

COVENANT OF THE GODDESS



MABON 2021

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





MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE AT SAMHAIN

Samhain renewals are due on **October 31, 2021**. The Drop-dead date is **November 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).

CHAMISA LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Charles (Ryan) Coe

EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Marla K. Roberson
- ❖ Spelcastor

HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Witches of Aradia

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Circle of the Unicorn
- ❖ Coven Firemoon

TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

NATIONAL COVENS:

- ❖ Gryphonsong
- ❖ Our Lady of the Prairie
- ❖ Our Lady of the Trinity

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

- ❖ Lord GoldenOak

FRIENDS OF CoG:

- ❖ Darikson



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
- Governing Board Recorder - Bonnie

LETTER FROM THE FIRST OFFICER

Autumnal Greetings CoG Members,

As the turns once more, we now arrive at this time of balance. The autumn season’s beauty moves gently into plain view, and we embrace the waning time and its shorter days and cooling temperatures. Let us take time to breath in the fresh crisp air of autumn and exhale our cares and sorrows away. Let us be Thankful with the abundance of blessings that the Goddess has bestowed upon us. We give thanks for the bountiful harvest placed in our lives. Additionally, we prepare ourselves for the coming of Sanhain.

We were very happy with the attendance and outcome of our second annual virtual Grand Council meeting held last month. We believe that the two days were easier for members to both attend and participate in without feeling exhausted. The longer mid-day break for lunch helped keep everyone becoming burned out from the online virtual attendance. We hope you all will be ready for an in-person Grand Council and Merry Meet next year in Santa Ana, California, being hosted by OCLC.

I would like to remind our CoG members of the things happening in CoG on a regular monthly basis. We are encouraging all CoG members to attend our semi-monthly **“Wednesday with Witches”**. Additionally, we are hosting a monthly Sunday Salon for members who are unable to attend on a Wednesday evening. Come be a part of our growing community of Witches and Wiccans discussing many inspiring topics. Come be a part of the Magick!

Sadly, we have said our final farewell to the **Califia LC**, and we acknowledge that we have lost another Local Council due to dwindling active CoG members in that region. This further reminds me of my pledge to CoG to help rebuild the membership and our national footprint of Local Councils. I will



need the continued commitment of the National Officer to help me make this endeavor happen. Thank you for your continued support of your elected national officers. We are trying to create a positive change for growth and continued prosperity for all the members of CoG.

On a final note, when travel restrictions have been lifted and I can travel safely, I hope to get out to the regions where we once had Local Councils and to meet with some of our former members to see if we can rebuild relations with them and inspire them to rejoin CoG. Please let me know what areas you think I should consider to visit first. Your voice is important to me and CoG for our continued growth and revitalization. Let's re-grow our wonderful magical organization together!

Wishing you all a very Happy Mabon and abundant Harvest Blessings!

With Appreciation,
Lord Verderius
 National First Officer

LETTER FROM THE GOV. BOARD SPEAKER

My Fellow CoG Members,

It was suggested to me that I begin writing a note to you all in each newsletter, so here goes #1. My name is Lady Mariah StarSinger and I've been selected by the Governing Board ("GB") to act as Speaker for that body. In essence that means that I will be the contact, focal point and lightning rod for communications between the GB and the National Officers, and will be shaping the agenda for GB meetings. On a personal level, I'm High Priestess of The Circle of The Dragon and The Phoenix, a member of the Southern California Local Council since 1994, and the current GB rep for that council.

The Covenant did a very wise thing when it instituted the Governing Board at Grand Council 2019, because it gives each geographical constituency a direct voice in COG business. Since you most likely know your rep personally, or soon will, you are much closer to the heartbeat of the Covenant now. You, at your local level, now have a conduit to the people making the decisions that will determine the Covenant's forward direction.

Each local council has a representative and an alternate, selected by its members, who sit on the Governing Board, as do the Assembly of National Covens and the National Assembly of Individual Members. Now that we have established GroupsIO as our email platform and primary method of communication, each local council and assembly has an email list of its own, so that you can discuss things at the local level and be assured that your GB rep is listening and paying attention to your concerns. I'm especially excited because this

should make it easier for national covens and individual members, who are geographically diverse, to develop a sense of community and to feel heard and included.

All the reps will be keeping their constituencies informed as to what the GB is doing, and are responsible for bringing to the GB any issues which you raise at the local level. This way, you are never out of the loop when it comes to national COG affairs. I've been impressed with how quickly and thoroughly the GB reps have grasped the nature of their roles, and I encourage you to use us. Ask questions, raise concerns, make suggestions, float ideas for proposals, and get involved.

On that note, we are going to begin sending out a series of short surveys designed to find out more about our members: what are you involved in, what would you like to be involved in, and what would you like to see COG involved in. Look for the first one soon.

Blessings of the Harvest Season,
 Lady Mariah
 Speaker of the Governing Board

NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

~August 29, 2021~

Invocation:

Lord V invoked Coventina.

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

8 of 10 GB constituencies represented and both Officers present. We have met quorum.

National Officers:

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

Governing Board Representatives:

- Chamisa LC – Polaris / Alt: Lady K – **Not represented**
- ✓ Everglades Moon LC – Raven (Debby) / Alt: Lord Rieken – Raven and Lord Rieken
- ✓ Hills & Rivers LC – Lauren / Alt: Jamie D. – Lauren
- ✓ Northern California LC – Deborah B. / Alt: Linnea – Deborah and Linnea
- ✓ Orange County LC – Janine / Alt: Morgana – Janine
- ✓ Southern California LC – Lady Mariah / Alt: Lisa M. – Lady Mariah
- ✓ Texas LC – Orin / Alt: Open – Orin and Guinevere



- ✓ Touchstone LC – Lord Soec – Lord Soec
- ✓ National Covens – Lord Solandrin – Lord Solandrin
- National Individual Members – Grace Moonhawk – **Not represented**

Visitors:

- Groups-io Committee (Thea Bristlebroom)
- Guinevere from the Texas Local Council – standing in for Orin who was not sure he could make it and who is considering become an alternate GB Rep from Texas LC
- Bonnie Mote, Co-Recorder starting October 31, 2021

Reports:

- Lord V related how well he felt Grand Council went having it over two days and on the weekend. He turned over the meeting to Lady Mariah, the Speaker of the Governing Board.
- Lady Mariah suggested that since we have a lot to cover so she would not be calling on each GB Rep for a report but asked if any GB Rep had anything to add.
 - Guinevere from TX LC added (in chat) that TXCOG now has a location for Dallas Classes in addition to Arlington Classes and Public rituals.

Old Business:

1. Committees:

- a. Which active national committee should be under GB oversight? Do we have new committees? Should we start any? Should we revive any? *Lady Mariah suggested that this topic be revisited after Grand Council Minutes are published as the active Committees have changed and many Committees have been closed/completed. Lady Mariah will contact each Committee head in between GB meetings for updates.*
- b. Deborah provided a verbal **Military Liaison Committee** report – *The Committee has been gathering information and have not developed recommendations yet. Lauren Testa provided the Committee with two written reports regarding other organizations that have strong military outreach, Circle Sanctuary, a pan-pagan organization, and Sacred Well Congregation, a Wiccan organization. There is interest within the Committee of developing a Chaplaincy program or support. They also received a guest report from Michelle Meuller on the requirements for Chaplaincy within the*

armed services. Deborah wanted to recognize the reality that we are coming into a time of year that most committees do not do much work. There are some past and current CoG efforts that could be revived, communicated, or utilized for Military Liaison such as ongoing lay leader activities for services on military bases that is currently not documented but could be. CoG could compile a list of resources for those who are lay leaders or who wish to be. She noted that the committee discussed that lay leaders should be eligible for Elder Credentials. Deborah stated she would be happy to have a co-chair who is a veteran. Lord Soec raised his hand to be a co-chair of the Military Liaison Committee and is a Veteran and Deborah immediately accepted. He noted that Military Chaplains must have a Theological Degree.

Lady Mariah to Send out Survey – *The survey to poll the membership to identify people who might want to become active in certain areas they are interested in or might be currently doing in their communities should go out to the membership within two weeks. Lady Mariah is working with Manny on the Survey Monkey account.*

2. **Parliament of the World's Religions** has announced that it will hold a virtual parliament October 17-18, 2021. This year's registration fees will be minimal – \$50 until 5/31, \$75 from 6/1-8/31, \$90 after 9/1 and \$10 for students. *The GB determined that up to \$35 would be subsidized for CoG members to attend (up to \$500 total) if they register before the August 31 deadline. Lord V will send another Mail Chimp today to see if any CoG Members want to attend. We were unable to secure a block of passes at a reduced cost.*
3. **Grace Moonhawk to research and prepare search report** for word and service mark "MerryMeet" and associated costs **to trademark MerryMeet**. *Tabled until Grace Moonhawk is present to provide a report.*

New Business:

- Groups.io report and presentation given by Thea Bristlebroom of the new "Tech Committee". The Governing Board has requested that the Tech Committee move forward with implementing Groups.io for the Covenant members as soon as possible.

Call for Additions to the Agenda:



- Lord Soec proposed changes to the newsletter – Currently National Officers are first in the newsletter. He would like to move the Governing Board Reps and any reports submitted as well as the GB Meeting Minutes first. The GB gave Lord Soec the green light to change the format.
- Lord Soec asked if each GB Rep could submit tidbits on what their LC's or constituencies are doing that could be used in the newsletter. This is NOT the Minutes of the LC Meetings or the Annual Reports that go to Grand Council. Lady Mariah suggested she would be encouraging each rep to submit these "short" reports prior to the GB Meetings.
- Lady Mariah asked whether we should add contact information for the Governing Board Reps to the newsletter, but Lord Rieken suggested that his own LC knows who he is and can contact him. Orin added that there will be Groups in Groups.io that will allow folks to contact each of the constituencies, such as all the Local Councils, National Covens, and National Individual Members. To have masked GB rep email addresses would require the NetCo add an email for each GB Rep. To be revisited next meeting.
- Lord Soec hoped to reduce the number of future Governing Board and National Officer meetings – This was tabled as the First Officer sets the meetings according to the bylaws. If they are to be changed so there are less, the bylaws must be changed with a proposal to Grand Council.
- Deborah suggests we have a policy and a process to add non-GB Rep attendees to the GB Meetings. The GB discussed that anyone who wishes to address or present something to the GB meeting, would first contact the First Officer and/or the speaker-of-the-Governing-Board to be added to the agenda and be discussed within the GB first. The visitor could address or present first and then business could be conducted. It may be a legal issue as a non-profit that we should hold open meetings. This may need to be deferred until we have legal input.
- Deborah asked, "How do people feel about a volunteer rotation for GB Reps and Alternates to commit to attend the public Wednesday with Witches?" GB reps related how they are not able to attend due to other commitments, but several are going to try to attend.
- Members of the Bylaws Review Committee would like to research the history of 'As Above, So Below' – the notion of whether

Local Councils should be structured like the National level. The Committee members will meet to compare prior Bylaws and determine if proposals are necessary.

- Succession Planning should be occurring as a continuing policy within the Covenant grooming for National Officers and helping to train for those roles that need training as well as engaging the next generation into leadership roles. Lady Mariah suggested having each National Officer ask the membership for folks who are interested in learning their role. Manny suggested inviting people to board meetings to see how we do things and demystify the roles.
- Lord Verderius asked the GB to revisit the list of items the GB were to focus on that was created last year. Lady Mariah plans to review past year's goals for the next Meeting.
- Lord Verderius asked the Recorder to share with the GB the synopsis for the decisions on the Committees from Grand Council as soon as possible.

Meeting Adjourned: At the 3-hour mark. Great meeting. A lot was accomplished.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

~September 12, 2021~

Invocation:

Lord Verderius, National First Officer, invoked Coventina.

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

National Officers:

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

Visitors:

- Tech Team members Thea Bristlebroom and Orin joined the meeting to provide an update on Groups.io. (Janine and Lady K are also helping.)
- Mary Stuart, our new Second Officer, joined us for our last Executive Board meeting before she takes office November 1, 2021.



Officer Reports:

First Officer – Lord Verderius submitted a written report. He added that he was very pleased with Grand Council and looks forward to more virtual Grand Councils and getting together in person next year. He is confident that the Governing Board has taken the reins to move forward and looks forward to their work.

Second Officer – Morgana submitted a written report. She invited Mary to speak. Mary confirmed they have secured the second weekend in August 2022 (August 12-13) with the hotel. Check-in can begin on Wednesday the 10th, with Leadership scheduled for Thursday the 11th, and Grand Council slated for Friday and Saturday, August 12 and 13, checking out Sunday, August 14. The hotel has been updated and looks very nice. Mary related how much support she receives from her Local Council.

Membership Officer – Lady K submitted a written report. She added that they are done with the Groups.io move. They are looking for a date to do training with the admins and group owners.

She added that we have lost 15 members and friends over the last two Sabbats. In speaking with members who have left, they have stated CoG is not moving in the direction they want, and is no longer relevant but upon questioning, they have not offered ideas of the direction they think CoG should move or how CoG might change to become relevant. They've said that we are not doing enough in the community, but there are Local Councils that are very active in their communities in whatever ways they can even through the last 18 months of a pandemic. Local Councils that are active are still active.

There was discussion that much of this is due to attrition and normal phases that occur within organizations. We should be doing exit interviews with those who decide to leave. Qabal added that there is a psychological phenomenon known as Negative Affectivity which is like a contagion that happens inside organizations. An ephemeral or nonspecific negative process occurs and then feeds on itself and grows. People get irritated and complain and in effect say, find a cure and try everything, and if the first thing doesn't work, well then, you suck. People are leaving because they want to leave, and they don't want to be part of CoG anymore.

Thea added, sometimes fields go fallow in order to regain fertility. COVID-19 and the break we were forced to take may come back in ways we can't see. People that are leaving CoG are redirecting themselves into their communities in ways that may sprout new growth that in maturity, may want and need CoG.

Qabal reminded us that the Orisha of the Pandemic is also the Orisha of healing.

Morgana has been in a lot of organizations and there are always people who say, things are not going the way I want, so I am going to take my cookies and go home. But if you ask those same people for concrete suggestions on what we should do, you get silence. We are not the BORG, so we don't all think alike. People who want to leave are going to leave, but they should not put it on us.

Morgana added that one of the goals of MM that OCLC has discussed is advertising the heck out of the event to attract a significant number of non-COG people to MM in the hopes that will attract new members. 2020-21 put a kink in that plan, but that is still our intention.

Lady K reminded Lord Verderius that she needs his "Welcome to CoG" and "Thank You for Renewing" letters.

Publications Officer – Lord Soec – **Absent.**

Pursewarden – Qabal submitted a written report. He said we should strike the last line of his report. (Does that mean there is no new music by ABBA?)

Public Information Officer – Janine N. submitted a written report. She added that she is looking to set up the next Marketing and Outreach meeting later this month.

Lady K will speak about Groups.io on our members only Wednesday with Witches on September 15 and Thea will speak about Groups.io on the Sunday Salon on September 26. Janine noted that the Wednesday with Witches registration is not a hot link on the Groups.io calendar push. Thea and Orin will look into it. Orin figured out how to fix.

Qabal reminded all that it will soon be October and people like Witches so it would be a great time to advertise for our events and/or brand.

Outreach Officer – Brandon P. – **Absent.**

Correspondence Officer – Grace Moonhawk's very demanding job has expanded to 6 days a week. She was very disappointed she was unable to attend Grand Council, but she has been able to keep up with her Correspondent duties and is not too far behind. She reported on her action items under old business and additions to the agenda.

Recorder – Faelind These Minutes are my report. Lord Verderius noted that Faelind has sent out the Grand Council Minutes to the combined boards to review so please take a look at them and provide any feedback quickly. Faelind plans to have the Grand Council Minutes along with the Bylaws and Policy Manual finalized and published in the Samhain newsletter.



Old Business:

A February 2021 proposal from the Governing Board to register MerryMeet Nationally to patent it has been researched by Grace Moonhawk. Initial research revealed the Word mark MerryMeet in two classes, for entertainment and commercial uses, will run between \$700 to \$750 depending on the attorney. 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 provided an update that the Word mark registration for MerryMeet is approximately \$500 to file in three classes without an attorney. The Classes would be merchandise class, entertainment, and commercial. We don't need an attorney to file it, we could do it ourselves. Grace is willing to do the paperwork and provide it to Qabal by October 31st. She has done filings with the Patent Trade Office before. Qabal will file the completed registration and pay the fee. Lord Verderius hopes we can close this out before the end of the year.

New Business:

• Schedule Meetings for the next Year

- Faelind will get together with Bonnie and Lord Verderius to schedule meetings for the Governing Board, Executive Officers, and Combined Board. They will be on Sundays at the same time as that seems to fit everyone's schedule best.

• Tech Team Update on Groups.io

- Thea submitted a written report. She added that she is looking for each of the National Officers to attend a meeting to learn about their admin roles for the groups they are owners of. She is hopeful that at least half of the Officers can attend.
- Nearly each National Officer has been defined as an owner of a group or sub-group. Each group and sub-group must have an owner.
- There is a group for most National Office positions so that a National Officer can communicate with the Local Council Officers of that same position.
- Thea shared a walk-through of the Groups.io with the National Officers.
- The tech team has been defined as all owners of groups or admins.

- If you are listed as an owner or moderator, you have access to all the groups (even ones you are not a member of), so please be aware and be careful to not change settings on groups that you do not own.
- The email for requesting help is no longer going to membership. It is now going to Administrators so emails requesting help will go to both Thea and Lady K at the present time. If it is related to Groups.io, Thea will take it, and Lady K will follow up with membership questions/concerns.
- Thea asked that each owner post and pin a revised Netiquette document on each of the groups that you own. Also please start an introduction thread to get things started.
- If you have an event coming up, you can post to the calendar in Groups.io.
- Thea believes the tech team should be a standing committee at the discretion of the NMO, since it is only the NMO who can determine if someone is a member. There was some discuss around this. Lady K will definitely be the last word on granting access as NMO.
- Lady K shared that she plans to do tutorials in a couple of weeks after Chamisa's Mabon. She will help people with their settings if they need help as well.
- Janine reminded everyone that September 15 will be a CoG Members Wednesday with Witches on Groups.io with Lady K. Sunday Salon on September 26 will be Thea talking about Groups.io.
- **Should we keep MailChimp now that we have Groups.io?**
 - Qabal thinks we should keep it because it is more than just members. Non-members are on the MailChimp. Thea suggested it could be part of our Outreach. It could be part of how we engage non-members with occasional articles. Janine will add the emails from the Wednesday with Witches so we could do more Outreach with folks who have expressed an interest in us. Morgana asked whether the Newsletter or requests for articles or news is sent out via MailChimp. (Since Lord Soec was not on the call, we were not sure, but we do not remember seeing any MailChimp notes from him.) We could call it the Outreach Newsletter.



CoGstant Contact was another suggestion.

- **Local Council Officer Elections**

- Lady K will send out the form the Local Councils should use to announce who their Local Council Officers are from elections that happen at this time of year. This form is found on the members side of the website. It is supposed to be submitted each year by the Local Council First Officer after LC elections.
- This is important because all the new Officers must be added to their special groups in Groups.io.

- **Youth Summit Update (Brandon & Blaine)**

- Brandon sent a report that he has not had time to devote to this and will not until after Chamisa does their Magical Mountain Mabon the weekend of September 18, 2021. It is unlikely that there will be a Youth Summit this year since no planning has occurred.

- **New NetCo Officer to be selected for Samhain 2021-2022**

- Orin has agreed to be our new NetCo! (We are so fortunate!)
- Lord Verderius will schedule a meeting with Orin and Canu to go over items and get Orin access to the C-Panel back-end of the website.

Call for Additions to the Agenda:

- Action Item from Grand Council for Grace Moonhawk, National Correspondence Officer:
 - Macha would like to be kept in the loop when there are Department of Corrections (DOCR) administrators that reach out as she has spoken to the DOCR, and she keeps a list of folks who are working with inmates. It is nice if they can all be kept in the loop.
 - Grace Moonhawk noted her concern and will forward her email sent to DOCR administrators and let her know of snail mail that is sent.

Meeting Adjourned:

Lord Verderius ended the meeting thanking his National Officers and is so glad he will be working with them over the next year.

We finished in less than 2 hours!



REPORTS OF OFFICERS

FIRST OFFICER

The autumn season is in full measure as we gather in the abundance of what the Goddess has given us. Our Grand Council proceedings of last month were a great success again this year; as we hosted our second annual virtual Grand Council. I would like to take this time to express my gratitude the Executive Board of National Officers for making it another great achievement. We have accomplished much during these difficult times of living through the era of the Covid-19 pandemic. Huzzah!

After our Grand Council assembly in August, the Governing Board met to discuss many important topics. I feel confident that the Governing Board has completely taken on the leadership role for the Covenant. This may mean some increased duties for the National Officers to carry out new tasks according to their direction and vision of the Covenant for its continued growth; and I believe we are up to the challenge.

I have put out a major request to the Governing Board Reps and their Local Councils to attend more online CoG events being held semi-monthly through "**Wednesday with Witches**" and our monthly Sunday Salon. Additionally, I encourage all national officers to make the same request of your Local Council members to join us for these important online events.

During this year's Grand Council, the membership "con-censed" on the Covenant changing our internal communications through a new email service using Groups.io to host AIR and DD, etc. We are happy to see how quickly this new email system is being implemented for its future use of all members of CoG. We all felt the challenges of using the Forums on the new server. This should help make things happening in CoG for more visible and hopefully, better attended.

As we have said our final farewell to the **Califia LC**, we acknowledge that we have lost another Local Council. I am further reminded to my pledge to CoG to help rebuild the membership and our national footprint of Local Councils. I will need the continued commitment of the National Officer to help me make this endeavor happen before I leave office at Samhain of 2022. I trust we can make a significant difference for the betterment of CoG as a magickal organization. Thank you for your continued support.

Once travel restrictions have been lifted and I can travel safely after getting my third vaccination, I hope to get out to former areas where we once had Local Councils and to meet with some of our former members to see if we can



rebuild relations with them and inspire them to rejoin CoG. Please let me know what areas you think I should consider to visit first. Lets re-grow our wonderful magickal organization together!

With Sincere Appreciation,
Lord Verderius
 National First Officer

SECOND OFFICER

No report submitted. Please see *Executive Board Minutes* page 7.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

It's FALL Y'ALL! I absolutely love this time of year as we move into the Holiday season. It reminds me to reach out to family and friends before we become too busy and let folks know that we are thinking about them. I hope you take this quiet time before the craziness begins to touch base with those you love!

Mabon renewals were emailed on September 11th, 2021 and will be due by October 15th, 2021. Samhain renewals will be emailed on September 21st, 2021 and will be due by November 10th, 2021.

We are so excited to have everyone moved over to the NEW Groups.IO platform! I know that everyone felt a little disconnected and we hope that this new system will be much like our old "lists". Please note that there are updated groups that everyone can join and get to know one another better. There will be an opportunity for those needing help to join in on Wednesday with Witches and our Sunday Salon to talk a bit more about the way things work. Tutorials on simple tasks and how to navigate the platform will be available soon on CoG's YouTube channel!

Our NEW Plastic Credential Cards began going out with SOME Litha renewals. As you renew in the coming year, you will receive these cards and when they expire, you will have a new sticker sent out each year! This will save on the paper we use for the old business card type Credential! Plus, they are much more sturdy!

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.

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

APPLICATIONS:

- Friends of CoG
 - None at this time
- Covens and Individuals
 - Minos Lassar (Everglades Moon LC)
- Welcome New Members and FoC!
 - Lyceum of Auset Hauhet (OCLC)
 - Sylvia Webb Koehler (Chamisa LC)
- Transfer Requests
 - None at this time
- Overdue/Lapsed Members (Contact me immediately to avoid cancellation!)
 - None at this time
- Cancelled Members
 - Bendith y Cynr National
 - Dragonweyr National
 - Lady Pythia National
 - Lady Phoenix Duir National
 - Lady Therasia National
 - Temple of the Amethyst Moon National
 - Circle of the Wild Wood Texas
 - Circle of Earth Sea Sky Texas
 - Freyja Stocks Texas

Membership Status: We currently have 124 Members total, consisting of 61 Covens, and 63 Individual Members; and we have 8 Friends of CoG.

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

The following members are due at Mabon and have until 10/15/2021 to renew:

Roster Name	Local Council
• Charlie Kiene	Chamisa
• Albion's Spirit	Everglades Moon
• Alpania	Everglades Moon
• Ceos	Everglades Moon
• Pantera Apolonaris Draconus	Everglades Moon
• Raven	Everglades Moon
• Martha Kirby Capo	Friend of CoG
• Banshee Shadowwolf	National
• Circle of the Ancient Grove	National
• Dragonstar Rising	National
• Felicity Grove	National
• Greenheart Grove	National
• Inanna Arthen - C	National
• MoonFire	National
• Oberon Osiris	National
• Silver Serpent Coven	National
• Brigid Lutrason	Northern California
• Cary the Faerie	Northern California
• Coven Trismegiston	Northern California
• Daduchos Coven	Northern California
• Darkmoon Circle	Northern California



- Deborah Bender Northern California
- Jae Osenbach Northern California
- Lady Bhride Northern California
- M Macha NightMare Northern California
- Marilee Bigelow Northern California
- Moonwater SilverClaw Northern California
- Owl Moon Northern California
- Rita Rippetoe Northern California
- Waxing Moon Circle Northern California
- William Baldwin Northern California
- Dream Walkers of Delos OCLC
- Circle of Danu Texas
- Circle of Shadow and Light Texas
- Circle of the Emerald Forest Touchstone

The following members are due at Samhain and have until 11/10/2021 to renew:

Roster Name	Local Council
• Charles (Ryan) Coe	Chamisa
• Marla K. Roberson	Everglades Moon
• Spelcastor	Everglades Moon
• Darikson	Friend of CoG
• Witches of Aradia	Hills and Rivers
• Gryphonsong Clan	National
• Lord GoldenOak	National
• Our Lady of the Prairie	National
• Our Lady of the Trinity	National
• Circle of the Unicorn	Texas
• Coven Firemoon	Texas

Brightest Blessings,
Dee Proctor (Lady K) NMO

PURSEWARDEN

CURRENT ASSETS

- Chase Main Account: \$90,642.49
- Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: \$5,585.62
- PayPal Account: \$8,566.90
- Synchrony: \$33,110.75 (as of 6/30/2021)

CURRENT ISSUES/UPDATES

- Website renewal will be soon but I don't have an update on the amount.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Fall Greetings!

In my last report I shared notes from the Marketing & Outreach meeting; primarily looking at discussion topics for Wednesday with Witches and the Sunday Salon based on Members' suggestions.

This month there will be two opportunities for CoG Members and Friends of CoG to learn more about Groups.IO:

Wednesday with Witches on 9/15 at 5:30 pm Pacific; and

Sunday Salon on 9/26 at 3 pm Pacific.

I did see the responses that a few of you couldn't attend due to other obligations which is why the Sunday Salon was created. At these two events, there will be members of the Tech Team available to go through Groups.IO and some of the nifty things it can do, as well as answer your questions. I hope you can make at least one of these meetings to learn more about Groups.IO and how you can use it to connect with other members.

Some of you who follow our social media have noticed a new video. It is a video of Alison Harlow sharing a Rain Spell. She did it at the opening of a panel organized in Berkeley, CA, in 1992 by M. Macha Nightmare. If you get a chance, I hope you will watch it and share it. We could use some rain here in the West. [Video footage ©Aline O'Brien (Macha)].

The Climate Crisis statement has been posted and shared with the media.

Given the conditions of the planet and the science in understanding Earth's climate change, The Covenant of the Goddess is joining with the United Nations' statement on climate change and declaring a climate crisis and urges all Witches to support, materially, spiritually, and magickally, the conversion to sustainable energy resources.

I have added TikTok to our social media. [@cog_tiktok] I I will be creating and posting some educational/fun/witchy videos soon.

In our next M&O Team meeting (TBD) we will discuss how we can use social media more effectively and recruit more members to post or share between members and local council digital platforms; how we can build relationships (Outreach); providing support and encouragement to younger/newer witches; share benefits of being a Member, or Friend of CoG, and our upcoming event, NextGen Summit.

I encourage local council PIOs to attend our Marketing & Outreach meetings to help us build a more cohesive team where we can share information and communicate our best practices.

Blessed be!

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

It's Fall! With Summer ending, the days are starting to cool down to below 100 degrees occasionally and the nights are trying to get below 70 here in Southern California.

Because it's been a bit on the warm side, we have been carefully watching the forests in our area with our fingers crossed.



Speaking of which, as we are not out of the Covid woods yet; please stay safe and keep wearing your masks.

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

P.S. A little birdie mentioned that ABBA has a new album out!

CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER

No report submitted. Please see *Executive Board Minutes* page 7.

NATIONAL RECORDER

No report submitted. Please see *Executive Board Minutes* page 7.

NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER

No report submitted. Please see *Executive Board Minutes* page 7.

WELCOME TO COG



Please welcome:

- ❖ Lyceum of Auset Hahet to Orange County
- ❖ AmberIsis Sylvia Webb Koehler to Chamisa

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS



MINOS LASSAR

Everglades Moon Local Council
Oakland Park, Florida

STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

Merry Meet, let me introduce myself, I am Minos Lassar. I being a Witch in the Minoan Brotherhood tradition, started my Spiritual Journey in 2012. I had the privilege of dedicating, initiating and elevating to the 3rd degree Under Minos Ceos, the Sons of the Minotaur Grove. My tradition focuses on a Greek Pantheon of Goddess and Old Gods. We/I follow a Wheel of the year with 8 Sabbats and Worship accordingly to the Moon cycles. I hope to further enrich my journey in kinship and craft with my Grove as well as EMLC/COG.

Through my Tradition and for myself, I follow a code of ethics which is compatible with

those in Article 9, code of ethics, in the bylaws set forth by the Covenant of the Goddess.

I pledge to abide by all provisions of the charter, these bylaws and all policy decisions of the council. I agree to hold harmless any Officer or Committee of the Covenant or any member of the officers, Governing board, or Committee Members for actions taken in their Member Caucuses.

Sincerely
Lassar X

Letter of Recommendation #1

Dear Lady Bridget,

Beachfyre Coven is Pleas to recommend Lassar (aka Thomas Clemmons) for consideration of membership in the Assembly of Solitaires with in EMLC. Pelase accept this letter written by our Priest Aequitas, as representing our coven’s intent

I initially met Lassar at the Turning of the Tides festival of 2013. Most recently, our friendship deepened when we reconnected at the Ft. Lauderdale COG Grand Council & MerryMeet of 2018 as well.

Lassar is a 3rd Degree Priest of the Minoan Brotherhood, and is in good standing with his Grove. I have participated in rituals with him, and his home altar and daily practices are befitting of a modern and ethically informed Neo-Pagan Witch, honoring the Old Ones and practicing our traditions in an exemplary manner

I’ve observed Lassar’s character as being forthright and honest in his dealings with others, and someone who has principles guiding his actions and beliefs. He is very passionate about the Craft as well as building and growing our religious community, being Cancer rising, Sun in Sagittarius and Moon in Aries. I vouch For Lassar’s membership application.

Should any other council members have any additional questions, please contact Aequitas or any of the members of Beachfyre.

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

Letter of Recommendation #2

My Dearest Brother Lassar,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I write this letter of recommendation for you to be considered for membership in the Covenant of the Goddess.

You are Currently a 3rd degree in good standing with the Minoan Brotherhood, and within our Grove, sons of the Minotaur.

You have been an ongoing, staunch and steadfast practitioner of the Craft and you have, and continue to honor the God/Goddess. You observe thee Wheel of the Year and all the ways of



the Ancestors. Over the years you have been a teacher and a guide to other Brothers within our Grove as well as countless other Pagans and Witches.

You are very skilled and compassionate and creative Witch. Your enthusiasm has always both amazed and encouraged me

I heartily recommend you for membership in the Covenant of the Goddess.

Ceos
 Minos (High Priest)
 Sons of the Minotaur Grove
 Minoan Brotherhood, Eleuthera Line

TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY

NONE AT THIS TIME

LOCAL COUNCILS



CHAMISA

~ No Report

Last published minutes in the Lammas 2021 edition.



EVERGLADES MOON

~ August 7, 2021 ~

Group opened with prayer to Coventina.

Guest introductions/discussions

In attendance (all via ZOOM or Phone):

- Alpandia – First Officer, Dragon Whisper Coven
- Marla Roberson – Second Officer, Assembly of Solitaries
- Minos Ceos – Recorder, Minoan Brotherhood, Assembly of Solitaries
- Diana – Public Information Officer, Spiraling Heart Coven / Tallahassee
- Bobby Jo – High Priestess, Albion’s Spirit / Orange Park, FL.
- Shaylee – Beachfyre
- Lady Bridget – Membership Officer
- Canu – Beachfyre Coven
- Qabal
- Lady Tanit Heru
- Kasha

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Alpandia): Our annual "year in review" was sent to National and Lord Verderius has confirmed receipt so we are all set for Grand Council.

I will not be running for a second term as First Officer for the 2021-2022 board. I am happy to assist the person who the LC consensus on should they need my assistance.

Second Officer (Marla Roberson): Our annual "year in review" was sent to National and Lord Verderius has confirmed receipt so we are all set for Grand Council.

I will not be running for a second term as First Officer for the 2021-2022 board. I am happy to assist the person who the LC consensus on should they need my assistance.

DISCUSSION & VOTE ON THE ANNUAL MEETING 09/25/21: Official decision – all agreed to hold the Annual Meeting by ZOOM on Saturday, 9/25/21 in the afternoon.

Official notice will go out in about a week.

MINI-RETREATS: These did not solidify for this year, maybe to consider for next year 2022. Generally all seemed to like the idea. Information / ideas will be put out to the general membership later in this year.

Membership Officer (Lady Bridget): Greetings Witchykin,

Our local council presently has 19 members, 12 Individual members and 7 Coven members. We have a new application to discuss, from Minos Lassar, and this is on the agenda for later on in the meeting. He has recommendations from Beachfyre Coven and from Minos Ceos, and I had forwarded his materials to the membership list earlier.

As you know Grand Council is fast approaching, and I am happy to announce that all of our members have submitted their Proxy-Attendance forms and are accounted for. Thanks for doing such a great job with that, and thank you to Kasha for wrangling the Individual members into caucases and rounding up the signatures!

We have only one member due to renew at Lammas / Lughnasadh, and that is Lady Miraselena. You may remember that we passed a proposal last year written by yours truly that allows for members due at this Sabbat to choose to renew at another time. I have not been informed that Lady Miraselena has done that yet, so I will be in touch with her and Lady K to verify her renewal.

As a reminder, I will be stepping down from this position at Samhain this year. I will be very happy to help the incoming person learn the job and I be available for advice and opinions (always



free!) at any time. So don't be shy, step up and volunteer! Our members are our strength, and I appreciate all of you.

Publications Officer (Cat): Cat not on the call – No report

Public Information Officer (Diana): No updates from PIO who was present in this meeting.

Pursewarden (Raven): I'm sorry I am unable to attend today's meeting, so here is my Pursewarden's report for now.

Balance in PNC Bank Account: \$5,764.61
The only expenses the last 3 months have been the recurring \$15.00 for Libsyn Podcast Subscription.

Balance in Paypal Account: \$3,464.40
The only expenses the last few months have been the recurring donation to The Wild Hunt of \$25.00.

Note: The issue with updating the signatures on the PNC account will not be settled until after our EMLC Annual Meeting.

Discussion: Report by Shaylee – Rayna is attempting to finalize payment with Greynolds. Will meet in person with them

Lady Bridget – tax status was renewed, she will send to Qabal for archiving & Rayna & Raven 4/30/2026 is when it expires.

Recorder (Ceos): Greetings my Esteemed Fellow Moonies, This is the Recorder's report for today's 8/07/21 Meeting

Minutes from the May 2021 Meeting were finalized and forwarded to the general EMLC and CoG

Old Business

What EMLC-ers are doing: Marla – Mystic South (Crown Ravennia Plaza, Atlanta, GA) – July 15-17, 2022, registration is open. Workshop, vendor proposals open 10/01/21.

To promote anything on the Podcast (2-5 minutes) send to Lady Bridget.

Report from LC representatives to National Board (Raven & Riken): No report.

GC Proposal Review: As of 08/07/21 - Grand Council proposals are still MIA.

Was sent via email by Alpania during this meeting.

Page 32 of Lammas Newsletter was reviewed in this meeting.

Proposals to replace Quorum with GroupsIO (proposal read and background explained to group in this meeting. There was discussion).

Correction on existing term limits on office holders.... (proposal read and background explained to group in this meeting. There was discussion).

Proposal discussed: "Allowing Solitaries who have a Local Council membership to move their membership to National without having to qualify for Elder Credentials".

Broader Discussion:

In the larger Covenant, there seems to be disconnection [because of online]

MEMBER APPLICATION REVIEW:

Minos Lassar

Lammas Newsletter– Candidacy Statements – were reviewed.

Ceos and Canu – gave verbal support to the candidacy of Minos Lassar becoming a member of EMLC.

Consensus twinkle on Minos Lassar.

Lady Bridget will forward his application to Dee at National.

Qabal confirmed that he paid in PayPal

When he is approved he will be the 20th Solitary member of EMLC.

MEMBER APPLICATION REVIEW:

Tamitha

She applied to local EMLC through National.

She sent statement of practice to Lady Bridget but as yet no letter of recommendations. Options on this presented. Lady Bridget remains in contact with her.

She has not yet formally decided how she wants to apply (member of friend of Cog), so as yet her's is not a formal application.

Lady Tanit has been in touch with her. She is interested in studying the Craft with Lady Tanit, but also interested in wider network. She is enthusiastic about furthering her path and Craft.

Funding and Outreach

Pagan Pride: Will not be in person this year. Suggestion: go through your stuff, see if you can send off items to sell to fundraise for EMLC at Pagan Pride. Will be offered to EMLC (for donation to Local Council).

Mystic South (have a vending table there?) this event is next year.

Treasure Coast Pagan Pride in October 2021 (not clear if this event is occurring).

Volusia (10/10/21 – limited information), Orlando (10/02/21 – location unknown, limited information) & Jacksonville (9/19/21 – River Artist Square)....possible vendor opportunities (?)

Lady Bridget could possible cover Orlando.

CUUPS / Fort Lauderdale is doing a very limited in person Lammas, with a very limited number of vendors.



Shaylee: Miami UU may be starting to hold things in person again.

DISCUSSION:

A Pagan gentleman (David) recently passed away, some of his Pagan belongs are to be given to Bobbi Jo this could be part of a silent auction or for Pagan Pride. The sense is that he would have been ok with this. These items are located somewhere in South Florida / Fort Lauderdale. His nephew picked up these things. Diana it seems to be a lot of small items, maybe 5 boxes worth (?).

Alpandia:

If anyone knows of any events or sidewalk sales, or vending opportunities please advise the group.

Alpandia will make a set of pics on Google drive.

Turning the Tide 2021

TTT Coordinator: Shaylee

Payment Already addressed (in Pursewarden’s report)

Workshop Coordinator: Rayna

Save the Date: Dec 3-5, 2021

Kitchen Witches: Raven for some of it. Have 3 rotating KWs.

Lady Tanit & Lady B volunteered.

Could use 2-3 KW assistants. (Diana volunteered to assist)

- get donations of Mulligan’s Stew
- Set up breakfast / coffee in AM.
- Set up / take down Sat. Night

Feast

Registration: Raven

Marketing: Get Instagram to Shaylee

EMLC List, access discussed

Drummers: Contacts discussed. “Tony & Lisa”

Theme: Steampunk Quincinera (Gypsy Magick)

Feast: Variety & veggie options needed

Decorations: Ceos & Coyote. (Aequitas – has window measurements).

Backup Plan: Hand sanitizing stations

T-Shirts / Masks: Qabal knows where to get t-shirts. (mask as goodie bag)

Sanitizing Team: A new idea, need to organize teams / groups.

Could be linked to work study.

Ritual Coordinators: This will be put out to the EMLC List.

Discussion: re: Covid trends and holding off for short term (masks).

Shaylee will work to set up a TTT planning meeting via Facebook.

LC timeline (An ongoing project for the historical records of the EMLC)

.....No discussion on this topic today.

New Business

Mother’s Day Post Card – Taking care of Chimpanzee Daisy

Thank you letter from Women in Distress.

Lady Bridget received paperwork via the P.O. Box for both and will send to Alpandia.

Next meeting: The Annual Meeting of the EMLC, September 25, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm with Prayer to Coventina.



HILLS AND RIVERS

~May, 13, 2021~

Via Zoom 7pm

Members Present:

- Lady Annabelle (Hekate’s Wheel)
- Faunina (Circle of Diana)
- Jamie D. (Ancient River)
- Kat C. (Ancient River)
- Aurie G. (solitaire)
- Lauren T. (Coven of the Wooded Vale)
- Lady Lorrie (Coven of the Wooded Vale)
- Elizabeth (Coven Lieta Visindi)

It was determined that quorum was established.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by the First Officer, and each officer presented their individual reports, with HRLC business discussions afterward.

Opening Words – Lady Annabelle

First Officer Report (Jamie D.) discussed the past challenges of trying to deal with the pandemic restrictions and the joy of finally being able to plan in-person events with Ancient Rivers esbats and sabbat rituals and the upcoming Hills and Rivers’ Annual Meeting at the end of July.

Jamie noted that there are new members interested in coming into Friends of CoG, in particular a new solitary located in NE Pennsylvania.



Jamie announced that he would not be seeking another term as an officer and would be stepping back.

Pursewarden Report (Faunina)

Financial report (as of 6/15/2021) –

\$3844.00 at PNC Bank

463.98 at PayPal

\$4307.98 -- total funds

*\$281.29 was earmarked for Lammas Fest 2021 in central PA

Membership Report (Lauren T.)

Active member list:

Ancient River (Wilkes-Barre, PA)

Coven of the Wooded Vale (Bethlehem, PA)

Hekate's Wheel (Pittsburgh, PA)

Witches of Aradia (Columbia, PA)

Circle of Diana (Pittsburgh, PA).

HearthFire Coven (Pittsburgh, PA)

Coven Leita Visindi (Easton, PA)

Aurie G. and partner (solitaires) pending – sent application to National CoG in April

Laura K. (Friend of CoG solitary – pending)

Lauren mentioned that people were interested in joining Hills and Rivers, but the application fee was often a financial burden. She agreed with Jamie that we need to push for more local involvement and try to do more outreach to get new members.

PIO Officer report – Lady A: Computer was not working to update HRLC website, most likely due to changes on the website because now there is no way to login to the webpage to make changes, Lady A is posting on the forums. Lady A requested that Faunina try to log in and update the website to see if the problem is due to issues with her computer and not the webpage. We need to add the new member covens, solitaires, and Friend of CoG.

Old Business

Candidates for New Officers: Jamie again mentioned not running for office for a while, but plans to participate in HRLC events and planning. Lady A will run as First Officer and Kat will run for Public Information Officer.

Planning for 2021 Annual Meeting in State College

Jamie set the location as State College, due to its central location (2.5 to 3 hour drive for everyone. Also there is an opportunity to meet witches and pagans from the Golden Wheel group, with whom we were planning to work with for the cancelled 2020 Lammas Fest. He set the date of the

weekend July 31 and August 1. We would meet for a social gathering Saturday evening and have the HRLC Annual Meeting on Sunday morning. We need to reserve accommodations at a hotel with conference rooms.

Jamie mentioned the Marriot in State College \$87/night with and available conference room for an additional charge.

New Business

CoG Governing Board Report (Lauren T.)

It was agreed that there needs to be more participation at a local level. They would like to see more people running for National Officer posts. There was a request to find new ways to appeal to ne witches. We will continue this conversation during the next meeting.

Continue Planning for Annual Meeting

Kat (Ancient River) volunteered to find info on accommodations. Faunina will then contact hotel and reserve a block of rooms and pay for conference room.

Faunina will contact Golden Wheel members to arrange a meeting and include them in planning for our 2022 annual festival.

Date for next meeting

June 16th @7pm, via Zoom

Meeting ended at 8:45pm

Submitted by Faunina del Bosco

☾☽☽

~June 16, 2021~

Via Zoom 7pm

Members Present:

Lady Annabelle (Hekate's Wheel)

Faunina (Circle of Diana)

Jamie D. (Coven of the Ancient River)

Aurie G. (solitaire)

Lauren T. (Coven of the Wooded Vale)

Lady Lorrie (Coven of the Wooded Vale)

Elizabeth (Lieta Visindi)

Laura K (guest)

It was determined that quorum was established.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by the First Officer, and each officer presented their individual reports, with HRLC business discussions afterward.

Opening Reading – the Navaho Prayer “Beauty is Before Me” – Lady Annabelle

First Officer Report (Jamie Dana)

Jamie announced candidates for 2021-2022 officers:



First Officer Candidate – Lady Annabelle (Hekate’s Wheel)

Public Information Officer Candidate – Kat C. (Ancient River)

Membership Officer Candidate – Lauren Testa (Wooded Vale) continuing

Pursewarden Candidate – Faunina Del Bosco (Circle of Diana) continuing

Recorder – no candidates – Faunina acting Recorder due to vacancy

Covid 19 had put much on hold until in-person activities were able to resume. Grove of the Ancient River is starting to move to “normal” with in-person meetings and events. He wanted input on how to get more participation from local members and how to appeal to new witches. We have a new solitary in NE Pennsylvania interested in joining HRLC, Laura K. Jamie announced that he would not be seeking another term as an officer and would be stepping back. He intends to still be involved with the local council. He plans to participate in activities, and possibly be a member on a committee, but wants to step away from the board of officers for a while.

Pursewarden Report (Faunina)

Financial report (as of 6/15/2021):
 \$3844.00 at PNC Bank
 463.98 at PayPal
 \$ 4307.98 -- total funds

Membership Report (Lauren T.)

Active member list:

Grove of the Ancient River Coven (Wilkes-Barre, PA)

Coven of the Wooded Vale (Bethlehem, PA)

Hekate’s Wheel Coven (Pittsburgh, PA)

Witches of Aradia Coven (Columbia, PA)

Circle of Diana Coven (Pittsburgh, PA).

Leita Visindi (Easton, PA)

Aurie G. and partner (solitaries) membership pending – application received by National CoG in April

Aurie G. asked about the status of her membership application that was submitted to National CoG in April, but as of June still has not heard that she will be listed as full member. Lauren said she will write National MO to see when their membership will be official with its printing in the CoG newsletter.

Old Business

Continued Planning for 2021 Annual Meeting in State College

Kat gave an update on the search for accommodations. She found the Ramada Inn and Conference Center is a possibility. Block of rooms are available at discount rate of \$79 + tax. The conference room is \$200 + tax. All food eaten in conference room must be purchased from the Ramada Inn. To reserve the room, we need to give the time. Jamie set the time of the Annual Meeting as beginning at 10:00am and lasting for 3 hours. We will arrive in State College on July 31st and meet with members from the local group, Golden Wheel, with the Annual Business Meeting being held in the morning of August 1st. In 2022 hopefully things will return to normal and large public events will be possible.

New Business

Search for new ways to grow Membership

The festivals accompanying the Annual Meeting are still a good idea and should continue. People are wanting to do live events and are willing to pay. We need to line up good support to make large events work. This means full participation by HRLC members, not just officers. Establishing relationships with local people around the festival is important too. We should have a HRLC members-only gathering separate from the large festival, a chance to socialize and catch up with members’ activities. We might consider building a Tik Tok presence. Such a popular social media site would get HRLC some attention and possible inquiries about membership. This is one of many ways that HRLC must increase social connections. Local member coven to host HRLC sponsored events in their region, such as Grove of Gaia Fest, which will be held this year in October, due to ongoing changes in the state reopening after Covid-19 closures.

Members’ discussion, news and announcements

Jamie asked for prayers and healing energies for Michael who has an injured leg.

Lady Annabelle happily announced that her daughter is now married.

Aurie G. will be celebrating her 40th wedding anniversary

Date for next meeting & HRLC Annual Meeting: August 1, 2021 @10am, in person meeting at State College, PA

Meeting ended at 8:30pm

Submitted by Faunina del Bosco



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Ostara 2021 edition.



ORANGE COUNTY

~May 13, 2021~

Invocation: Rev. Dee opened the meeting with the invocation.

Roll Call:

Covens/Solitaries:

- * Bran Faol Reannag (BFR) – represented by Janine
- * Celtic Circle of Wisdom – represented by Mary and Lilith
- * Dream Walkers of Delos – represented by Ravenhawk (not present)
- * Ghostwheel – represented by Morgana RavenTree
- * Greenwood Glen – represented by Pam and Camille (both not present)
- * Rev. Dee – Solitary

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April meeting were reviewed.

Officer Reports:

First Officer – Pam: Nothing to report.

Second Officer – Camille: See PIO information below.

Membership Officer - (Pam Acting): No report.

Pursewarden – Mary: Our bank account has a balance of \$4,764.94. We have \$95.00 in petty cash and our Paypal account has a balance of \$315.59 for a total of \$5,175.53.

Public Information Officer – Ravenhawk not present. Camille provided the following updated information regarding Facebook:

- Page likes, 2294
- New page likes 7
- Page Reach- 2049
- Page Views- 5794
- New followers 7
- Post reach 2044
- Post engagement 497

Posts with the most engagement:

"A site for remembrance" - Reach 310, Engagements 83

" We love a good Circle" - Reach 275, Engagements 59

" Scottish Warrior Poet" - Reach 189, Engagements 45

Recorder – Morgana: Morgana sent the March minutes to the Newsletter for the Beltane or Litha issue. April minutes will be sent to newsletter once approved by local council.

Governing Board Representative

Report: Representative – Janine: 1) members feeling disconnected; Forums not useful, so Lord V suggested member come to WWW or the public WWW; give them a chance to connect with other wiccans and witches; Soladrin suggested another day, like a Sunday tea, 2) Janine submitted a report about OCLC activities, like the workshops, Psychic Faire and some membership challenges, 3) Deborah Bender asked which committees should fall under Governing Board; only committee they were talking about was the Path committee; Janine did not bring up M&O committee; 4) comment on website that it's hard to find membership information; will look into greater transparency to find things, 5) Manny will propose that all local PWs start using the online version of Quickbooks, so all finances can be synced, and bringing in a bookkeeper, 6) talked about National Officers who are terming out, asked that all LCs reach out to local constituencies, will be sending mailchimp about the available positions before GC, 7) PWR stipends, let Manny know if you are interested, wants to buy block, 8) Thea appointed co-NMO; anyone who renewed recently should send copies to Thea, 9) Phyllis Curott might be interested in rejoining COG, 10) person contacted OCLC about starting a new local council in LA (Lady Mariah). Next Gen Summit has moved to 10/16.

Old Business:

MerryMeet in 2021: From April: Janine's proposal to have a "COG-tail" party on Friday August 13th, the night before the opening of virtual Grand Council. Party will be hosted by OCLC and held via Zoom. Proposed hours 4:00pm PDT to 9:00pm PDT to accommodate East and West Coast attendees.

Suggestions for activities include a raffle. Suggested prizes are ordering something shipped directly from Amazon to the winner(s), or the prizes could be virtual. Mary suggested having a drawing for each time zone (require them to be present to win) and not charging for raffle "tickets". Post drawing times in advance. At this time, no other local council have definitive plans to host MerryMeet 2022.

Psychic Faire: Virtual Psychic Faire – June 5th & 6th

Does Ravenhawk have all the bios, etc. he needs?

Need to promote Roxanna's tamales (photos would help)

Zoom workshops: The schedule for the upcoming workshops is:

Thursday May 20th 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Magic in the Mundane with Mary

Wednesday July 28th 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Magical Salts with Janine



Wednesday September 29th 7:00pm – 9:00pm Witch’s Pantry with Lilith

Thursday November 18th 7:00pm – 9:00pm Mojo Bags with Rev. Dee

Feedback re. workshops?

New Business:

Meeting Adjourned: There being no further business Rev. Dee gave the closing blessing and the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting: Thursday June 10th 7:00pm



~June 10, 2021~

Invocation: Lilith opened the meeting with the invocation.

Roll Call:

Covens/Solitaries:

- 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 RavenTree
- Greenwood Glen – represented by Pam and Camille
- Rev. Dee – Solitary

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of May meeting approved

Officer Reports:

First Officer – Pam: no report.

Second Officer – Camille:

FB Report for June:

Post Reach 2,071 up 1%

post Engagements 765 up 54%

New Page Likes 12 up 5%

New Followers 12

Page button Clicks 1

Membership Officer - (Pam Acting): Pam work with Rev. Dee on the transfer of status from solitary to coven (Lyceum of Aset Hauhet)

Pursewarden – Mary: We have \$95.00 in our petty cash and our PayPal account received \$85.25 for May’s Virtual Class “Magick in the Mundane” for a balance of \$400.87; totaling \$4,830.03

Public Information Officer – no report

Recorder – Morgana: Morgana sent the March and April minutes to the Newsletter. May minutes will be sent to newsletter once approved by local council

Governing Board Representative

Report: Janine summarized the recent National Executive Board meeting.

Old Business:

MerryMeet in 2021: “COG-tail” party on Friday August 13th, the night before the opening of virtual Grand Council. Party will be hosted by OCLC and held via Zoom:

Need to set hours so National can promote event: proposed hours 5:00pm PDT to 9:00pm PDT to accommodate East and West Coast attendees

At May meeting, someone at the National meeting (it might have been me) suggested a hat/tiara party (it’s difficult to dress up for a Zoom meeting, but we can encourage people to wear their favorite hat or tiara)

Raffle: Suggested prizes are ordering something shipped directly from Amazon to the winner(s), or the prizes could be virtual. Mary previously suggested having a drawing for each time zone (require them to be present to win) and not charging for raffle “tickets”. Post drawing times in advance

Zoom workshops: The schedule for the upcoming workshops is:

Wednesday July 28th 7:00pm – 9:00pm Magical Salts with Janine

Wednesday September 29th 7:00pm – 9:00pm Witch’s Pantry with Lilith

Thursday November 18th 7:00pm – 9:00pm Gris Gris/Mojo Bags with Rev. Dee

New Business:

If anyone plans to submit proposals for bylaw or policy amendments, it will have to be published in the newsletter. Litha deadline is June 20th, Lughnasadh deadline is July 21st

Meeting Adjourned: There being no further business Lilith gave the closing blessing and the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting: Thursday, July 8th 7:00pm

~July 8, 2021~

Invocation: Morgana opened the meeting with the invocation.

Roll Call:

Covens/Solitaries:

- 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 RavenTree
- Greenwood Glen – represented by Pam and Camille



- Rev. Dee – Solitary

Approval of Minutes: pending.

Officer Reports:

First Officer – Pam: no report.

Second Officer – Camille:

Facebook Numbers for Covenant of the Goddess Orange County Local Council From June 9th to July 6th

Post Reach 2,609, up 56%

Post Engagement 561, down 19%

New Page Likes 9, down 25%

Posts

50 Posts Published in the last 28 days

Most Engaging Posts

Common Spirit Signs Reach 568, Engagements 56

How to Enchant an Object Reach 41, Engagements 52

Pagan Pride Day Reach 53, Engagements 40

Membership Officer - (Pam Acting): no report. Janine and Morgana reported that National Membership will post the membership application from the Iseum of Aset Hauhet in the next newsletter

Pursewarden – Mary: Our bank account has a balance of \$4,334.16. We have \$95.00 in petty cash and our Paypal account has a balance of 400.87 for a total of \$4830.03

Public Information Officer – Ravenhawk will meet with Mary Saturday, July 10th regarding Wordpress instruction

Recorder – Morgana: Morgana sent the May minutes to the Newsletter. June minutes pending

Governing Board Representative Report – Janine: there will be a combined Board meeting next weekend

Old Business:

OCLC Second Officer was going to talk to PIO about getting the logins and passwords to Zoom, Wordpress, etc. so a backup is available in case PIO isn't

MerryMeet in 2021: "COG-tail" party on Friday August 13th, the night before the opening of virtual Grand Council. Party will be hosted by OCLC and held via Zoom:

Room will open at 5:00pm PDT and remain open until 9:00pm PDT (or possibly later) to accommodate East and West Coast attendees.

Announcement was sent to National Board List and Newsletter; Janine posted FYI to Member Forums, but we need to set up a Zoom link

Raffle: Suggested prizes are readings donated by Mary, Lilith and Dee and 3 \$25 Amazon gift cards (codes). Raffle drawings will be held at 5:30, 6:30, & 7:45 PDT to accommodate different time zones. Winners must be in Zoom room at the time of the drawings to win.

M will prepare a schedule of events for the party and post it to the Member Forums

5 – Ravenhawk (admitting) and Janine (greeter) (5:30pm drawing for Mary's reading)

6 – Morgana (admitting) and Dee (greeter) (6:30pm drawing for Dee's reading)

7 – Lilith (admitting) and Camille (greeter) (7:45pm drawing for Lilith's reading)

8 – Mary (greeter) and Janine (admitting) – if there are any late arrivals or people want to continue conversation

Zoom workshops:

Wednesday July 28th 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Magical Salts with Janine –Janine has made three attempts to present this class, but will now drop this class due to issues with sign-ups

The schedule for the upcoming workshops is:

Wednesday September 29th 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Witch's Pantry with Lilith

Thursday November 18th 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Gris Gris/Mojo Bags with Rev. Dee

New Business:

Proposals: If anyone plans to submit proposals for bylaw or policy amendments, it will have to be published in the newsletter. Lughnasadh deadline is July 15st

First Officer reports also due 7/15

Meeting Adjourned: There being no further business Morgana gave the closing blessing and the meeting was adjourned.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ July 28, 2021~

Time: Tom called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Covens Attending:

Ashesh Hekat -- Doug; Paula

The Circle of The Dragon and the Phoenix -- Tom; Monica

Dragon's Weyr Circle -- Lisa; Stone; Jenna; Gabriel

OFFICERS REPORTS

First Officer: Tom wrote and sent off the First Officer's Report to Grand Council. We are



having internet issues at our house tonight. He was going to share the report onscreen but will send it to everyone via email instead. Tom would like to personally thank every member who attended tonight's meeting for their patience and graciousness in light of the frequent connection interruptions experienced during this Zoom meeting.

Membership: Doug asked Gabriel if he would be sending in his application.

Discussion of ongoing membership issue. Conclusion was reached. Doug will write to the applicant to inform.

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

The Council gave Monica permission to purchase a small amount of office supplies in order to reactivate the checking account, but she didn't do it. Instead she made a personal donation to the Council that had the same effect. Other than that there was no financial activity.

PIO/Correspondence: Lisa monitors the Facebook page but hasn't been posting often. We have an Instagram account but there's not much to put on it. At the previous meeting Lisa asked who the *sclc@cog.org* email address gets directed to. If it hasn't been done already, Lisa should contact the national Netco to get herself made the focal point of that email address.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Paula discussed the work she has been doing on the Survey Committee. Following feedback from the Governing Board, the Committee decided to create several short surveys rather than one long one. The first survey concerns chaplaincy. Paula and Monica would like to work on Wildlife and Wild Lands as the next survey topic.

Stone is leader of a group at the Naval base where she works. Jenna does hospital chaplaincy.

Lisa is going to send Monica her coven members' email addresses so that they can be invited to Local Council things.

NEW BUSINESS

Report of the Governing Board Rep: Lady Mariah has been selected to be the Speaker for the Governing Board. She shared some of what has been going on in GB meetings. We will soon be implementing an email communication system similar to the old AIR and DD boards that we used to use. Groups.IO will be the platform and people need do nothing; the national Tech Committee will take care of adding everyone to the appropriate

email lists. We expect that the forums will remain in place but will continue to be under-utilized.

Many new issues have been introduced by the Governing Board since Grand Council. Lady Mariah needs to follow up on the issue Lisa introduced at our last LC meeting, that being why the Local Council Membership Officer needs to sign the application for a new credential holder.

Tom moved forward to setting a date for the next meeting. We will be dealing with Variances and Officer Elections. The date chosen is Wednesday, September 22nd at 7 p.m. Lisa will set up the Zoom meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

End of Minutes



TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL

~ September 12, 2021 ~

X = Present, P = Proxy, A = Absent.
Z = Zoom

Covens			
X	Circle of Danu – Bonnie and Jason	P	Circle of the Star – Kara holds proxy
A	Circle of Shadow and Light –	X	Circle of the Unicorn – Christal Bloomer
P	Circle of the Blood Moon – Gaelen holds proxy	X	Coven Firemoon – Bastion, Amarok, Kara
Z	Circle of the Moon and Sun – Ruby, Dragan, Rowan	X	Coven of Diana's Moon – Liz & Kelly
X	Circle of the Serpent – Gaelen, Guinevere, Lopsi	Z	Tree of Knowledge Coven – Faelind
Solitaires			
A	Anastasia – 2/2	Dallas, TX	
X	Breila - 5/1	Addison, TX	
Z	Keala - 5/1	Hurst, TX	
Z	Q'est - 12/21	Dallas, TX	

Guests

Circle of the Ancient Mother- Essynce Jander
Invocation to Coventina by Gaelen



Quorum determined by Recorder

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

Ruby has determined that Quorum has been reached

Call for additions to the agenda and nominees

Gaelen made a call to see if there were additions to the agenda or any new nominees for officer positions. There were none.

Officer Reports

First Officer: Gaelen - we've had a strange, yet productive year. Thanks to all who have stepped in to help in the various places TxCoG activities have needed support! We've done a lot to support our online and now our local community. Today, we will be doing officer voting in New Business and at the next meeting, we will do committee leads.

Pursewarden: Micheal L.

Online class donations since last meeting are \$396

Cash : \$50.00

Bank : \$2,379.49

PayPal : \$1,588.15

CashApp : \$98

Total Funds : \$4,115.64

Public Information Officers:

Kenny and Dusty are no longer members of Circle of the Serpent and have resigned their

positions as TxCoG PIOs. Kara stepped in to help these past couple of weeks and has been doing a great job getting classes and discussions posted. Our current audience data for On Twitter, we have 495 followers. On Facebook and Instagram our data is as follows:

Ruby mentioned that there needs to be at least two reposts for any upcoming events; one at least the day before the event and one the day of. Gaelen agreed and will get with Kara to review post schedules and procedures.

Membership Officer: Dragan

Upcoming Renewals;

Dragan has touched base with Willow McKenna, Circle of Shadow and Light, about upcoming renewals. Willow McKenna will not be renewing membership.

Dragan has not heard from Bonnie, Circle of Danu, regarding renewal but will touch base again to confirm renewal.

Gaelen mentioned that there are several covens up for renewal before we next meet in January, and Dragan said he will check in with them to make sure that they get their renewal information in.

Recorder: Ruby

Newsletter deadlines for the remainder of the year are:

Mabon ~ September 12, 2021 - Ruby reiterated that the minutes for the Mabon meeting are due the day of the meeting and requested that everyone review the notes and get corrections or additions in as quickly as possible so that the email can be sent for the national newsletter as quickly as possible.

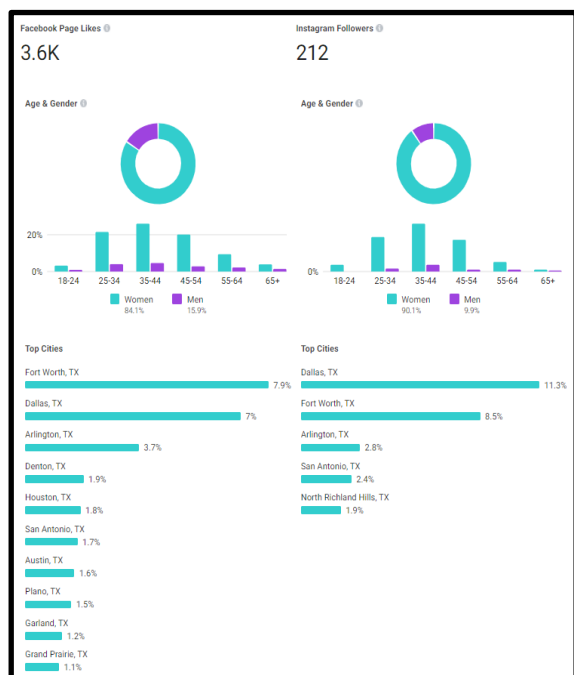
Samhain ~ October 21, 2021

Pagan 101 Classes Online: Faelind, Ruby & Gaelen

Ruby and Gaelen have split leading the online classes. Ruby runs online classes for the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and Gaelen runs online classes for the 4th Wednesday of the month. Attendance is typically between 12-40 people per class depending on the topic. There was a total of 19 in attendance of the most recent class. Reach for classes is still reaching beyond Texas with a few regulars coming in from other states. Teachers will be needed for the online class cycle as of January. Gaelen is looking for someone to take over running online classes to take pressure off herself and Ruby, since they are both busy in so many other areas of TxCoG.

Pagan 101 Classes in Arlington: Ruby

Classes started back up in person in August on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. We have had a total of three classes. Attendance is low, with two new





people at two out of the three classes. Most of the classes into next year have teachers. Two teachers are still needed for two of the spots. Ruby will be reaching out to find interested teachers before the classes come up. She thanked those that have stepped up to teach thus far. The classes needing teachers are Folk Magic for March 24th, 2022, and The Fae for November 10th, 2022.

Pagan 101 Classes in North Dallas: Gaelen (standing in for Breila & Kara)

I met with the rep from the Center for Spiritual Living and toured the place. She was great. Breila and Kara have agreed to facilitate the classes. Kara taught the first class this past Tuesday on What is Paganism? She had 10 people in attendance and did a great job. These classes will continue the first and third Tuesdays each month, here in the Stem Room at CSLDallas. Kara has been working on getting teachers for the classes. She may be reaching out again if there are still opportunities for teachers.

Gaelen mentioned that CSL Dallas is excited to host us. There are safety precautions already in place at the center, but we have further established precautions by using wrist bands with coordinating colors to determine level of comfortability in the space as well as a chart displaying the colors, masks, and hand sanitizer. The CoG established precautions will be implemented in the Arlington classes as well as at other public events hosted by CoG. Gaelen also mentioned that CSL Dallas does not require the room to completely be reset at the end of each class, which is a great burden off the teachers and facilitators of the Dallas classes.

Online Discussion Group: Ruby & Gaelen

From Gaelen: These don't seem to be needed as often now, given how much has opened back up, so they have been moved to the first Wednesday of each month. Ruby has been great the last few months stepping in and helping. It has been noticed that attendance to the discussions has greatly diminished and we will reevaluate at a later time to see if they are still needed.

Webweaver: Faelind & Gaelen

From Gaelen:

The website was transferred from Debi's widower, Josh, and is now up and running. The plan from here is to transfer it to the PIO or at least give that person access to update classes and add class descriptions and bios.

Faelind also noted that the older website is completely gone. The work that Debi did was complimented by those in attendance. Kara requested any old flyers and other information from Faelind that she still has that might help Kara with PIO duties.

Sabbats: Gaelen

Summer Solstice: Circle of the Serpent - online

Lammas: Circle of Shadow and Light was unable to do the Lammas online. I discovered this too late and with the passing of Debi and subsequent memorial services, I was unable to complete a new online Lammas ritual; however, the one from last year is still up and has over 1.1K views.

Autumn Equinox, September 19th: Circle of the Moon and Sun - Will be done at the Arlington UU, 2001 California Lane, Arlington. Gathering in is at 2:30 pm and ritual at 3 pm. We can be on site by 1:30 pm but not before due to the church's Sunday Services. We plan to continue at this location barring another lockdown. Masks, wristbands, and hand sanitizer will be available at registration. We also have a new vendor for this event: Moon Magick Spellery. If you know of anyone else who would like to vend, send them our way. We have 1 vendor for the sabbat. Ruby expressed concern about the size of the outdoor space for ritual not being big enough. Gaelen said that we can look over the space before ritual to confirm that it is big enough. Essynce asked about whether we would still be having a feast after ritual as well as a raffle. Bastion suggested skipping feast, but still provide water for the public. Essynce agreed to pick up water for those in attendance. We will still host a raffle. Bastion said she thinks that she still has items left over from previous raffles. Essynce will stop by the store to see if there is anything that might be good for the raffle. Dragan mentioned that since parking in front of the church is extremely limited, it should be reserved for walking wounded and that everyone else park at either at the park or the school across the street. It was noted that that information would be provided in the public event on Facebook.

Samhain, October 31st: Circle of Danu - Gaelen recommended we cancel this year's carnival as children are still not able to be vaccinated. It was agreed that the carnival will be cancelled for this year. Guinevere suggested that as an alternative, providing goody bags for kids. It was asked if we expected the same turn out as past years. It was noted that we will probably not see the same turn out due to the pandemic still being a major concern. Gaelen stated that everything after Mabon is subject to cancellation due to concerns of the pandemic.

Winter Solstice, December 19th: Do the solitaires still wish to put something on? If not, does another group wish to take it on? Bastion agreed to tentatively taking Yule if Solitaires don't have the means to performing the ritual.

Moon School - Guinevere

The virtual moon school Sabbat series is completed. There are a few of the books and videos that are receiving mild updates in terms of



formatting for consistency, and these will be posted shortly before the Sabbat.

Our first in-person moon school in over 1½ years is scheduled to be held at the public Mabon ritual from 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm prior to the main ritual at the Arlington UU church. In addition to the shortened time of 30 where previously we were at 1 hour for this programming, I have planned for social distancing and maximum safety for our first in-person children's programming of 2021.

Guinevere will be offering printed copies of the Moon School books. She has also ordered large vinyl circles to help ease social distancing for the children. She also noted that the virtual projects for the Moon School sabbats are almost completed. Guinevere as also written an article for National about Moon School, and she wants to make sure that what is put out will be the best quality.

2022 Sabbats: Here are the dates. Please sign up! (posted to egroup in June)

January 30 - Imbolc

March 20 - Spring Equinox - Circle of the Serpent

May 1 - Beltane

June 18 - Saturday evening @ 5 pm. Rites at 5:30 pm - Summer Solstice

July 30 - Saturday evening @ 5 pm. Rites at 5:30 pm - Lammas

September 18 - Autumn Equinox- Bastion has volunteered Coven Firemoon to take the ritual for 2022

October 30 - Samhain Carnival & Rites

December 18 - Winter Solstice

Governing Board Liaison:
Orin/Guinevere (as alternate)

Orin was unable to attend the last GB meeting and Guinevere offered to sit in as alternate as Willow has stepped away from the position.

From Guinevere: The COG Governing Board met on 8/29

Thea Bristlebroom presented to the Governing board on behalf of the Groups-io committee. Groups-io has now gone live and has replaced the old forums. This system works very similarly to yahoo groups.

For those looking for help in learning how to navigate this new system, there are 2 Online COG events scheduled dedicated to a guided overview of Groups.io and giving Members and Friends of CoG an opportunity to get answers to specific questions.

Wednesday with Witches on Sep 15, 2021, 05:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZEsc-CpqTIpHdakPdvuu91BN2zKVHI3ysLL>

Sunday Salon on Sep 26, 2021, 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZ0rcO2urz8sGdQXcetSPdYzQD4b8xaM-JWM>

The format of the COG newsletter is changing. The newsletter will now first feature a message from Lord V, then any reports from Governing Board reps, and GB min before that of the National Officers. Lord Soec is also requesting GB Reps to submit tidbits on what their LC's or constituencies are doing that could be used in the newsletter in addition to the Minutes of the LC Meetings and Annual Reports that go to the Grand Council. Please note for anyone wishing to submit an article to the COG newsletter the deadline is 10 day prior to the Sabbat.

A great amount of old business was addressed including following:

Deborah provided a verbal Military Liaison Committee report – The Committee has been gathering information and has not developed recommendations yet. Lauren Testa provided the committee with two written reports regarding other organizations that have strong military outreach, Circle Sanctuary, a pan-pagan organization, and Sacred Well Congregation, a Wiccan organization. There is interest within the Committee in developing a Chaplaincy program or support. full details can be found in the attached minutes

Lady Mariah intends to poll the membership to identify people who might want to become active and to identify those active in their local communities with the internet to be able to connect people to each other for support and resources.

Parliament of the World's Religions will hold a virtual parliament October 17-18,2021. This year's registration fees will be minimal The GB will offer up to \$35 per CoG member up to a total of \$500, in reimbursement for those in need of this help to be able to attend if they register before the August 31 deadline. Lord V sent out the second and last notice of this assistance via mail chimp.

Plans for Merry Meet are moving forward, however, the topic was tabled as Grace Moonhawk was not present to provide a report.

Additions to the Agenda included:

The topic of creating marked emails for GB reps - similar to the ones TXCOG has for their officers was brought up but was tabled to be readdressed at the next meeting.

There was a brief discussion about the number of meetings of the Governing board and National officers, this was quickly tabled as no



change in this schedule can be made without a change to the bylaws.

A brief discussion was had regarding policy on visitors to the GB meetings, and the consensus was that we need clarity from a legal standpoint to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

The concept of volunteer rotation for GB Reps and Alternates to commit to attend the public online events was had, to make sure the GB is represented and available for engagement with the membership at large, and the visitors to these events. IE -Wednesday with Witches and Sunday Salons

A few Members of the Bylaws Review Committee would like to research the history of 'As Above, So Below' – in regard to the notion of whether Local Councils should be structured like the National level. The Committee members will meet to compare prior Bylaws and determine if proposals are necessary.

A productive discussion on Succession Planning was had in regard to grooming interested members to train for those roles as well as to enable the GB to engage with the next generation and encourage those interested in taking leadership roles.

Lady Mariah plans to review last year's goals for report and discussion at the next meeting.

Bonnie Mote of TXCOG will officially begin her role as CO Record begging October 31st.

Old Business

Witches Ball - Due to the severe # of Delta cases, the recommendation is to cancel, and money paid to the church moved to a spring event next year or Witches Ball 2022. We agreed that Witches Ball must be cancelled for this year due to concerns of the pandemic. A roll over for Witches Ball 2022 and hosting a Fairy Ball in the spring of 2022 was suggested. Bastion noted that she didn't see the reason we can't do both a Fairy Ball and Witches Ball.

Grand Council- Faelind says that it went much smoother over two days. She said that there was a proposal to alternate hosting fully virtual or in person. Guinevere has stepped up to take the primary position of the Governing Board Liaison as our Texas rep and Orin will hold the alternate position.

New Business

Current Nominations

First Officer: Gaelen

Recorder: Rowan

Membership: Dragan

Pursewarden: Micheal

PIO: Kara

Voting- Faelind formally proposed that we accept the slate of officers. Bastion seconded. Called for vote. Unanimous votes for 'aye.' Motion carried. Slate officer nominations accepted.

Gaelen made a motion to take \$40 from treasury to invest in lifetime access to a stock image site to help with advertisements and other uses. Christal seconded. Called for vote. Unanimous votes for 'aye.' Motion carried.

Gaelen proposed that we keep Local CoG meetings in person in Dallas as well as provide online options for attendance for those that wish to attend virtually. We all agreed to this. Jander offered to assist with local tech to help those attending virtually hear and participate in the meeting.

Gaelen thanks Coventina. Adjourned at 12:14p.m.



TOUCHSTONE

~ August 2, 2021 ~

In attendance:

- Ecclasian Fellowship: Jack & Stachia and Val
- Circle of the Emerald Forest: Joanne
- Circle of the Obsidian Oak: Chad and Lari
- Quorum – Yes

Announcements:

Ecclasian Fellowship: Getting ready for Grand Council and will represent Touchstone

Circle of the Obsidian Oak: Online classes continue to be a success; we are still learning and currently have 4 students.

Circle of the Emerald Forest: Celebrated Lammas.

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Val): I'm proud to say that we've had our 3rd physical meeting and we're still working on finding a new place to hold our meetings.

2nd Officer: (Lari) No report.

Membership Officer (Joanne): No new membership yet.

PIO (Chad): Not report.

Pursewarden (Jack): Status quo, so no change.

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

Governing Board Rep (Jack): Basically, the Governing Board is just gearing up for Grand Council.



Old Business:

Merry Meet will be virtual, this year, and Jack & Stachia will attend Grand Council to represent the Touchstone Local Council.

New Business:

Teaching online classes are in progress for Obsidian Oak, and are pending regarding new TLC applicants.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 13th, 2021

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND CoG

WITCH'S PANTRY

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 7-9 PM PST

Beyond herbs and spices, discover the magic hiding in your pantry. What is in your pantry? Can you use those staple items in your daily magical practice? Yes, you can! Beyond herbs and spice, join us while we explore the magic hiding in your pantry. This class is recommended for everyone, from those just starting their magical paths to those who have been walking their paths much longer.

<https://oclc-cog.org/workshops-and-classes/witchs-pantry-with-lilith-september-29th-2021>

WEDNESDAY WITH WITCHES



Wednesday, Oct 6 and Oct 20th 5:30 PM PST

Come and join us for Wednesday with Witches! We meet on the first Wednesday of the month for the public and every third Wednesday for CoG members only. BYOB (bring your own brew) and snacks and join us for a spell!

Topics are announced on the CoG calendar

- <https://cog.org/whats-happening-around-cog>
- <https://members.cog.org/cog-calendar/>

THIS COMING MONTH IN ASTROLOGY: SCORPIO INGRESS

Friday, Oct. 8, 2021 7-9 MT

Join Moonbeam Mage for another in a series of monthly discussions on what awaits us astrologically. For this session, she will explore the Sun entering Scorpio. In uncertain times, the better we understand the energies of our cosmos, the more easily we can navigate the immediate future.

FREE to sustaining members of Ardantane. Others will need to register below. The fee is \$10. Registration for this class closes on Thursday, October 7 at 5pm.

<https://www.ardantane.org/event/the-coming-month-in-astrology-scorpio-ingress/>

ONLINE PAGAN 101 CLASSES

<i>Men in Wicca</i>	Oct. 13, 2021
<i>Sympathetic Magic</i>	Oct. 27, 2021
<i>Animal Guides</i>	Nov. 10, 2021
<i>Geomancy</i>	Dec. 8, 2021

Texas Local Council presents a wide variety of Pagan Classes for the public. Our teachers primarily come from several different traditions among the many member covens and individuals in our Local Council and provide a new perspective on Pagan teachings so even long-time practitioners can learn something new!

CRAFTING GRIS GRIS/MOJO BAGS

Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021 7-9 PM PST

Join Rev. Dee in crafting your own Gris Gris for protection, luck, love, or money! Learn the history of this essential element of any New Orleans-style practice and create one for yourself. Understand the essential herbal, magickal, and spiritual point of view of this practice of New Orleans Voodoo practitioners, Cajun healers, and Hoodoo root doctors.

<https://oclc-cog.org/workshops-and-classes/gris-gris-mojo-bags-with-rev-dee-november-18th-2021>





SERVING OUR YOUNG WICCANS

By Guinevere Penn
Committee Chair for Children's Programs
Texas Local Council - COG

A large part of the mission of COG is to provide education and outreach to nurture its members and community. Young families and their children make up a greater percentage of our Wiccan communities than many may realize. The number of children that are being raised in our faith grows each day. When we, as a national organization and as local councils, provide quality engagement opportunities for the children and young families in our community, not only do we uphold an important part of our mission, we are also helping to grow and shape the next generation of COG. Youth outreach, in addition to providing a safe place for young Wiccans and their families to openly share their faith, also provides a much-needed opportunity for them to be able to connect with others who have similar world views.

With these goals in mind, the Texas local council reformatted its children's programming and began hosting a structured Moon School at each of the public rituals starting at Ostara in 2019. For the hour before the public ritual, children were welcomed to join us in chants, stories, games, and crafts which were designed to help the children connect with and enjoy the Sabbat we were celebrating that day. Our local community responded in a very positive way and the new program quickly grew in popularity with young families in our area. Attendance typically ranged all the way from young toddlers to older elementary-aged students. Although we welcome all ages, we do ask that the guardians of children under 5 stay with us and join in the fun.

When the Covid 19 outbreak hit, both the national organization and our local councils had to rethink how to meet the needs of our community and members at a time when outreach and connection were even more in demand than before. The needs of our communities hadn't changed, but the way we had to approach addressing these needs had. While in-person moon school was not an option, we released a short video, an activity book for elementary-aged children, and a resource book for families of toddlers and preschoolers for each Sabbat. The reach that this virtual program achieved all across the country and the globe clearly highlights the need that exists among the young families in our communities.

While Moon School has worked well for the Texas Local Council, it is not by any means the only way for local councils to reach out to the children and young families in their community. Each local council has different needs and different opportunities to connect in a meaningful way that

works for them and the young families in their community. Engaging with the young families in your membership also brings so much energy into your local council. Young children have their own special magic. They see the joy, possibility, and wonder in many simple blessings that we, as adults, can often take for granted. When it comes to outreach tailored to meet the needs of young families and children in your community, the options are endless. It can be either formal or informal, a regular meetup, or a one-time event, big or small, for toddlers or older children.

Our goal as a local council is to be able to return to in-person programming for children and young families this fall, however regardless of what may come we are committed to continuing to serve the young families in our community in the safest way possible.

You can check out the TXCOG virtual Moon School series on either Facebook or Youtube, and local councils are welcome to share our posts on their social media pages.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/244840952207079/618200225567348>

BLAST FROM THE PAST

COMMENTARY FROM JUDY HARROW

Vol 7, No 7

Mabon 1982

By Judy Harrow

Years ago, I was political, a Movement Person. I got my ticket punched in swampy Mississippi, snowy New Hampshire, and all the right points in between. Sometime in 1972, all that changed - the death of an old leader, the birth of a new relationship, satiation, disillusionment, new interests. I began to see politics as an activity that could bring only limited and superficial change, and I turned within. At first, I focused on the family, and eventually became East Coast coordinator for a self-help organization for alternative families. That led to graduate school, intended to prepare me for family counseling, and grad school led to a more internal and individual focus. My interest in family alternatives, my interest in personal growth, and a whole lot more, led me to the craft. Still, I think I've always partly felt that there was a commitment to social change left hanging. And a part of me, bred in the bones, feels that a religion that bears no fruit in the realm of human behavior, both individual and societal, is a sterile and a dead thing.

A decade has passed, some sort of cycle has turned, and I watch myself moving back into



politics, carrying all my new insights and values with me.

A Pagan political platform. What would that be? Insofar as we are polytheists, it would probably be very different for different people. I can tell you some of what mine is becoming, not as a prescription, but as a springboard to your own thinking and discussion. First, and always, it is the love and defense of Mother Earth through support of the strongest and most intelligent ecological laws possible, and their enforcement. Second, it is insistence on gender equality and on freedom from the old, narrowly stereotyped gender roles, which means working for adequate day care, ERA, etc. Third, it is opposition to punishing people for any behavior that "harms none," the "victimless crimes." And, finally, it is resistance to all attempts, such as creationism, to impose any one form of religion on all of society – in conscience, because I am a polytheist, and in self-interest, because the religion imposed would surely not be my own.

Our radio program has provided me with one way to act out these commitments. For example, when ABC-TV recently reran their slander on the craft. Midnight Offerings, instead of writing them a letter or protest as an individual viewer, I sent them a copy of a bitter review that had been broadcast. Examinations of gender role stereotyping and of all kinds of prohibitions have also been ongoing themes on the show, which is now about nine months old.

Just recently, my coven and I have also begun to participate as Pagans in street demonstrations. and that new development is what I mostly wanted to share with COG right now.

On June 12, as probably the whole world knows, there was a massive demonstration for disarmament here in New York. Our decision to march as Pagans, among the religious groups, was made almost non-verbally, and at the last minute. We carried our broom, and a pentacle made from cardboard and foil, because we hadn't planned ahead enough to buy posterboard, but we were there.

The day before the march, I attended the interfaith religious convocation with Michael Harismides, the HP of Kathexis Anthropos Coven. Michael had called the interfaith coalition about a week in advance, to ask whether any Pagans would be on the program. Incredibly, there was - a Hopi shaman! Western European Pagans were not represented, but we have been keeping our presence pretty quiet. I don't think we can expect others to know of our existence well enough to reach out to us.

On the march itself, we were joined by my partner, Fred Ruhn, and our house guest, Eric Raymond, the HP of Horizon Grove in Philadelphia. We took our place among the religious contingent,

behind the Franciscan Brothers and ahead of the American Friends Service Committee. For me, this was a separate and very important statement. Probably, most of us would have marched anyhow, but marching where we did amounted to claiming our right, and accepting our responsibility, to speak as religious leaders in defense of the Mother.

What we did felt very right to us, so when the Gay Pride March took place, two weeks later, our participation was not nearly as spontaneous, and was much more organized. For example, Proteus had a preparatory ritual (and sign making workshop) the night before. We invited ourselves to march along with Bruce Renyon, the HP of Sys Arlodhes Coven, who has been a Pagan presence in the marches for years. Bruce's huge, blue glitter sign read "Gay Pagans unite; you have nothing to lose but your virtue," while my own read "All acts of love and pleasure are Her rituals."

Eight of us met at the starting point, from Proteus, Sys Arlodhes, and Kathexis Anthropos. Again, we marched with the religious groups. As long as the march was in Greenwich Village, there were spectators. The spectators recognized us, and showered us with cheers and love. People came out of the crowd to march with us, we had no idea how many.

Each religious sub-group was doing a small demonstration in front of the reviewing stand, which was on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral. We formed a Circle - amazed to discover ourselves to be 35 people by then - and Bruce led us in spelling out G-A-Y P-A-G-A-N-S. Then we marched off, chanting "Isis, Astarte... to a surprising round of cheers and applause from the members of Dignity massed on the Cathedral steps.

On both parades, as on the radio show, we have found that, whenever we choose to make ourselves visible, people will approach us - looking for more information, a reading list, a group to work with. The hunger is out there - frustratingly far beyond our ability to feed.

And, yes, there was also a little bit of hostile response. But mostly what we found was a kind of friendly curiosity and acceptance. My own prejudices had me some-what uncomfortable about marching so close to the monks, but one of the Franciscan Brothers gave me a hug and kiss at the end of the peace march.

For me, all of this is a reaching for a newer integration, a picking up of some pretty big parts of myself that I once left behind. The 25 year- old activist and the 37 year old mystic are getting reacquainted and their sisterhood feels very good.