Yule rituals for the community that would be fun and educational.

Keala is a great help and will continue to tend her support, encouragement, and ideas to improve our community. highly recommend her for membership into the Texas Local Council of the Covenant of the Goddess.

With respect and bright blessings,
Anastasia Lankford

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

Greetings,

I would like to recommend Cristy C. aka Keala Datura to join the Texas Local Council of the Covenant of the Goddess as an individual member. I've known Keala for over twenty years. She is a High Priestess of the American Tradition of the Goddess and hived from my coven a few years ago. She was an active member of this local council for several years while she was with my circle. She has expressed her desire to return to this local council and participate again.

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

NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

Invocation: Lord V called the meeting to order and invoked Coventina, gracious Goddess of the Covenant.

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

National Officers:
✓ First Officer – Lord Verderius – Present
✓ Pursewarden – Qabal – Present
✓ Recorder – Faelind – (Does not count toward Quorum)

Governing Board Representatives:
• Calafia LC – Catherine – Absent
✓ Chamisa LC – Polaris Present
✓ Everglades Moon LC – Raven / Alt: Lord Rieken – Absent
✓ Hills & Rivers LC – Lauren Present
✓ Northern California LC – Thea / Alt: Deborah B. – Both Present
✓ Orange County LC – Janine / Alt: Morgana – Both Present
✓ Southern California LC – Lady Mariah present
• Texas LC – Orin / Alt: Willow McKenna – Absent
✓ Touchstone LC – Lord Soec – Present
✓ National Covens – Lord Solandrin – Present
✓ National Individual Members – Grace Moonhawk – Present

Governing Board Rep Reports: Lord V asked if any GB reps wished to provide a report. Since we have a large agenda, none did.

Committee Reports:

Military Liaison Committee  – Written report submitted by Deborah Bender, Chair of ML Committee:

The Military Liaison Committee met on January 20 and February 5. The committee has expanded to nine members, some of whom are veterans, current or former lay leaders, or both.

Currently, our main focus is on how CoG handles requests to endorse a person to be a lay leader for religious services for active military personnel. We hope to address other topics later.

We discussed how the Covenant has handled such requests in the past. In general, previous endorsements have been for persons wishing to provide worship services on military bases in the United States. The requests came in via personal communications to individual CoG members or to our past Military Liaisons, rather than resulting from an outreach effort by CoG.
In contrast, the email which was sent to several CoG members in late December came from a sailor on active duty on a ship, who has no known previous relationship with any member of CoG. I sent an email in reply February 6.

The Committee is discussing whether and how would-be Wiccan lay leaders who are not presently known to us might become eligible to receive an endorsement from the Covenant. How would we vet them? What qualifications would we require? So far, the MLC is in agreement that the applicant must have an ongoing relationship with the Covenant, that this relationship will include at least one interview with a member of CoG, and that a CoG representative will contact the applicant’s Chaplain directly before a decision is made.

MLC members are researching the Department of Defense regulations about lay leaders. We are also looking into how these regulations are applied in the various armed services, and whether there are differences in practice depending on where and under what conditions the lay leader’s congregation is serving.

We are beginning to put together a contact list of CoG members who are currently lay leaders or have been lay leaders in the past.

**Bylaw Review Committee** – Proposal for Grand Council was submitted by Faelind for Review by GB:

Proposal to eliminate the requirement that Individual Members must be eligible for Elder Credentials when transferring from a Local Council Assembly of Individual Members to the National Assembly of Individual Members. See Appendix A for the entire Proposal. The GB reviewed and discussed. There were no issues raised.

Next Bylaw Review Committee update will occur only when there are items the Committee finds that require Bylaw updates. There is no meeting scheduled and no items in mind at this time.

**Action Items (from last meeting):**

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@cog.org.

Canu has turned down the old server and has ensured all emails are forwarding. A test for the new Correspondence Officer shows that the email servers appear to be fixed.

Faelind – Proposal for Grand Council regarding Individual Member Transfers.

See Bylaw Review Committee report under Committee Reports.

Lord Soec – Update website to move the Timeline Discussion Forum to the Committee Lists instead of the Special Interest Discussion Lists.

Lord Soec will check and get back to the GB.

Qabal – Synchrony Report

The Synchrony account is still active, there is nothing wrong with it, but Qabal cannot access. He believes that a former Pursewarden may still have access. To remedy, he must travel to Atlanta as soon as it is safe.

Regarding other financial news, Qabal is still watching the IRS to be sure we are OK, and the USPS PO Box is due for renewal.

Lady Mariah – Member Survey

Work is proceeding. She has been meeting with her LC to refine and develop. She will bring back the survey questions when they are defined for review by the GB. Interested in anyone who is willing to help so please reach out to her.

Undecided on demographic information to collect – Expectation to follow up with anyone who expresses an interest to work on these items.

Ministry and Chaplaincy – military, inmate, hospital and hospice, and law enforcement.

Earth – endangered species and wildlife preservation, and wildlands and natural areas restoration/preservation. A question might include which organizations to donate to.


Social Justice – Homelessness, domestic violence, and women’s shelters.

Media – Negative portrayals of Witches in the media. Do you feel we are portrayed negatively in the media? Do you want to get involved? Could include letter writing campaigns, etc...

Non-consensual Sexual Practices in the Craft – Do you feel CoG should be working to prevent and educate against this practice?

Getting in touch with more people – Asking members which social media platforms they are using. Which platforms are younger people using? Where do you look when you want information about Witchcraft?

Witch Hunts Worldwide – Manny suggested to add this topic. There are people killed or harmed each day around the world who are not Witches but are in danger. Deborah mentioned that Ronald Hutton just did a discussion on Contemporary Witch Hunts.

Manny is concerned that folks will think we ARE GOING TO DO all these things if we ask about
them. Language needs to be clear we are looking for those who are interested and willing to do this work on behalf of or with CoG. We cannot do any of the items without passionate people. Deborah offered editorial help when questions are determined. Many board members agreed that there were too many questions/topics for one survey. Lord V noted that we had a proposal for consent culture that we couldn’t get anyone to lead so this could be a hard task. How do we police this from CoG’s perspective? The language for the survey questions should be vetted with the board. The Covenant could use either Mail Chimp or Survey Monkey to execute the survey(s) as we have access to both of these software programs, and we should have the responses go to one place for analysis.

Grace Moonhawk – Respond to Petty Officer Bennett.

The Military Liaison Committee sent a letter to Petty Officer Bennett.

Military Liaison Committee – Develop procedures to support Lay Leader confirmation.

They are in the process of doing this. They will come back when they have something to discuss. See Committee Reports for details.

Old Business:

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

Education and mentorship – The survey will help with these goals. We need committees of passionate people.

Administration Topics – Update Governing Board Contact list with current email addresses, phone numbers and mailing addresses. Faelind has asked everyone to send her the information and she will compile it. Thea asked about whether we have email addresses for each board and the combined board and could we test that.

Progress report about memorial site on public side of the website. There is no committee working on this. Macha and Grace Moonhawk are discussing. They are trying to address the concerns raised from last Grand Council. No further updates until they determine solutions.

New Business:

CoG’s channels of internal communication. How do we remove barriers and make it easier? Thea made a proposal to use Groups.io as a way to have an AIR and DD communications for the members. Currently we have no way for Friends of CoG to access the forums because they are not members. Deborah suggested that we take this forward to the officers as an action item and Thea has offered to help administer this in the beginning if we use Groups.io. Grace Moonhawk is willing to help. Deborah wonders if we need an assistant NetCo so we have more than one person.

Update on Grand Council/Merry Meet. Morgana met with her LC and they have determined they will not do a live Merry Meet. With the slow roll-out of the vaccination and the loss of work for many people affecting their income, there is a concern that it will still not be safe and there will not be people wanting to travel for it.

They are interested in doing a virtual Merry Meet but they are asking whether others think it is a good idea. They could still do entertainment and workshops. It would be held on a separate weekend from Grand Council. Suggestions were that they send out a survey to get feedback from the membership. Leadership Institute is really more a Grand Council thing so the LC would not do LI. OCLC does want to do an actual live event, but it won’t be this year.

Manny suggested we do a National trademark for the term Merry Meet. Grace Moonhawk is going to do some preliminary research that might take 5 to 6 weeks. She will provide via email so progress can be made without waiting for another GB meeting.

Speaker of the Governing Board.

The role: What are the responsibilities of the Speaker?

The Speaker will be the liaison between the Governing Board and the First Officer (and other National Officers).

The Speaker can help put together the agenda.

Help make a distinction between the two boards and the different meetings.

Take a longer view of the issues/items.

Could call meetings on their own without National Officers if necessary.

Would learn in time what other roles might be done.

Two-year term.

Lady Mariah was nominated.

The Governing Board voted unanimously for Lady Mariah to be the new Speaker of the Governing Board. The FO and Recorder will work on a tentative agenda and send it to Lady Mariah prior to each GB meeting. Lady Mariah will send it out to the GB.

Manny suggested we come up with our own language for us and how we work – we still have to
interact with the outside world with reporting, but we need to use language that explains us.

Recruiting new National Officers for those whose terms end this year. The board discussed those Officers whose terms are up this year. NPIO, Recorder, Pursewarden, Outreach, and Second Officer terms are up this year. The Pursewarden would like to start working with any potential Pursewarden now. Lord V suggested that we start talking about this with our local constituencies. Janine suggested we bring this up on our members-only Wednesday with Witches on the third Wednesday of each month. Lord V asked for an agenda item for this on the next GB meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 8.

Officer Reports. Reduce time spent on board calls and provide what is needed for the newsletter. Lord Soec stated that he only had one report for the last newsletter. Lord V said he would remind folks to please send in their reports for both the newsletters and to save time in the meetings.

Military Liaison Committee.

The Military Liaison Committee is approved as a Standing Committee under the Governing Board. The GB approved Deborah Bender as Committee Chair.

Create a new forum named Military Liaison Committee. Deborah will send a list of participants to Faelind and Orin to be added.

Create a new email for the Committee to be forwarded to Deborah. Email to be MilitaryLComm@cog.org. Lord V to provide this request to Canu.

Governing Board Committees. Which active national committee should be under GB oversight? Do we have new committees? Should we start any? Should we revive any? – Tabled to the next GB meeting on Saturday, May 8.

Additions to the Agenda:

Thea mentioned that her local Presbyterian group reached out to her about the symbols on the Q-Anon Shaman and asked her to engage in a conversation with them.

Action Items:

Faelind to send out the Bylaws definition of Elder Credential Requirements
Faelind or Orin create new Forum named Military Liaison Committee
Deborah to send a list of folks to be added to the Military Liaison Forum to Faelind/Orin
Canu create new email to be directed/forwarded to Deborah named MilitaryLComm@cog.org
Lady Mariah to send Survey Questions to GB for review

Faelind, Orin, or Canu to review date on forums to see if it can be changed to US format, it is currently in European format
Grace Moonhawk to research trademark costs for MerryMeet
Lord V work with Canu on determining what are the email lists for the boards. Do we have a Governing Board email, a National Officer email, and a combined Board email?
Faelind will review old minutes to find the email names and test them
Lord V work with Canu about whether we ought to get an assistant NetCo
Lord V to work with Canu on email on the new server for CoG members
Thea to test Groups.io as a way to enable Friends of CoG access with CoG members
Meeting Adjourned:
At the 3-hour mark, meeting was adjourned.

APPENDIX A:

BYLAW PROPOSAL – Allow Transfers from Local Council Assembly of Individual Members to National Assembly of Individual Members without eligibility requirement of Elder Credentials.

Submitted by Faelind, National Recorder

Situation:
GC2019 removed the requirement that National Individual Members must be eligible for Elder Credentials but the membership bylaw regarding transfers was not updated.

Background:
In 2019, Bylaw proposals were introduced and approved to help streamline the membership process and increase membership in the Covenant of the Goddess.

A specific bylaw proposal was introduced and approved to eliminate the requirement that Local Council and/or National Individual Members must be eligible for Clergy Credentials. The proposal was made by Amber K and Azrael Arynn K.

Here is the exact language of the 2019 proposal:

SITUATION:
COG’s solitary individual membership is declining.

BACKGROUND:
At present, only Clergy (i.e., people eligible for or possessing Clergy Credentials) may apply for individual solitary membership in COG. To be an Individual Solitary Member at the National level requires eligibility for Elder credentials.

ASSESSMENT:
To reverse our declining membership trend, COG needs to make individual solitary membership more accessible and attractive. We can begin by improving accessibility.

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Grand Council remove the requirement of eligibility for Clergy Credentials in order to be admitted to the AoS AoIM and open solitary Individual membership to any initiated Witch or Wiccan, including self-initiated members of the Craft, providing all other requirements for COG membership are met.

Note: Solitary was changed to Individual and Initiated was removed as part of the amendments to the proposal.

Assessment:
It is clear that the intent of the original proposal in 2019 was to remove the requirement for Clergy Credential eligibility at both the Local Council and National Level. It does not make sense that we would retain the requirement that an Individual Member be eligible for Elder Credentials when transferring from a Local Council Assembly of Individual Members to the National Assembly of Individual Members.

Note: Individual Members are still required to be eligible for Elder Credentials to hold any National Office, and any Caucuses formed for VOTING at Grand Council must have at least one Individual who is eligible for Elder Credentials.

Recommendation:
Change bylaw 2.F.3.c to remove requirement for eligibility for Elder Credentials. Struck through language to be removed.

Article 2. Membership and Affiliation, B. Criteria for Membership, 1. Criteria for Covens, f. have at least one member who is eligible to receive Elder Priest/ess Credentials according to the provisions of Article 7. Credentials, Section B. Criteria for Obtaining Credentials, Subsection 2. Elder Priest/ess Credentials, paragraphs b., c., and d. of these Bylaws.

Article 2. Membership and Affiliation, B. Criteria for Membership, e. have three or more members who have been formally accepted into training for the Clergy;


Article 3. The Officers and the Governing Board, D. Officers of the Covenant, 2. Eligibility for Office, Eligibility for National Office shall be membership in good standing in Covenant of the Goddess, active participation in its affairs and projects, and eligible for Elder Priest/ess credentials. Eligibility for Local Council office shall be membership in good standing in a Local Council of CoG, active participation in its affairs and projects, and eligible for clergy Priest/ess credentials.

Article 4: Meetings, E. Requirement to Attend Meetings and Appoint Proxies, 4. b. At least one member of the Individual Member Caucus must be eligible for Elder Priest/ess credentials.

Article 4: Meetings, G. Individual Member Caucuses, 1. An Individual Member Caucus may have more than but must not have fewer than three members. One of these members must be eligible for Elder Priest/ess Credentials.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
~December 6, 2020

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

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

National Officers:
✓ First Officer – Lord Verderius
✓ Second Officer – Morgana
✓ Membership Officer – Lady K
✓ Publications Officer – Lord Soec
✓ Pursewarden – Qabal – Present
✓ Public Information Officer – Janine N.
✓ Outreach Officer – Brandon P. – Absent
✓ Correspondence Officer – Grace Moonhawk
✓ Recorder – Faelind –

Officer Reports:

First Officer – Lord Verderius: Lord V sent in a written report and added that he felt our goal at this point is to continue with what we are doing and...
encouraged Lady K to ask for help if she needs it to catch up. Lord V mentioned that he had COVID and feels fortunate that he has had mild symptoms. He plans to be vaccinated as soon as he is cleared, hopefully by June. He added that he is hoping that more members will join the Wednesday with Witches and hopes to discuss with the Governing Board Reps that he would like each of them to attend.

**Second Officer – Morgana:** Morgana submitted a written report. She is concerned about spending the energy creating a virtual Merry Meet and burning out the volunteers which would preclude them doing a live, in-person Merry Meet which is what they really want to do next year. The Officers still think August is too soon for an in-person event. We are not ready to travel yet.

Qabal added that psychologically, we may not be ready for in-person events because we need to see successful events that are smaller before we are ready.

Lady K added that Chamisa is keeping their virtual events and extending their Magical Mountain Mabon time from one day.

**Membership Officer – Dee P.:** Lady K submitted a written report. She is catching up and hopes to be up to date by Beltane. She got the Yule renewals out and will get out the Imbolc renewals after this meeting and will get the Ostara renewals out tomorrow. Beltane renewals will go out on time.

Lord V asked Lady K to reach out once he has caught up so they could schedule meetings with the National Covens and National Individual Members.

**Publications Officer – Lord Soec:** Not much to report, except he had problems getting out the newsletter and folks had a hard time opening. He welcomed Lady K and missed her terribly. He needs a data dump from her and she will provide by Ostara.

**Pursewarden – Qabal:** Qabal submitted a written report with the finances. The taxes have been submitted. He hopes to complete the taxes very soon after October 31st this year to prepare for a new Pursewarden.

Verderius asked for a donation letter so he could claim the CoG Display he purchased.

He has found resources to create the process to dissolve organizations for a proposal for a process for the financial dissolution of CoG.

**Public Information Officer – Janine N.:** Janine submitted a written report back in February that was not included to the Imbolc newsletter and she included updates to be included to the Ostara newsletter.

She related the great participation we had at the last Wednesday with Witches discussion that included several topics. She is hoping to discuss favorite books on the next members-only Wednesday with Witches that we could use to update our current booklist on the CoG website.

The next marketing and outreach meeting will be March 15. She received two emails she plans to forward to the Correspondence Officer.

**Outreach Officer – Brandon P.:** No Report – Absent.

**Correspondence Officer – Grace Moonhawk:** Grace submitted a written report. She discussed the different types of letters/emails she has received so the Officers could discuss how the Officers could help. She brought up that even though we now have a Military Liaison Committee, that Committee does not want to be involved in Hospice or Incarcerated services. Lady K also mentioned that CoG already had protocols in place for Credentialing members for Military Lay Leader service, so she is unclear what the purpose of the Military Liaison Committee is. We don’t want it to be easier, we want them to follow the established protocols.

We are also getting questions about ordaining individuals. How do we want to handle? The Officers agreed these items should be brought to the Governing Board to secure input and volunteers from the membership. CoG does not ordain; we provide Credentials to those who have already been ordained.

She also brought a request from GB Rep, Deborah Bender to create a groups.io email for the military liaison committee. Qabal mentioned that those who use it must remember that we do not own it so their privacy is at the mercy of the application.

**Recorder – Faelind:** These minutes are my report.

**Old Business:**

**Action Items for Officers from last GB Meeting:**

Do we need an assistant NetCo? – Verderius will call a meeting with Canu, Faelind, and Orin to discuss this.

Communication? – Verderius will call a meeting with Canu, Faelind, and Orin to discuss this.

Email on the new server? – Canu create new email to be directed/forwarded to Deborah named MilitaryLComm@cog.org

Faelind will review old minutes to find the email names for the National Officers and Governing Board Reps and test them – Complete. Faelind talked to Canu. There are no email lists for Officers or Governing Board Reps now. Once the old server was turned off, we no longer have those email lists.

Canu to review date on forums to see if it can be changed to US format, it is currently in European format – Complete. Canu fixed it.

Faelind submitted a written report. She included updates to be included to the Ostara newsletter and those who use it must remember that we do not own it so their privacy is at the mercy of the application.

Grace submitted a written report. She discussed the different types of letters/emails she has received so the Officers could discuss how the Officers could help. She brought up that even though we now have a Military Liaison Committee, that Committee does not want to be involved in Hospice or Incarcerated services. Lady K also mentioned that CoG already had protocols in place for Credentialing members for Military Lay Leader service, so she is unclear what the purpose of the Military Liaison Committee is. We don’t want it to be easier, we want them to follow the established protocols.

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**Old Business:**

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Faelind will review old minutes to find the email names for the National Officers and Governing Board Reps and test them – Complete. Faelind talked to Canu. There are no email lists for Officers or Governing Board Reps now. Once the old server was turned off, we no longer have those email lists.

Canu to review date on forums to see if it can be changed to US format, it is currently in European format – Complete. Canu fixed it.
Grace Moonhawk to research and prepare search report for word and service mark “MerryMeet” and associated costs to trademark MerryMeet. The Word mark would be MerryMeet in two classes, for entertainment and commercial uses, will run between $700 to $750 depending on the attorney and we have clear use case since we have been using it since 1975. Currently there are two separate Merry Meets with a space being used in a different manner, so we have no conflicts there. Font was Palotino Linotype. We might want to choose a standard font like Helvetica or Century Gothic and size 16 to 18.

Grace Moonhawk to check on the CoG Sigil trademark while she is researching.

Faelind to send out the Bylaws definition of Elder Credential Requirements to the Governing Board Reps – Complete

**New Business:**

New Action items for next combined Board meeting:

Determine how we move forward to address communications using Groups.io – Need a proposal to bring forward to Grand Council. Thea was to test, perhaps she will have an update.

Verderius will call a meeting with Canu, Faelind, and Orin to discuss the following items:

- Do we need an assistant NetCo?
- Email forwards on the new server? Can we create forward lists for the National Officers and Governing Board Reps?
- Can Canu create new email to be directed/forwarded to Deborah named MilitaryLComm@cog.org
- Discuss Grand Council/MerryMeet.
- Grand Council / MerryMeet
- In Person is impractical at this time even with vaccinations.

OCLC meets on Thursday, March 11 and will determine at that time whether they plan to do a virtual MerryMeet or not.

For Grand Council, we are considering holding it over two days and holding it on a Saturday and a Sunday. We would do 3 hours in the morning, and then 3 hours in the afternoon both days as needed to complete our business. We will be reviewing and revisiting our procedures for Consensus and instructions for breakout rooms. It was suggested we might perhaps leave the Zoom up after GC finishes on Saturday or open a breakout room or something for a couple of hours to allow folks to visit and see each other.

Janine suggested in lieu of MerryMeet that we hold a CoG Cocktail Hour on the Friday evening before Grand Council starts.

**Call for Additions to the Agenda:**

No additions.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was 2 hours and 15 minutes long.

**LOCAL COUNCILS**

**CALAFIA**

~ No report~

Last published minutes in the Yule 2020 edition.

**CHAMISA**

~ March 7, 2021 ~

The Zoom started at 1 p.m.

Present - Amber and Azrael, Falco and Rowan, David and Lora, Carole McWilliams, Polaris, Dru, Sylvia Webb-Koehler, Rick and Dee Proctor, Sherie Snyder, Blaine Proctor, Lady Athena.

Covens represented - Our Lady of the Woods, Crowwymyn, Circle of the Winter Moon, Circle of the Cauldron, Coven of the Silver Moon, also Ardantane.

There was brief discussion of mistakes on the CoG website, who is listed for what position.

Sylvia reiterated that Circle of the Winter Moon probably won’t renew with CoG, so she’ll join as a solitary. She said Ryan Coe has renewed as a solitary. Azrael urged people to sign up to the CoG/CLC Forum. David commented that the new system has made things more complicated.

Officers’ reports

First Officer - David, nothing to report.

Second Officer - Blaine said it definitely feels like COVID restrictions are easing. We have to control what we can in terms of Mabon planning, such as theme, workshops, who’s in charge of rituals, who will be coordinators. Everything worked well last fall for the virtual Mabon, he said.

Membership - Sherie reported no new coven applications and no lapsed members. Pre-filled renewal forms will be coming out as memberships come due. There’s a hardship fund to help with membership tithes. For security, the CoG website has gone to individual names and passwords.

Recorder - Carole said she e-mailed the Yule minutes to David. They were accepted as presented.

Pursewarden - Sylvia said she finally went into PayPal to retrieve money, and there was more than expected, $531.41 from the virtual Mabon. She wrote a check to Ardantane for $500. No other
expenses from 2020 Mabon. We now have $6,406 with no income in sight.

David moved and we approved another $500 for Ardantane. Carole moved to accept the pursewarden’s report, and it was approved.

PIO - Dru posted her report on-line. She said there’s an issue with our website, the PIO e-mail. It’s going to the wrong person. She doesn’t know how to change it. She asked authorization to call Debbie Dapson who handles the website. My notes don’t show either authorization or objection to the cost of having Debbie make the change. Sylvia said ask her to make it easy for someone else to learn how to do that. Rowan thanked Dru for posting Ardantane classes on the CLC website. Sylvia asked if we can post things on AIR. Rowan said if she knew how to do it.

Interfaith - Lora said Interfaith Power & Light hasn’t been very active, just a couple Zoom sessions. She is looking for other interfaith groups. Sylvia said she paid the $50 renewal to IP&L.

CoG rep - Polaris said she attended a couple meetings. They want the local councils to promote the Wednesday with Witches on-line gatherings. A California group is planning this year’s Merry Meet to be on-line. Sylvia asked her to ask them to have the business meeting on Saturday instead of Friday like last year, so people who work can attend. Polaris said all their other discussions have been on procedure.

Friendly Reports

Ardantane - Amber said very little has been happening with facilities. All programs are virtual. They are planning an on-line fundraising auction in conjunction with the virtual Beltane. They need a new(ish) work truck in good condition, or else do a truck fundraiser.

No reports from Silver Moon Health Services, Beltane Southwest, or Albuquerque Pagan Pride.

Las Cruces Pagan Pride - Lora gave a tentative date of Oct. 23.

Old Business

CLC Litha meeting/ retreat - An in-person gathering or a Zoom meeting? Rowan said they’d love to host those who’ve been vaccinated at Las Alamos, outside on Saturday, June 5, with an evening community ritual, and the meeting Sunday, June 6, on Zoom. It doesn’t work to do a meeting with some present and some on Zoom, she said. We agreed. There’s a nearby RV park or the Hampton Inn for lodging. If you come, bring your Zooming device.

Mabon - Blaine raised the question of location if it’s in person (Cedro Peak USFS or Ruidoso private land) if the Forest Service or private owner will allow it. Dru said we need to start now on getting coordinators. She said she’ll be publicity coordinator. Publicity is important, and various details need to be nailed down before that.

Lady Athena said it’s still uncertain whether those who are vaccinated can still get and transmit the virus, so she is leery of an in-person Mabon. Sylvia speculated that we can do a better on-line event this year if we focus on that. She thinks featured presenter Oberon Zell is okay with either in-person or virtual. She suggested a longer and more in-depth virtual event than last year. Focus on doing one thing well. WE APPROVED A PROPOSAL TO DO A VIRTUAL MABON. Rowan said she’s willing to be facilities coordinator for that.

Mabon handbook outline - Dru did a power point presentation. She showed a draft list of contents including a timeline for when things should be done, tips from previous coordinators, checklists, festival etiquette, MOAs with guests and service providers. This is just to get the conversation started, she said. Dru suggested starting recruiting for a future Second Officer (the Mabon overlord) at the Mabon meeting. Carole suggested some way for merchants to link to the virtual Mabon. Dru volunteered to do workshops as well as publicity. Rowan is looking for a ritual coordinator. Should we add a vendor coordinator? We need someone for registration and tickets. Blaine will work on getting coordinators.

There was a question of allowing more than 100 virtual participants. That needs a higher level of Zoom membership, Sylvia said. We had 40 for the 2020 virtual event, using Ardantane’s Zoom account. David suggested paying to upgrade their account if it looks like we’ll get more than 100. Rowan said also to pay for breakout rooms, needed if there are time overlapping workshops. Sylvia thinks it will be reasonable to charge $15 for registration. It was $10 last year.

New business

David said we haven’t met our goal for new members.

Lora said CLC would like a booth at the Las Cruces PPD if it’s live. Planning for the event won’t start for a couple months. It depends on COVID. They get a lot of attenders from El Paso.

Rowan said the Litha CLC meeting will be on Sunday, June 6, at 9 a.m. if no one comes for live Saturday activities.

We adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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**

~ November 7, 2020 ~

The meeting began at 1405 and notification of recording was given, requesting that those who cared to remain anonymous change their name and camera image. Recording began 5 minutes later.

Present: Rachael & Thea (Coven Daduchos)

Don & Anna (Coven Trismegiston), Gregory Griffey (Weylyn) & Valerie (Waxing Moon Coven), Linnea (Owl Moon Coven), Annie,(Dark Moon Circle), Deborah & Johanna (Assembly of Individual Members)

4 of 6 Covens represented plus AOIM Quorum met

**REPORTS**

Deborah– sent report re: new Governing Board, When asked how she thought it was going, she responded that GB prob won’t have accomplishments immediately. As is true with any new organizational structure, the national Governing Board is still going through shake-down, it is a large board and a very heterogenous group, some with experience, and some new, each with their own ways of operating and it will take some time to figure out how to work together, but she was very positive that eventually it would be a better structure for the organization. She and Thea indicated their willingness to carry back to the GB any communication that we wished.

**Interfaith** – Don offered a brief interfaith report. He mentioned that for the first time in a very long time (18 years) he was off the URI Global Council but that we were still represented as Witches by Morgana Sythove, a Gardnerian Witch from the Netherlands, whom many of us know from her visits to PantheaCon. Don is still involved in the Wisdom & Vision Circle, composed of emeritus Global Council members, and working on developing an oral history through that circle. He was also recently active on the URI Bylaws Committee.

He spoke of a virtual URI Circles of Light meeting, an annual fund raising project of the URI, and said that with the number of Witches in attendance we were actually over-represented. The platform that they used, which was a socially-interactive cyberspace organized around tables of 8-10 people, sounded interesting and Rachael inquired into the cost. Don said that he’d make an effort to find out.

He also spoke of an on-going project with a new group of indigenous people called the Consejo do la Tierra (Advisory Council of the People of the Earth.) The first meeting will discuss climate change with four indigenous speakers. The meeting will be conducted solely in Spanish but will be posted for anyone who can understand and is interested in viewing at a later date. Don and Rachael will be providing technical support, and Rayna Templebee from the Covenant of the Goddess, was invited to attend as a representative of Wicca. She is fluent in Spanish and very knowledgeable in Mayan culture as well as being firmly rooted in Wiccan cultural points of view on global climate change.

**Interfaith – Rachael**

NAIN – Held its second virtual connect using Zoom’s two channel platform (English and Spanish) and the result was very successful.

Interfaith– (for Rowan) – KIVA micro-loans are still active and Rowan is continuing the important work of distributing these loans. We currently have $250 invested to the best of Rachael’s memory. We’ll correct this at a later date if this information proves incorrect. Don shared a story of speaking to a woman from Kenya who stated that for women left to fend for themselves and their children a loan of $2 US could make the difference between self-sufficiency and disaster in order to highlight how very important this on-going work is.

**Pursewarden– Linnea reports:** I have sent in the required report to national for this quarter and here is a summary:

- We have received $152 in tithes and paid out $32 for an order of checks. We need to arrange with Felicity to take over paying for our website.
- The current account balances are:
  - $792.39 General fund
  - 362.48 Travel
  - 464.45 Interfaith
  - 153.00 Grace of the Goddess

Total $1772.32

**First Officer– Thea:** During the elections at the last meeting there were not enough people willing to run for some of the offices and I reluctantly agreed to take a third term as First Officer. I later called Rachael and asked her if she would be willing to take this office. She agreed, provided that if she ran into difficulties I would step in as co-chair. I was happy to agree and ask that the meeting confirm this position. (The membership approved.) We still need a recorder and we are not certain how to handle this position. (The membership approved.) We still need a recorder and we are not certain how to handle this as no one has stepped forward to show interest in many years, and it affects our posting our minutes to National in a timely manner. Felicity left NCLC for National COG membership and asked that we pay the web host and find someone new to handle the NCLC web page and Facebook NCLC page.

**Membership** – Anna: I emailed Dee Proctor, our NMO, to get her list of which NCLC members renewed at Mabon, but have not received a reply. I heard her family is impacted by Covid-19. We know that Felicity Grove has renewed at the National level, and that Johanna McLeod recently joined NCLC. NCLC’s Pursewarden Linnea, and I have put our heads...
together to make a list of which members have and have not paid their NCLC Tithes, so Anna could encourage payment of tithes. [Note: All but one were paid by Yule.] Under the current pandemic conditions, Anna is not interested in enforcing any deadlines; let’s just get everyone we can signed up. If you are having money problems due to the pandemic or job loss, we have NCLC Grace of the Goddess funds available. We would rather not lose you!

We discussed other membership issues. Daduchos is currently provisional with the loss of Greg Harder, but if it fails to pick up any new members the two remaining members will move into the Assembly of Individual Members at the next renewal at Mabon 2021.

Apparently there were some concerns that there may have been difficulties between Felicity and NCLC which may have caused her to move to national status, but nothing could be further from the truth. She was of great service to us before she left and she will be sorely missed. Anna sent a letter to national clearly stating the vital membership role that Felicity had served. Some discussion followed and eventually it was agreed that perhaps Anna should send a copy of that letter to Felicity so that she would know what she meant to us and so that she would have it should the question arise again. Deborah said that she’d like to see some acknowledgement of this in the newsletter. Perhaps these minutes will help.

Rachael commented that it was indeed a shame that such transfers are so regularly fraught with strife that someone would simply make the assumption that an individual’s desire to transfer status must necessarily be due to problems within an LC.

**OLD BUSINESS**

National communications channels

Anna pointed out that the COG Forums communication was still a big issue and after some discussion we determined to continue to be a squeaky wheel to national as much as possible in order to fix the issue. Rachael did ask who was on our NCLC groups.io because she wanted to be assured that everyone was receiving notifications of meetings and other important documents. Thea pulled up the page to show us who and how to get there. She explained that there were still three people who were not currently on the groups.io list. One had decided not to sign up quite deliberately, and two had no access to the internet. Rachael will henceforward contact the two with no internet connection via phone. The other person has opted out of regular contact, which is unfortunate.

Officers?

So far we have the three most important positions filled, FO, Membership, and Purseworthy, but we are in need of someone to be our Recorder and someone to handle PIO. We discussed what to do and the best suggestion put forth by a couple of people was that those with covens or other contacts ask their members whether they might be interested in helping. Anna and Deborah explained the role of recorder, but the position of PIO is a bit trickier.

While Greg Harder held the position, he posted regularly to the Facebook account. Felicity Grove managed the NCLC web page. The role of PIO has changed with the rise of the internet and particularly of social media. Greg posted news and interesting articles regularly to social media.

In the past, the PIO’s job was largely focused on posting press releases about COG events, or our reactions to items in the news relating to Pagans and Witches. The PIO also cultivated press contacts, such as religion editors, as well as volunteering for and managing a speaker’s bureau for COG. All of these should be parts of a PIO’s job. There are technical skills required for each of these positions. We approved Linnea to set up auto pay to the web host and decided that we definitely wished to keep the web page in place. Anna said that she would donate toward the cost of the web page. During the discussion we decided once again to approach our covens and see whether or not someone might be interested in filling these roles. Perhaps a couple of people under the guidance of a PIO, or a PIO committee, could do this. It would not even be necessary to attend the business meeting so long as the PIO could report progress. Linnea has access to our webpage, and Thea is willing to post things people send to be posted. Johanna has access to post on Facebook for NCLC CoG, if people send things to her.

Clearly we were unable to resolve these officer issues but we are working on it moving forward. A few of us have access to both the webpage and Facebook and will try to post as much as they have time or materials for. Don is taking notes and Rachael will write up the minutes for this meeting, based on his notes.

Anna said that she had been contacted by Dee who wants to re-write the Local Council Officer’s manual that Anna wrote many years ago. Anna agreed that it needs to be rewritten but is awaiting the complete NCLC member’s list before taking on another project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Declining Membership?

Rachael expressed her concern over the dwindling membership and especially the lack of attendees at business meetings to the point where we are having a hard time filling officer positions. Most did not share her concerns to the same extent, but all agreed that we need to do something especially as the important position of PIO and the social media that this position covers is not filled. Rachael further suggested that most of us had done years of work for the organization and many had developed obligations outside of CoG and were not as readily available to serve as we once were. Don pointed out that most of us had served as national
officers, often more than once and in more than one office. He suggested that perhaps we are going through a phase where coven membership is not popular, and we are largely a coven-based organization. He feels that we will rebound, but that we need to do targeted outreach. He suggested that NCLC in particular has a great deal to offer in the way of history and tradition in many forms of Craft. Others also offered various ideas. Deborah suggested that we reach out to our coven members and perhaps find people who are interested in filling positions that don’t particularly require meeting attendance. Discussion followed re: getting more people at meetings, make it fun rather than a duty.

At the end of this conversation Rachael asked that everyone think about ways for increasing membership or involvement, develop at least one idea, and suggest ideas for implementation between now and the next meeting.

Some suggestions:
- Linnea –Organize Zoom events open to non-members
- Deborah –We are quite spread out geographically, making it hard to get together.
- Valerie – Social media… SBC using Facebook, events, tripled its membership!
- Anna – Our events are very well-attended, but there is no follow-up, social media may be way to go.
- Johanna – I agree, free classes, advertise on Facebook, ask for donations?
- Deborah – National has monthly email “What’s going on around CoG”, I will forward that to us.
- Annie – Years ago, we had Elder workshops, what happened to them?, Should we do them again thru Zoom?
- Don – Ask coveners about this!
- Deborah – Ask other groups how we can amplify their work.

Fun Stuff
Rachael had posted that there would be a prize for the funniest hat but commented that no one had worn one. At that point everyone left their screens and promptly returned with a hat! Don commented that only Witches could get a funny hat on command. Everyone had one, Don wore a real fez and Thea tied for first prize this month is an embroidered throw blanket.

Next meeting Sunday, January 10, 2021
Then Saturday, March 6, 2021
BTW, same meeting room for NCLC always.
Close meeting: 4:07pm Many thanks to Don Frew for his note taking

~January 10, 2021~
Linnea asked whether we would be recording the meeting. Rachael thanked her for the reminder and reminded all in attendance that she was about to start the recording and asked everyone to be certain that names and cameras were properly prepared for same protecting anyone concerned with issues of privacy. The meeting was called to order at 1411 hours and recording of the meeting begun.

QUORUM
It was determined that we had a quorum with the following covens present or who emailed permission for the meeting in general to hold proxies.
- Daduchos – Thea B and Rachael W
- Waxing Moon – Taffy D.
- Trismegiston – Anna K.
- Dark Moon – –Anne A.
- Owl Moon – – Linnea D.
- Individual members – Deborah B.
- Proxies – Johanna M.

Approval of minutes from Last meeting. Minutes were approved. Anna made a few non-critical changes reminding the minute taker to include the fact that the meeting had been recorded. Once the minutes were approved the recorded file was deleted as per a prior agreement in which we originally decided on the use of recording to help with minutes accuracy.

REPORTS
- First Officer’s report (such as it is)
  This holiday has been spent quietly and, not surprisingly, almost totally housebound while self-isolating. Lots of fudge and peanut brittle making to be sent to family. The rest of my time has been taken up in hosting and attending various Zoom meetings. As many of you may know I decided some time ago, starting with CoG, to walk my talk as a caretaker of the Earth by hosting Zoom meetings at no charge to any interested organization thereby (hopefully) limiting carbon footprints. Please see my Interfaith Report below to view my latest effort toward this goal.
- Membership
  I have an email out to our NMO, to get her list of which members renewed at Mabon. We know that Felicity G. has renewed at the National Level. We know that Johanna M. recently joined Linnea, NCLC’s Pursewarden, and I have put our heads together to make a list of which members have paid their NCLC Tithes. We have not received NCLC tithes for M. Macha Nightmare. If the members above have renewed nationally, and can renew locally, I am not interested in enforcing any deadlines; let’s just get everyone we can signed up. If you are having money problems due to the pandemic or job loss, we have NCLC Grace of the Goddess funds available. We would rather not lose you!
- Pursewarden
  Happy 2021 to all. May this be a brighter year than the past. Since our last meeting we had no expenses, we took in the rest of our annual income of tithes ($135.00) and a generous donation from Anna for internet support ($100).
Account balances are:
- 1,027.39 General fund
- 362.48 Travel
- 464.45 Interfaith
- 153.00 Grace of the Goddess
Total 2007.32

**Interfaith**

Thea brought up the fact that during the Capitol riots of January 6th there were domestic terrorists with Heathen symbols and that we Pagans and Witches may suffer some backlash from this. Thea sent some guidelines to the Council of Contra Costa County explaining some of the differences between the groups. Others agreed that it was a good idea and that they might do the same for groups that they are associated with.

Thea spoke to Mini talks at the Moot. Thea asked for some guidance regarding a requested interview by a Baptist Minister. The interview to be posted on YouTube. Members will contact her outside this meeting.

Taffy filled us in on SiVIC’s homeless program. On December 21, 2020, the Silicon Valley Interfaith Community broadcasted its video for the Interfaith Homeless Memorial 2020 in San Jose, CA. I had been asked by Rowan Fairgrove and Andrew Bear to represent Pagans because, at the time, it was going to be an in-person memorial during a time of Covid-19 and Rowan is at high-risk for infection. They ended up having everyone record and send in their videos to Rowan to edit them together, so she did end up helping in the end anyway. Here is a copy of the video. My part begins at 25:05, which this link is set to. [https://youtu.be/-VCsF-9A05w?t=1505](https://youtu.be/-VCsF-9A05w?t=1505)

Rachael offered this: As of December I’ve been helping Babaji’s Singet to hold his yearly celebration on line. They normally gather from around the world, literally, to meet in India but for obvious reasons this will not be possible this year. Ralph Singh Uncle contacted me to ask if I could help with technical support as he is a member of NAIN and is aware of my work in virtual gatherings. We decided to use my Zoom account and upgrade it so that it was capable of translation and of support for up to 500 attendees. So far 200 have registered for this three day event. The technical things that I am learning about Zoom are both interesting and useful in both the limitations and new features of the program. We will have 4 translators, English, Punjabi, Russian and one other Indian dialect.

Unfortunately this entire huge project was started way too late and bringing everyone up to scratch on the operations of Zoom has been grueling. I was introduced to a new program called Mural at, strangely enough, Mural.com. It allows everyone to log onto a site and use sticky notes to collaborate. It’s an amazing tool and it will be used in breakout rooms in tandem with Zoom to collaborate on different ideas. Everyone logged in has access to sticky notes and can write and post them in appropriate areas at will just like the huge rolls of butcher paper strung up around meeting walls. Sounds like we could use it for some of our own work.

One of the challenges that we will face is the huge diversity of technical ability and availability especially in areas of India. We are hoping that at least one or two folks in some villages will have the ability to log into the meeting and share their connection with as many as possible in the village. Fortunately I separated myself from those concerns early on and made it clear that I was only there to handle Zoom.

So far we have only had two meetings and there is only one more scheduled prior to Z day (no not zombies, Zoom) and I’m not entirely sure that it will be enough, though I made everyone in the meeting a co-host and turned them loose to play for two and a half hours at our last meeting at 4 AM my time on Sunday. (The only real drawback to working internationally).

This meeting will take place over three days with participation on Zoom for two hours each day, live streaming from local celebrations, and other programming available on line for local presentations. Should be interesting. I’ll let you know how it all turns out. Scheduled for somewhere around February 20th.

**Governing Board**

Deborah - The joint meeting of the National Officers and Governing Board established a Military Liaison Committee, which intends to draft a proposal for dealing with requests for approval to serve as Lay Leaders for religious services in the armed forces.

Deborah also spoke to the discussion in GB about having a “speaker of the board”. Under our current Bylaws, the Governing Board is responsible for oversight of all the national officers. In practice, that means that the Governing Board needs to choose someone to represent it when communicating with national officers. The proposed title of this office is Speaker of the Board. Sorting out what the responsibilities of the First Officer are under the new structure may take some time. Deborah thinks that the Governing Board will develop its own internal structure and run itself.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Return of the CoG Archives to the Adocentyn Research Library.

All materials have been returned safely and in excellent order thanks to Zenah and all of her efforts. Thea will send a gift of candles and a thank you letter to Zenah. This gift to be purchased within a $50 limit.

Have July, and September 2020 meeting been published?

These minutes are under final review and will be sent shortly according to Thea.

Have members’ groups been asked whether anyone is interested in acting as Recorder?

Various attending members have confirmed that the question was brought up to other members and covens and that there were currently no takers.
Rachael said that she would continue to organize the minutes but asked that those giving information that did not fall under “reports” send her a brief paragraph to insert in the minutes because her note taking is not the best while trying to run the meeting as well and the conversation during the meeting is not always clear. Therefore the responsibility for the taking of the minutes has become a kind of community effort.

**Where are we in ideas to fortify our LC?**

Thea suggested that we should start planning various interviews and discussions of topics of interest to Wiccans. Don volunteered to do his talks and “I am COG” archives are available and editing is still pending.

**Disposition of Website and Facebook**

Not good. We have not found anyone for the website or Facebook and we’re still working on it. We need a YouTube channel, which we don’t have for NCLC specifically, if we are going to go forward with the ideas posted above under “fortifying our LC”. We might be able to post on national’s YouTube channel but that would obviate our ability to stand out as an LC. It was pointed out that normally all of this social media would fall under the purview of a PIO which we don’t have and further discussion was tabled until the PIO committee can meet and, hopefully, come up with some solution. We do have access to all of these media through administrative access, passwords and so forth, but we need someone to do the work.

**Status/plans of the NCLC PIO committee**

Deborah Thea and Rachael and Don have volunteered to be on the committee and invitations will shortly go out to establish a meeting time. The problem with this group however is that none of us has the time to do the social media work necessary to the changes in the PIO’s roll in CoG. It is hoped that we will be able to come up with some ideas when we meet.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- What do you want your representative(s) to bring up, report on, I didn’t catch any other ideas. (No ideas were forthcoming.)

- **Requests for help and healing**
  - Taffy’s rabbit, Pepe, is ill with eye and chronic upper respiratory infection.
  - People with Covid-19 were mentioned.

- **Announcements**
  - Thea is starting a business creating works in clay for special, sacred and ritual purposes. If you have something you would like contact her personally. Need email
  - Taffy is working on Mini talks at the Moot. Anyone willing to help or speak contact her personally.

- **Date of next meetings**
  - March 6th, and May 16th always at 1400 and for now, always the same Zoom Room.
  - Meeting ended at 1548

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Eostre 2021

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This meeting is being recorded for the purposes of accurate minutes and will be deleted once the minutes for this meeting have been approved.

**In Attendance**

- Rachael - Daduchos Coven
- Wynne – Waxing Moon
- Johanna – Individual membership
- Linnea – Owl Moon
- Brigid – individual member
- Bill – individual member
- Deborah – individual member
- Anna – Coven Trismegiston
- Valerie – Waxing Moon Coven
- Annie – Dark Moon

**Quorum**

We have quorum

**Reports**

- First Officer: A good friend/sister of mine lost her lower leg of complications from diabetes and over the past month much of my time has been taken up with helping there as her husband doesn’t drive in rain or dark which is pretty much all the time here during the winter. We built her a wheelchair ramp as well during that time and had to do that too between rain storms. Deborah has been most kind in researching those minutes that have not yet been published during the last year and we will continue to work to get them to National and the PIO Committee has been active also which they will report in this meeting.

  - The meeting is now behind me and my friend is now recovering in long term care so things should settle down again.

- **Pursewarden**
  - Since our last meeting our only expense was $48. for our website. We had no income. Regular quarterly report was filed with national, as required, on 6 Feb.

- **Account balances are:**
  - $929.39 General fund
  - 382.48 Travel
  - 484.45 Interfaith
  - 163.00 Grace of the Goddess

  - Total bank balance: $1959.32

- **Respectfully, Linnea**

**Membership:**

- The only thing to report is that Macha renewed at the National Level

**Interfaith:**

- Rachael: We completed the very complicated meeting that I explained last month. It would have to be considered a great success considering that we had folks from Germany, Russia, India, Poland,
Canada, US, and Australia attending. We had four translators in Russian, Punjabi, Hindi and, of course, English. I discovered, as the first meeting opened, that my computer does not recognize cyrillic so I had to have many Russian attendees rename themselves in English. Other than that over three days of 6 hour meetings we had 300 attendees and no one dropped out during any of the meetings.

**Governing board**

Lady Mariah was elected Speaker of the Governing Board. Thea and I did not have any NCLC business to bring to the meeting.

**PIO Committee Meeting progress**

We met twice. The first meeting was held on the 22nd of February and again on March 2nd. We discussed the changes in PIO responsibilities since pre internet days. The committee suggested, after much discussion and consideration that the roles for an active PIO should distinguished from outreach.

Public Information and Outreach both involve communication with the public. Our committee discussed this and concluded that these are different functions which occasionally overlap. Since this is the PIO committee, we started by defining the role of a PIO.

During the second meeting we began to explore ways in which this position could be broken up in order to be more manageable for our local council. This is a work in progress. Below is a summary of our suggested job description including breaking out some of the tasks of PIO.

**Role of PIO**

- Public information and establishment of relationships with governmental and other public organizations
- Communication/coordination with National and/or other groups
- Develop a “tool box” of readily available information with the help of the local council
- Responds to direct inquires but ALWAYS in consultation with other officers in the LC
- Share reactive PIO role in NCLC

* Have PIO manual available
* Let members know thru NCLC list to ask for help
* Prep list of folks who are ready and have experience, with contact information
  - Don, Rachael, Deborah, Rowan, others

* “Statements of behalf of NCLC CoG” should be made in consultation with NCLC through groups.io or in discussion at a meeting.

* Role is proactive to the extent that reactive role can be anticipated Halloween.

**Establishing roles for PIO (Suggestions only)**

One person to establish a “tool box” of sustainable reports and techniques, philosophies etc

Person to actively report on issues impacting our LC (alternatively encourage all members to report on issues impacting our community).

Person to write up statements when such postings are felt to be necessary, using the tool box and in consultation with the body of the LC

Person to act as talking head for the LC when interviews for media are requested

We also discussed the role of Outreach, which includes a number of different activities that could be done by various people with different skills and interests. This discussion is in progress. Some suggestions have come up in Local Council meetings. We think that NCLC’s outreach activities should begin with the skills and interests our members have.

We recently emailed the National Outreach Officer for advice. We can also read the reports of other LCs for activities that might be a good match for our community. Below is a draft of what our committee has so far.

**Role of Outreach Officer?**

Developing activities for non members

**Events Calendar**

Social Media

**Facebook**

**Web**

Twitter, etc

**YouTube / audio/visual media Pod cast, live stream, Zoom usage**

**Blog**

Why not do virtual programing during PCon date (separate meeting)

**Ask a Witch elder’s and beginner’s questions in live meeting**

**Continued brainstorming for membership**

We have been suggesting to Johanna (Jojo) that since she has her own website, she might consider taking on the NCLC website. She had the following provisos:

As for the web weaver position.

I will take it up only with a probationary period of one year with some conditions.

If I can’t handle it (due to my depressions or workloads) or there are too many problems (such as spelling errors etc. due to my dyslexia) I must resign.

Maybe within that time, she might be able to train some successors.

Plus maybe we could get some seasonal graphics together for use on the website, to keep it fresh. Maybe each member could get graphics for a single Sabbat or some Lunar material, so there would be some nice materials to view or visit for. Many hands, light work.

**Old Business:**

How are we coming with volunteers to fill the missing LC positions.

Having discussed the PIO report it was felt that perhaps along with the breakout of PIO and Outreach responsibilities, a clear job description of each of it’s parts along with a strong statement that the elders of the LC were available to help and guide anyone who might wish to “try out” the position would be of great value. The PIO committee was,
therefore, instructed to meet once again to develop these descriptions.

New Business:

Possible restructuring of NCLC meetings (more free time to visit and connect) We considered holding some of our meetings as simple gatherings to chat and reconnect. Perhaps every other one. Linnea volunteered to “host” a virtual get together prior to our next meeting.

Other uses for our forum Deborah mentioned that we might consider using the Forum for NCLC as a storage area but groups IO can also store data and the majority of members still cannot access forums and we decided not to do so until this problem was solved.

How do we handle dual membership a discussion and explanation of how people who hold coven membership in different areas took place and our current policies were explained.

Announcements: None

Requests for Healing Don is having a great deal of difficulty with his arm. Energy would be appreciated.

New date for next meeting
May 16th

Meeting adjourned at 1545
Respectfully submitted R Watcher LCFO

Orange County

~ January 14, 2021 ~

Invocation by Mary

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

Covens/Solitaries:
* Bran Faol Reannag (BFR) – represented by Janine
* Celtic Circle of Wisdom – represented by Mary & Lilith
* Dream Walkers of Delos – represented by Ravenhawk
* Ghostwheel – represented by Morgana RavenTree
* Greenwood Glen – represented by Pam & Camille
* Rev. Dee – solitary member

Officer Reports:

First Officer – Pam – no report other than discussing MerryMeet 2021 below.
Second Officer – Camille We should look at ways to raise funds. We discussed Zoom workshops at the last meeting.
Membership Officer – Pam, acting Membership Officer – no inquiries for membership, but Greenwood Glen, Bran Faol Reannag and Ghostwheel renewals will be due soon. Denise Dumars would like her group, the Lyceum of Aset Hauhet, to join as a group instead of renewing her solitary membership.

Pursewarden – Mary (Lilith trainee), No change since last meeting (total of $5,147.61 in funds).

Public Information Officer – Ravenhawk There was very little change in the numbers since last month. The numbers were very close.

There was a spike in website traffic on 29th December but we don’t know what caused that.

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 AIR/D&D will be going away soon. We will have to use forums. Everyone should make sure they are subscribed. Anyone who cannot access forums should inform Janine. Lady Mariah from SoCal Local Council is working on a survey of the membership-at-large to find out what interests them (civil, environmental, food banks); she does not know when that will come out. Janine will announce it so we can all participate. Deborah Bender was one of several people who received an email from Petty Officer Sierra Bennett asking how to become a lay leader. There are several Pagans/Wiccans where she is stationed, and they need some to assist with rituals. This created some buzz because no one knew who COG’s military liaisons are, at present. Lady K and her husband, who are in Alamagordo New Mexico volunteered to be the Military Liaisons. They will put together a committee to work on materials for military personnel who are interested in becoming lay leaders. New National Correspondence Officer, Grace Moonhawk, is trying to get caught up with letters from inmates and the like. The OCLC monthly business meetings are already scheduled on Zoom through June 2021.

Old Business:

Fundraising Options Lilith has been looking into fundraising options: Amazon affiliate program will not be profitable for us, as we must have $2000 in sales and would receive only half a percent; the same is true for the Amazon Smile program. There are online auctions, but we would incur shipping, which we want to avoid; TexttoGive, but we would need a dedicated phone line and costs would go to the wireless bill holder; a Social Media campaign which we could tailor to our needs; peer-to-peer funding seems to work well. Google ads has grants for non-profits up to $10,000/month to do Google ads. Email blasts are no work the effort because click-through ratio is only 4%, but only 2% of those people will donate. Option to do Zoom workshops is probably our best bet. Mary mentioned that COG is already an Amazon/Smile affiliate. Janine mentioned there are
better options than GoFundMe. General discussion of the Zoom workshop options followed. Pam asked what is the purpose of these fund raisers? If the point is to get our name out there, that is a different goal than raising funds specifically meant for MerryMeet. Lilith pointed out that any funds leftover after MerryMeet can be used for general advertising, because “word of mouth” is not getting the job done. Janine mentioned that some local councils have philanthropic endeavors going on. Morgana and Pam discussed that OCLC used to support local women’s shelters, an animal shelter and charities walks. There’s no reason we can’t do that again (once MerryMeet is covered). Janine will talk to Faelind how Texas Local Council structures their workshops. Mary, Janine and Ravenhawk will work on this together. Janine will send out a survey asking what we would like to teach.

**MerryMeet/Grand Council 2021**

Updates re. MerryMeet/Grand Council 2021 - Morgana discussed the contingency plan to do a virtual MerryMeet. MerryMeet and Grand Council can happen on different weekends. Although Leadership Institute is technically part of Grand Council, as it is covered by the National Budget, the National Board and Governing Representatives suggested it be scheduled together with MerryMeet. The options are to do a virtual MerryMeet, or not at all. We could have Leadership Institute one day and MerryMeet on another so it would be only a 2-day event.

The ritual originally planned for Saturday night would have to be redesigned, as certain things we were planning to do will not work in a virtual setting. René Collins could still do the evening concert planned for Saturday night (like the YouTube streaming show he did for Pagan Pride last year). We should start planning this soon so that we have plenty of time. The plan to have children’s workshops on Saturday will be cancelled.

Mary suggested keeping the beach theme for a later event, which means we would have to come up with a new theme for this virtual event.

New Business:

There was a general discussion about procedural matters relating to the OCLC meetings, agenda, etc. The Second Officer will send out the Zoom meeting reminder, and the Recorder will send out the agenda.

Ravenhawk asked if OCLC wants to have its own account. After explaining the subscription billing and features available, he said he will look into that further.

There being no further business, Mary closed the meeting.

Next meeting February 11, 2021 at 7:00pm. Morgana will do the invocation.

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**Invocation: Morgana**

**Roll Call:**

Covens/Solitaries (Quorum):
- *Bran Faol Reannag (BFR) – represented by Janine*
- *Celtic Circle of Wisdom – represented by Mary and Lilith*
- *Dream Walkers of Delos – represented by Ravenhawk*
- *Ghostwheel – represented by Morgana*
- *Greenwood Glen – represented by Pam and Camille*

Officer Reports:
- First Officer – Pam: nothing to report.
- Second Officer – Camille: nothing to report.
- Membership Officer (Pam Acting) – nothing to report.
- Pursewarden – Mary (Lilith trainee): no change since last month.

Public Information Officer – Ravenhawk: our reach is 2511 on Facebook with an increase of 7 likes; Twitter this month seeing 128 impressions. 38 views on website. There are accounts we may have
followed as Twitter handles that may have been highjacked as bots. Our top follower this month is obviously a bot. We should block any suspect accounts.

Recorder – Morgana: January minutes have not been sent to Newsletter yet because the minutes from December still haven’t appeared in the Newsletter. Morgana will send the January and February minutes to the Newsletter together for the Ostara issue.

Governing Board Representative Report:
Representative – Janine: There was a meeting of the Governing Board on February 6th. Janine gave OCLC a summary of the highlights of that meeting.

Old Business:
Lilith’s updated report re fundraising: nothing new, but she needs to turn it over to someone else. Camille volunteered.

Morgana presented an update to the Governing Board that OCLC will not do a “live” MerryMeet in 2021, but we are interested in doing a live event in 2023. Faelind indicated that Texas might not do a MerryMeet in 2022 after all. Morgana asked if there was really an interest within the Membership to do a virtual event. She asked if she should do a survey and the Governing Board thought that was a good idea. We need to decide how we want to conduct the survey and what questions we want to ask. Mary suggested contacting EMLC and look at what they did for their Turning the Tide event.

OCLC discussed various possibilities regarding presentation of vendors. Janine suggested vendors do short videos on Facebook Live and give a link to their shop. Lilith explained how Breakout Rooms work on Zoom. Janine explained vending through Facebook. Pam suggested that if we want to do a live MerryMeet in 2022 or 2023 we may wish to keep this year’s MerryMeet brief and not burn ourselves out. We also have the option of not doing a virtual MerryMeet this year, but Grace Moonhawk is looking into the possibility of trademarking “MerryMeet”, and in order to have a valid trademark registration, the term/logo must be in use. We have not used “MerryMeet” since 2019.

Ravenhawk set up a paid subscription to Zoom for OCLC. He has log in credentials he can share with any OCLC members who need access.

New Business:
Janine reminded everyone that we decided at the January meeting to start presenting workshops on Zoom. Janine, Ravenhawk and Mary met on February 4th. They discussed what Texas Local Council had been doing for their workshops. Talked about setting up a sustainable formula for these workshops and this would be a fundraising mechanism for OCLC. They decided to set up 4 workshops of 90 minutes each. Suggested donation would go through our PayPal account. The 1st workshop will happen in March. The topic will be Candle Magic. It may take time to build an audience.

Zoom workshop schedule:
Wed March 31st 7:00pm - 9:00pm PT Candle Magick with Janine
May - Magic in the Mundane with Mary
July - Salts with Janine
Sept - Witches Pantry with Lilith
Nov - Wheel of the Year with Janine

Meeting Adjourned: Morgana gave the closing blessing.

Next meeting: Thursday March 11th 7:00pm
Pursewarden (Jack): A check for $50 donated in the name of Dennis to honor him was made and will be deposited as soon as possible. Other than that there have been no changes our account to report.

Recorder (Val): Will send minutes to National ASAP.

Governing Board Rep (Jack): The governing Board is still working on military liaison committee. This will be a standing committee. Jack reported that he is a member and another meeting is scheduled this month.

Membership Applications: No membership applications. At this time

Old Business:
Jack is still working on ideas for a future Merry Meet possibly for 2022. Perhaps a cruise, or camping in Sequoia National Forest, or maybe even a trip to Yellowstone. It’s still just brainstorming at this time

New Business:
No new business at this time
Closing: There was no closing because the First Officer forgot.

BLESSED BE!
Next Invocation: Chad
Next Meeting: Monday, April 5th, 2021

WHY WE HONOR THE HARE

From the West Country...

Long ago animals from all over came together for a very special meeting of great significance. There was to be a very special party and the guest of honor to be none other than the Goddess herself. Every creature wanted to give the Goddess a gift to honor her and they knew that it had to be very special indeed.

Some of the animals were very well off while others were not so lucky, but all rushed home to find and prepare their gifts, for they knew that only the very best would do for the Goddess. The Hare was so very excited for he dearly loved the Goddess with all his heart and although he was very poor, he had a big generous heart. He decided he was going to search everywhere and give her the very finest gift he could find!

The Hare rushed home to see what he could find. He searched everywhere, in the closets, the attic, the basement, the cupboards, even under the bed, but there was nothing. When he looked in the larder, even it was empty except for one lone egg. Realizing he had absolutely nothing else to give her. All he had was that egg. He gently took the egg out of the larder and lovingly carefully decorated it for Her and took it to the Celebration.

The Hare was very worried at seeing what all the others had brought. The other animals had brought gifts of gold and silver and precious jewels and all he had was the egg. Eventually all the other gifts had been presented and it came that the Hare was the very last to present his gift. He very shyly presented the Goddess with his egg. As She took it and looked at him, She could see the true spirit of Hare. There and then the Goddess appointed Hare as her Very Special Animal - because Hare had given away everything he had.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

DUES

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BOOK REVIEWS

By Morgana

I would like to recommend the following books for the COG book list:


This is a solid, general book about Wicca, by a fairly young author. His bibliography references many classic older works, but this is his effort to pull everything together for younger readers and practitioners.


This collection of the Sumerian hymns to the Goddess Inanna translated and presented by the late Folklorist, Wolkstein, and the late Sumerologist, Dr. Kramer, is an amazing source-book for poetry about and to the Goddess, as well as essays about the stories, including the famous Descent of Inanna. The words flow beautifully and are very usable in any goddess-focused rituals.