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 MABON

Mabon renewals are due on September 21, 2023. The Drop-dead date is September 31, 2023, 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).

EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:
- Albion’s Spirit
- Ceos
- Martha Kirby Capo
- Pantera Apolonoaris Draconis
- Raven

HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL:
- Coven Leita Visindi

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:
- Cary the Faerie
- Coven Trismegiston
- Daduchos Coven
- Darkmoon Circle
- Deborah Bender
- Lady Bhride
- M Macha NightMare
- Marilee Bigelow
- Moonwater SilverClaw
- Owl Moon
- Rita Rippertoe
- Waxing Moon Circle
- William Baldwin

ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:
- Wanderer’s Way

TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:
- Circle of Danu
- Circle of the Ancient Mother
- Jander Zen

TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL:
- Circle of the Emerald Forest
- Circle of the Obsidian Oak

NATIONAL COVENS:
- Circle of the Ancient Grove
- Dragonstar Rising
- Greenheart Grove
- MoonFire Coven
- Silver Serpent Coven

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:
- Banshee Shadowwolf
- Brigid Lutrasong
- Felicity Grove
- Inanna Arthen
- Jennifer Branton
- Oberon Osiris

FRIENDS OF COG:
- Jason McLelland

OUR GOVERNING BOARD

- National First Officer – Morgana RavenTree
- National Purse Warden – Qabal
- Everglades Moon – Marla
- Hills & Rivers – Lady Annabelle
- Northern California – Linnea
- Orange County – Janine
- Southern California – Jenna & Lady Mariah
- Texas – Kim B
- Touchstone – Lord Soec
- National Covens – Lord V
- National Individual Members – Open
- Governing Board Recorder – Open

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

FIRST OFFICER

No Report. [Please see Governing Board Minutes on page 2.]

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Lammas Greetings CoGkin!

It was wonderful to get to meet our members at Merry Meet and Grand Council.

Thank you to everyone that renewed at Litha. Prefilled renewals Mabon renewals have been sent out.

The Friends of CoG affiliate program is potential pathway to membership for people who do not have direct links to CoG. If you would like to join the subgroup to help our friends feel welcome, send an email to membership@cog.org

We have a public website, www.cog.org, and a “member’s only” website (link is on the public page, in the top navigation bar). You will need a password for to access the “member’s only” site.

TO GET A PASSWORD TO THE COG WEBSITE: From the email address you used when you joined CoG, send an email to NetCo@cog.org and someone will respond. If no one gets back to you in a reasonable amount of time, send an email to administrators@covenantofthegoddess.groups.io, again from the same email address you joined CoG.

Do you need some help with the Groups.IO platform (elists), or getting subbed to a group? Send email to administrators@covenantofthegoddess.groups.io, and someone (Thea) will contact you. Thea can even do a virtual online meeting with you to walk through how to use groups.io through both your email and the website.

Elist policies reminder: When replying to a message posted to AIR, please remember to
change the email address in the TO: Field to DD@covenantofthegoddess@groups.io. I have had to reject many messages for this reason over the last year, and very few of them seem to get reposted to DD.

Please know that there is money in the **Grace of the Goddess fund** to assist those Members who might need it, and the NMO will work with you for deferred tithe payments. As a reminder, Grace of the Goddess funds may only be used for tithes and cannot be used to pay for Credential renewals. Please consider donating to this fund or any of the other special donations on your renewal form.

If you have questions, need to update your email address, or want to join or leave an elist please feel free to contact the NMO at membership@cog.org.

- **Applications - Members:**
  - Abelina’s Grove
  - House of OakSpring
- **Friend of CoG**
  - None at this time
- **Please Welcome**
  - None at this time
- **Transfer Requests:**
  - Breila transferred from individual member to Circle of the Star
- **Lapsed or Cancelled Members**
  - None at this time
- **Overdue at Imbolc:**
  - Grove of the Willow Wood – National

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS** – We currently have 133 Members total (62 Covens, and 57 Individual Members); and 14 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.

In Her Service,
Lauren Testa

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**PUBLICATIONS OFFICER**

Jack & I had a wonderful time in Texas and were surprised that it was actually cooler than Southern California! It wonderful to see old friends and we enjoyed the opportunity to make new ones.

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

In Her service
Stachia Ravensdottir

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**CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER**

No Report. [Please see Governing Board Minutes on page 3.]

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**NATIONAL RECORDER**

No Report as position is vacant. [Please see Governing Board Minutes on page 3]

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**NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER**

No Report. [Please see Governing Board Minutes on page 3.]

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**COMBINED EXECUTIVE & GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**

~July 9, 2023~

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

- **Governing Board Representatives:**
  - Speaker: Lord Soec
  - Everglades Moon LC: Marla
  - Hills & Rivers LC: Lady Annabelle
  - Northern California LC: Linnea and Glenn
  - Orange County LC: Janine
  - SoCal LC: Lisa
  - Texas LC: Kim B.
  - Touchstone LC: Lord Soec and S. Ravensdottir
  - National Covens: Lord Verderius
  - National AoIM: Representative not present
- **National Officers:**
  - First Officer – Morgana RavenTree
  - Second Officer/Outreach Officer – Bastion Firemoon
  - Purse Warden – Qabal
  - National Correspondence Officer – Taffy
**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER – Janine**

**PUBLICATIONS OFFICER – Stachia Ravendottir**

**Quorum**: Acting Recorder declared a quorum

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**Grand Council/Merry Meet July 27-July 30th**

**National First Officer Report**

*Morganna*: reminder to forward all local council, national member coven, interfaith representative, officer and supported organization reports to First Officer and newsletter by Friday, July 21, 2023.

Morganna asked NPIO Janine if she will give a Consent Presentation at Grand Council and Janine agreed.

One person has volunteered to be acting Recorder – Yolanda from EMLC; Morgana suggested that we utilize her service for the proposal section of the Grand Council agenda, as other reports are supposed to be submitted in writing, either in advance or at Grand Council.

We will need timekeepers and chat monitors, especially for virtual attendees.

Morgana asked if there will be mics, projector, other equipment. See Second Officer’s report for responses.

**Membership Officer Report (Lauren):**

Regarding virtual attendance for Grand Council:

- **Currently:**
  - Covens: 59
  - Caucuses: 4
  - 25% = 15.75 rounded up is 16
  - 50% = 31.5 rounded up is 32

- **Potential:**
  - Covens: 62
  - Caucuses: 5
  - 25% = 16.75 rounded up is 17
  - 50% = 33.5 rounded up is 34

I have 21 people who opted Virtual Attendance and 7 who indicated IN PERSON on the quorum form. That includes me and Lorrie who are both carrying proxies for our council covens.

This data is derived from the quorum forms and may shift as we get closer to the meeting.

I know I have received emails from several people shifting their attendance preference or proxy/delegate due to unforeseen circumstances. I am bringing a laptop and will keep things up to date.

**Second Officer Report (Bastion):** See Appendix A for Leadership Institute topics and MerryMeet Workshops. See Appendix B for list of Vendors

[Note from the editor: these were left out due to technical difficulties.]

**Registration update** – 42 registered

**Additional Business or Discussion - None**

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Time: 5:27 PDT

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**WELCOME TO COG**

Please welcome:

- None at this time

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

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**ABELINA’S GROVE**

Everglades Moon
Unknown City, Florida

**STATEMENT OF PRACTICE**

Merry Meet,

It is my pleasure to introduce you to Abelia’s Grove. We are a 501 C3 community based, earth-based religious congregation. We provide educational opportunities, 1 ministry, fellowship, community outreach and safe worship spaces for earth-based and diverse practitioners and welcome the LGBTQ¢-community. Otana is the minister of the Grove. Our Board of Directors consists of Opal Luna, the- president, Moss, vice president, Birch; treasurer, and Karl who is our Trustee. We also have 3 assistants Panda, Moon, and Baldur. Our membership currently stands at 35.

Although we-teach no one certain practice, we hold in common a love for the Goddess and respect for the-WiccanRede. We seek to learn and grow from the interactions which develop through the sharing of various paths, traditions, and ideas.

We gather one evening, every week. We hold public rituals for all 8 Sabbats, a monthly full moon drumming, as well as other celebrations throughout each year. We preform annual Hurricane Protection Rituals and Spells for the good-of all.

We run a year and a day program which leads to a dedication ritual and have Year 2 and 3 programs for those who wish to become leaders in our community.

We endeavor to give back to our Mother Gaia through the environmental actions of our Green Man Alliance and Friends of Animals. You can visit our website to learn more about us and what we are up to next. Abelinasgrove.org

It would bean honor to join COG and work alongside its members.

Thank you for considering our membership.

Sincerely Opal Luna, Grove President, Abelia’s Grove.

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #1**

Beachfyre Coven is pleased to recommend Abelia’s Grove (aka The Grove) for membership within EMLC. Please accept this letter written by our
Priestess, Shaylee Ayele, as representing our coven’s intent.

I Shaylee Ayele speaking on behalf of Beachfyre Coven, a member of CoG since 2002, am happy to support the application of Coven Abelina’s Grove, aka The Grove. As a member of Beachfyre, I have had the privilege of getting to know several members of The Grove. Meeting several of their members over a year ago I have had a chance to get to know them in several ways. I have done rituals with them at festivals, attended workshops hosted by member Opal Luna, and worked closely with several members as they volunteered to be part of the decorating committee at EMLC’s Turning the Tide Festival. I have also gotten to know several members in casual settings during festivals and EMLC meetings. The Grove and its members are wonderfully generous people who are already doing service to their local community and I believe would make a strong addition to EMLC and to CoG.

Bright Blessings,
Shaylee Ayele, Member
Lady Rayna and Lord Canu, HPS and HP
Beachfyre Coven

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #2

As an active member of Everglades Moon Local Council (EMLC) since 2021, I wholeheartedly recommend Abelina’s Grove (aka The Grove) for membership within EMLC.

Over the past year I have had several opportunities to not only meet and speak with members of Abelina’s Grove, but to also work with them in support of local EMLC-sponsored festivals and events. Over the past four years I have spent significant one-on-one time with two of The Grove’s members, Opal Luna and Karl Kauffman, at events such as Florida Pagan Gathering, Mystic South, and Turning the Tide as well as during online events that convened during the recent pandemic. Each Grove member I have met and worked with has been generous with their time, talent, and teachings. Of the Grove members I have come to know, each has been involved in long-term efforts that benefit their surrounding communities in practical, concrete, and effective ways.

These are good people doing good work in the world. Their membership in EMLC and CoG will be a blessing to our communities. I cannot recommend The Grove highly enough.

In Faith,
Martha Kirby Capo
Member, EMLC

HOUSE OF OAKSPRING

Everglades Moon
Decatur, Georgia

STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

Located in the metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia area (Decatur, Georgia), the charge of the House of OakSpring is to provide for spiritual expression, growth, and the exploration of the deeper mysteries. As a large coven, we provide the training of priestesses and priests and offer information and education on the old religion to those interested seekers. As a Wiccan community, we carry on the spiritual and ritual traditions of the old ways.

Established at Beltane in 2000, OakSpring traces its lineage and tradition to the Sisterhood and Brotherhood of Wicca founded by Lady Circe of Toledo, Ohio, and its early teaching to the House of Ravenwood established by Lady Sintana in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1975.

OakSpring celebrates the eight sabbats on the Wiccan Wheel of the Year and monthly full moons, in addition to initiations, elevations, social events and other gatherings. OakSpring has over 40 initiates and numerous Third Degree practitioners. OakSpring’s current High Priest received his Third Degree elevation in 2011, and has been High Priest since Samhain of 2017. OakSpring’s current High Priestess received her elevation to the Third Degree in 2014 and became High Priestess at Beltane of 2018.

OakSpring worships the Lord and the Lady and abides by the Wiccan laws as written in “A New Wiccan Book of the Law” as compiled and edited by Lady Galadriel of the Grove of the Unicorn. However, the Elders of OakSpring acknowledge and agree that the laws must be flexible to meet changing circumstances, which are inherent in the evolution of any spiritual tradition. OakSpring welcomes seekers of all races, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

The Coven Council (the Board of Directors) is the governing body of OakSpring. It is chaired by the High Priestess and High Priest and is composed of the High Priestess, the High Priest, the Third Degree Initiates and the senior Second Degree Initiates. The Elders, who are the Third Degree Initiates of the group, will help and advise the High Priestess and the High Priest in a) governing the circle and b) hearing and settling disputes between members of the circle.

OakSpring previously was a member in good standing of the Dogwood Local Council of COG and hosted COG social functions at our Covenstead. OakSpring’s current High Priestess Lady Rowan Aurelian and its High Priest Lord Albion wish to rejoin COG and strengthen its bonds with other groups in the broader pagan community. For more
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #1

Dear CoGKin,

This letter is to recommend the House of OakSpring Wiccan community for a coven membership. I am Lady Magdalena, High Priestess of the Temple of the Rising Phoenix in the Rising Phoenix Tradition, Berkeley Lake Georgia. Our coven first joined CoG in 1997 as part of the old Dogwood LC. I have been a continuous CoG member for 27 years and served in all officer positions in Dogwood LC during all of it's years. Two of my downline in Georgia are also members, Lord Lucian of the Witches of Moonrock Mountain and Lady Seyani of Grove of the Golden Phoenix.

The House of OakSpring was established at Beltane 2000 when they hived from the Ravenwood Tradition; they have been a respected and welcoming force in the greater Atlanta Pagan and Wiccan community. I have been a friend of several of the Elders, Priesthood and members since before and after their establishment as the House of OakSpring in 2000. They were members of CoG within the Dogwood Local Council for a few years until Dogwood LC dissolved.

The House of OakSpring follow the Wiccan path and worship both Goddess and God. Their High Priestess is the spiritual Mother of the group; the High Priest is the spiritual Father of the group and they rotate leadership positions appropriate to the seasons of the year.

The Wheel of the year is central with all the eight sabots on their calendar as well as Esbat rituals. Their education curriculum is extensive, and they train people for the Priesthood in the Olde Religion in a degreed system. They abide by the New Wiccan Book of the Law and the Wiccan Rede.

They already have a large network of spiritual influence but want to participate more fully in the Pagan and Wiccan activities in greater Atlanta and Georgia communities through the Covenant of the Goddess.

I highly recommend the House of OakSpring for coven membership and support their application and Statement of Practice.

Blessed Be
Lady Magdalena
HPS of the Temple of the Rising Phoenix
Rising Phoenix Tradition, Berkeley Lake, Georgia
ladymagdalena@bellsouth.net
https://risingphoenixtemple.com

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #2

I would like to submit my letter of recommendation to Covenant of the Goddess for House of OakSpring's application for coven membership. I have known and worked with them at several local area projects and witnessed them to be a positive and supportive coven. I've also had the pleasure of standing with them for well over a decade in sacred space and feel they are sincere and devoted to their Spiritual Path as Wiccans.

Their enthusiasm and willingness to assist and represent whenever they can, have been wonderful and much welcomed assets to the efforts that many of us are working with to try to build an openly friendly and participatory pagan community. I feel they exemplify the phrase "Walking your Talk" with integrity.

I can recommend OakSpring without any hesitation and look forward to their participation in Covenant of the Goddess on both the local and national level.

In service
Lady Eibhlean
HPS GryphonSong Clan

TRANSITIONING FROM SOLITARY TO COVEN

NONE AT THIS TIME

TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY

NONE AT THIS TIME

LOCAL COUNCILS

EVERGLADES MOON

~ June 25, 2023 ~

Having Quorum the meeting began at 1:31 PM with an opening prayer by Lady Bridget.

Meeting hosted: In-Person at Lady Bridget & Lord Riekin’s Home & Via Zoom

In Attendance (In Person):
- Lady Bridget, First Officer, Witch & Famous Coven
- Raven, Purswarden, AoS
- Shaylee, Co-Recorder, Beachfyre Coven
- Lord Riekin, Witch and Famous Coven
- Coyote, AOS
- Chloe, Beachfyre Coven
- Rowan, Lia Fail Coven
- Aerik, Lia Fail Coven
- Selene, Lia Fail Coven
- Tempeast, Lia Fail Coven

information, see our website at houseofoakspring.org.
Opal Luna, Abelina’s Grove, member pending publication and welcoming
Karl, Abelina’s Grove, member pending publication and welcoming
Lord Gwydion, AoS

In Person Guests:
- Renee Cosentino, Tera Luna Coven, a prospective member
- Jorge, a Friend of EMLC

On Zoom
- Rayna, Second Officer, Beachfyre Coven
- Bobbi-Jo, Membership Officer, Albion’s Spirit Coven
- Diana, Public Information Officer, Spiraling Heart Coven
- Marla, National Board LC Representative, Assembly of Solitaries (AoS)
- Dennis, National Board LC Representative Alternate, Albion’s Spirit Coven
- Martha, AoS
- Birch, Abelina’s Grove, member pending publication and welcoming
- Otsana, Abelina’s Grove, member pending publication and welcoming
- Tanit, Silver Sanctuary Coven
- Manny/Qabal, AoS, CoG Pursewarden
- Nathan, AoS
- Alpandia, AoS/DragonWhisper Coven

Officer Reports:

First Officer - Lady Bridget: First Officer Report to CoG for Grand Council was sent in and we are currently working on Proxies.

Second Officer – Rayna: Apologies for not being at the meeting, I am in the mountains of north Georgia at a memorial gathering for a sister Witch. As Second Officer, I have been working with the EMLC board on a date and location for our annual meeting. After polling the members we have settled on Oct 7 or 8. We are now looking for a volunteer who has reliable wifi to host the meeting.

Membership Officer - Bobbi Jo: Current Membership for ELMC COG is at 12 solitary members and 9 covens. Abelines Grove paperwork has been turned into Nationals for printing in the next newsletter. I was under the impression that it has been received prior to the publication of the last newsletter but I was apparently mistaken so I resubmitted everything. Cosette has also received the email addresses for those individuals that the Grove would like added to the EMLC io list.

All paperwork for Coven Tera Luna has been sent out to the list for review and should be put to a vote at our June meeting.

Paperwork was received by Nationals for Joseph and Shaylee’s credentials.

All proxies that I have received have been forwarded to Nationals as well.

Oracle Hekataios has inquired about joining ELMC. I have sent him the information he needs to join.

Marla and I plan to set up a COG table at Jax PPD on 9/24/2023.

Pursewarden – Raven: Our PNC Bank balance is currently $7,975.31. This is after the payments totaling $1,600.00 for Turning the Tide 2024 to “Miami-Dade County”, and one Grand Council travel funds check in the amount of $300.00. The only other expense at this time is the $15.00 paid to Lib Syn for hosting our podcast.

Our PayPal balance at this time is $538.28. The only regular expense is our monthly donation to The Wild Hunt of $25.00.

Publications Officer – Cosette: No Report at this time - Reminder to please send any events you want on Social media for me to post.

Public Information Officer – Diana: No Report at this time

National Board LC Representative/Alternate - Marla/Dennis: National’s last meeting was on May 7 which I shared at the EMLC meeting on May 15.

Current concerns: The covenant has no recorder for Grand Council. No one has volunteered to be recorder for next year.

Grand Council and Merry Meet have very low registration.

Recorder (Co-Recorder) – Shaylee: Meeting Minutes from the last meeting have been sent to COG and Email has been received.

Our FO noticed that some of our meeting minutes have not made it into the Newsletter after contacting CoG’s PO they have now appeared in the Newsletters as required.

As of Wednesday’s Litha Newsletter all of EMLC’s meeting minutes have now appeared as follows:
- November 17th Meeting - Yule Newsletter
- January 15th Meeting - Litha Newsletter
- April 15th Meeting - Litha Newsletter
- May 15th Meeting - Litha Newsletter

Proposal: I propose, going forward the recorder will make sure that the publications officer has responded that they have received the minutes or follow up if they have not responded. If there are any issues with that, the recorder will alert the first officer of the issue. Also, the recorder will check the next newsletter to be sure the minutes have been correctly published and alert the board if not.

In addition, I propose that the EMLC’s Recorder Report going forward be amended to
include confirmation or delay of publication regarding any of the outstanding minutes.

*****The proposal was Twinkled by all present and on Zoom

What EMLC'ers are doing:

Martha & Nathan will be Headlining The Grove’s Broward Pagan Pride Day Event on Sept 16th, 2023 starting at Noon.

Raven has recently received her second degree in The Blue Moon Tradition.

Shaylee will be doing readings at the Bohdi and Mind Festival in Cauley Square on Sunday, September 17th, 2023.

Martha will be presenting at Mystic South and FPG Samhain as a headliner

Opal Luna is presenting and Vending at Mystic South

Old Business

Banners (Shaylee): I have the graphic from Cosette, but I don’t think we have officially decided how many to order and who is taking them.

Discussion about banner order concluded that we will order 4 banners and once we receive them we will figure out where they all go. Beachfyre, The Grove, and Bobbi Jo/Marla have all stated they will keep one.

Grand Council: We only have one person available to go to Grand Council in EMLC due to dates and scheduling conflicts.

Turning the Tide: Tides’ new dates are February 2nd-4th, 2024. Our contract has been signed and the planning page for EMLC’s Turning The Tide has been updated to reflect our dates and our theme!

Turning the Tide 2024: Crafting the Magick.

Discussed:

- Budget and Park Rates are going up and New Park Requirements
- Suggested Donation Rates for this Years Tides
- The Need for More Staff
- Google Reservation Doc and Reservations Dates and Emails

The Park now requires that the person who fills out the contracts and picks up and drops off the keys in the park's main office for the event must be on Florida’s Division of Corporations paperwork as an officer.

Proposal by Lady Bridget- Though we have not needed to in the past, with the parks development and other issues going on around the country, I propose it is time to Incorporate EMLC here in the state of Florida as a chapter of Covenant of the Goddess.

*****The proposal was Twinkled by all present and on Zoom

Having prior Division of Corporations knowledge and as the Pursewarden Raven will begin the procedure to incorporate EMLC and reach out to Canu or Manny with any questions.

New Business

Annual Meeting Dates: After discussing the dates that the meeting had been narrowed down to via EMLC’s email list and discussing locations, EMLC’s Annual Meeting Date and Location were Confirmed:

- Date: September 9th, 2023
- Time: 1:00 PM
- Location: Abellina’s Grove, Tamarac, FL

Proposal for EMLC to be a sponsor of Bat Fest at Lubee Bat Conservancy by Rayna: For over 18 years the Florida Bat Festival has been celebrating bats, the world’s most famous flying mammal! With incredible activities, vendors, a beer garden, & entertainment, and over 5,000 FL residents and visitors attending each year, the Florida Bat Festival is a yearly family-friendly fall event loved by many! The 18th annual Bat Festival will be held on October 21, 2023, in Gainesville, Florida. This fits with the philanthropic work that EMLC does to support animals in our state, and this year Lubee posted a Happy Pride image on June 1 and got a ridiculous amount of nonsense and hate directed their way, so I am asking EMLC to help support them (they lost some supporters over the post).

Sponsorship levels are Bronze $125, Silver $250, and Gold $500. More info here: https://www.lubee.org/_files/ugd/38a91d_68ced9078ae42bf80f4ad50a8e8492e.pdf Manny and Lord Riekin have both checked out Lubee Bat Conservancy and they have a good rating as far as percentage of donations used for non-administrative costs.

Rayna Recommends the Bronze Sponsorship Level

*****Proposal for Lubee Bat Conservancy Bronze Sponsorship at $125 was Twinkled by all present and on Zoom

Raven as Pursewarden is to pay for EMLC’s Bronze Level Sponsorship now and the Lubee Bat Conservancy will be added to the list of Donations to review at the Annual Meeting.

New Membership: Coven Terra Luna’s Request to Join EMLC - The last letter of recommendation required was provided last week to the EMLC list - FO Lady Bridget suggests resending the entire packet together in one email for EMLC to read and review. The vote for Coven Terra Luna’s Request to Join EMLC is scheduled for the next meeting.
Upcoming Festivals

**Mystic South**, July 14-16, 2023, Atlanta, GA, Website: mystic-south.com, Facebook: facebook.com/mysticsouthcon

**Broward Pagan Pride Day** September 16th, 2023, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Website: https://www.abelinasgrove.org, Facebook: facebook.com/MoonpathGrove


**Autumn Meet by Phoenix Festivals**, October 11-15, 2023, Trenton, FL, Website: phoenixfestivals.com, Facebook: facebook.com/Phoenixfestivals

**Florida Pagan Gathering** - Samhain, October 25-29th, Silver Springs, Website: flapagan.org, Facebook: facebook.com/flapagan

**Trees of Avalon Gathering Ancestral Nights** November 2-5, 2023, Silver Springs, Website: tagmeet.org, Facebook: facebook.com/TreesOfAvalonG

**Turning the Tide 2023** - February 2-4, 2024, Miami, FL, Website: emlc.net Facebook: facebook.com/evergladesmoon

**Next Meeting**: Aug 12th, at 1 PM via Zoom - Shaylee to send Zoom to Lady Bridget and ask Cosette to create an event for Facebook

The meeting ended with a closing prayer given by Lady Bridget.

Blessed be everyone!

**HILLS AND RIVERS**

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in the Samhain 2022 edition.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

~ May 20, 2023 ~

**Attendees (Covens)**: Coven Trismegiston – Don, Anna, Glenn; Daduchos - Thea; Dark Moon - Annie; Owl Moon - Linnea; Waxing Moon - Taffy

**(Individuals)**: Bill, Deborah, Joanne

**Officer Reports:**

First Officer (Glenn): approval of March minutes made and will send.

Recorder (Bill):

**Membership (Anna)**: apprentice wanted, nothing to report.

**Pursewarden (Thea; Linnea mentoring)**: 2 checks from Dwayne who is applying.

**Website (Deborah, Taffy)**: Taffy and Deborah have selected a theme for the new NCLC website and are designing the home page. They meet weekly.

**Social Media (Facebook)**: Joanne H – is posting regularly.

**PIO (Glenn)**: Governing Board (Linnea, alt. Glenn): Linnea reported it was all about GC

**Interfaith (Rachel, Rowan, Don – a bit less active, Macha, Thea, Taffy)**: met w Sonoma Interfaith

**ARL (Don, Anna, or Glenn)**: We had a pleasant and well-attended Social at Adocentyn on April 22. No one was interested in joining COG.

**Old Business:**

**Outreach event in the fall**: Sept. 17 CoG/NCLC Social event with a ritual in a park

**Membership issue bylaw amendments for this Grand Council**: Thea will have a zoom meeting about what she writes. Needs to be in a month before GC.

**New Business:**

**NCLC meeting in person and/or hybrid. Location**: Glenn’s house and/or yard

**Grand Council**: Who is going in person (Taffy) and by Zoom (most of us). Thea will make up the form for our individuals to form a caucus.

**Select next meeting dates and recorders. Sun. July 16 Social potluck in Glenn’s backyard from Noon -3pm with hybrid indoors Business meeting 3-5pm – recorder: Linnea

Sat. Sept 9 will be for elections (Term limits etc. were discussed).

**Announcements**: So. Bay Circles social

**ORANGE COUNTY**

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in the Litha 2023 edition.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in the Ostara 2023 edition.
TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL
~ July 9, 2023 ~

Covens in Attendance:
- Z Circle of Danu – Bonnie
- Z Circle of the Ancient Mother – Essence
- X Circle of the Blood Moon – Kimberly
- P Circle of the Moon & Sun – Proxy Bastion
- X Circle of the Serpent – Gaelen/Lopsi Z
- X Circle of the Star – Breila/Tasmin Z
- Z Circle of the Unicorn -Cristal, Chuck, L’Ann
- Z Coven Firemoon – Amarok
- A Tree of Knowledge Coven

Solitaries in Attendance:
- Z Anastasia
- A Keala
- A Q’est
- X Jander Zen

Call for a recorder by Gaelen. Kimberly offered to be recorder. Gaelen thanked her.

Invocation to Coventina by Gaelen at 11:24 am.

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

Call for additions to the agenda and nominees by Gaelen. There were none.

Officer Reports

First Officer (Gaelen): 2023 Meetings @ CSL Dallas are as follows: September 10 - We use the Wood Room and Amarok has already paid for the year. The meeting moved to the STEM room due to excessive temperature in the Wood Room.

Pursewarden (Amarok):
- Bank : $2,399.19
- PayPal : $749.02
- CashApp : $87.00
- Cash : $50.00
- Total Funds : $3,285.21

Income:
- Beltane: $135.00
- Midsomer: $60.00
- Online donations: $105.00
- Merry Meet Registrations: $1,826.65
- Merry Meet Vendor Fees: $195.00

Venmo Account Request followup: At this time, we are unable to get a Venmo account because we do not have a specific phone to tie the account to, and Google phone is not accepted.

Public Information Officer: Kara not present, but submitted report read by Gaelen. Total followers for Facebook: 4,815 which is up by 138 since the last report. We have the highest reach of 11,331 and 964 post engagements. Total followers for Instagram: 318, which is up by 4 since the last report. Total followers for Twitter: 467, which is down by 11 since the last report. Total followers for Tiktok: 175, which is up by 29 since the last report. Our Tiktok videos have reached over 3500 views.

Webweaver (Kara): Website continues to be updated to reflect all the activities hosted by the local council.

Kimberly said to thank Kara for all of her hard work on our social media accounts.

Membership (Breila): If you did not get your proxy into national by the deadline, you will be provisional as of the convening of it this month. We urge you to get it in to the National Membership Officer right away. Please send Breila a copy.

With Breila joining Circle of the Star, her membership will be moving there and she will no longer be an individual member.

*Please remember that you need to send a copy of your renewal & credential info to our local membership officer.

Recorder (Bastion) not present.

Newsletter dates this year:
- Lammas ~ July 21, 2023
- Mabon ~ September 11, 2023
- Samhain ~ October 20, 2023

Pagan Classes in Arlington (Gaelen):
Classes are going well. The hoodoo series with Denise had good attendance and our current runes series with Jennifer has even more! Her first class had 16 people attend!

Gaelen will be creating a class survey for people to share their ideas on classes they would like to see TXCoG have. Once membership has given their input, it will be shared on social media then later reviewed as we begin to set up classes for 2024. After some discussion, Gaelen agreed to add questions about online classes to hel that series too.

Pagan Classes Online (Rowan Jade): not present but submitted report read by Gaelen.

The Pagan Online classes have been going well. We have had local people joining as well as people logging in from out of state. The types of classes that have been attracting more attendance are classes on more in-depth Pagan concepts. For example:
- Altars and Sacred Spaces- 28 attendees
- Spell Casting- 39 attendees
- Grounding and Shielding- 20 attendees
- Sigils- 20 attendees
• Candles & Color Magick- 23 attendees
• Astrology 101- 25 attendees

There was a big interest in a Part 2 of the Astrology class that Christal taught! Other classes still had people joining, but in smaller numbers.

**Reiki Class Series in Arlington 4th Saturdays (Lopsi):** Reiki classes this year are on the fourth Saturday of every month from 1-3 pm, but have been suspended the last two months due to scheduling conflicts of Lopsi’s. This month will not be taught due to Merry Meet.

**Book Study with Jennifer C. & Kimberly on 1st Saturdays (Kimberly):** The attendance is small, but growing. Gaelen shared there was some confusion with some of the church board members regarding our rental schedule with them. Gaelen worked with them and everything is fine. She also sent an email to them with all the dates and information to be sure we were all on the same page since she is our current scheduler and coordinates TXCoG dates with the church. She asked if anyone inquires about our schedule there to refer them to her.

**2023 Sabbats (Gaelen):**
- February 5 - Imbolc - Circle of the Ancient Mother
- March 19 - Spring Equinox - Circle of the Serpent
- April 30 - Beltane - Circle of Danu
- June 25 - Summer Solstice - No one offered to do circle so Gaelen wrote a ritual and asked a few TXCOG members to join her. At the last minute, Gaelen was unable to attend due to a health issue and two of her coven stepped in to assist. Ritual was held inside the church.

**Upcoming:**
- July 30 - Lammas - Circle of the Star
- September 24 - Autumn Equinox - Coven Firemoon
- October 29 - Samhain - Circle of the Blood Moon
- December 17 - Winter Solstice - Circle of the Oak’s Shadow (Guest Group)

**Moon School (Tasmin):** Moon School is going fine. It’s had low attendance so far; however, we believe it will grow. Gaelen offered resources to Tasmin if she needs them.

**Governing Board Liaison (Kimberly):** The last governance meeting was done through the IO system and despite multiple attempts, she was unable to get online and join the virtual meeting.

**Old Business**

**Merry Meet: Bastion** not present. Gaelen read her report as submitted below.

Merry Meet is happening at the end of this month, and there is still time to register and book a hotel room. We have a good slate of workshops and vendors who are coming, in addition to Raven Kaldera and Wendy Rule. Our biggest need right now is volunteers. We’ve had low registration from the local council which is where we are expecting volunteers to come from. We are offering a $25 discount off the Full Moon and Quarter Moon for if you sign up for a volunteer shift. Please consider coming out to Merry Meet and helping by volunteering. It is impossible to run an event without help. If you have questions, or want the volunteer discount code please reach out to me and I will get you the info. If you wish to do a meal package at the event, be sure to register by July 16th.

**Merry Meet 2023 Marketing by Local PIO, Kara** not present. Gaelen read her report as submitted below.

With Jander’s help, the website was created under the URL [www.merrymeet2023.org](http://www.merrymeet2023.org). There are active ads and posts on all our social media accounts. Our Facebook Cover reached 389 users and 91 interactions. The first MM23 video on Facebook reached over 2.3K users, 121 interactions, and 105 clicks to our website. Website promotion 1000 reached and 58 interactions. Reels: 1500 reached. Booking a room post: 277 reach 9 interactions. Instagrams posts have reached 175 users. Tiktok 3555 views and 115 likes on the latest video.

There was discussion on the low number of attendees and the absence of any volunteers for Merry Meet. There is a financial responsibility that is pending if 50 hotel rooms are not filled. Gaelen encouraged people to come out and attend Merry Meet. The schedule was shared.

The Court of the United Lone Star Empire is doing a witchy drag show. This particular group was invited to perform because of their outreach to the HIV community. This group is completely non profit and gives to further HIV assistance and research. There was a question about patrons who would like to just attend the drag show. Gaelen explained that folks attending should bring one and five dollar bills and walked through how to tip a drag queen.

**Samhain Carnival (Gaelen):** Gaelen needs a volunteer to chair the Samhain Carnival this year as she will not be in the area due to work taking her out of town.

**New Business**

Gaelen posed the question: Do we continue to pay for a space for TX COG meetings to be in person with such low turnout? It becomes lower with each meeting. A suggestion was made that we could move the meeting time to 1:00 p.m. and change the location to the Arlington UU and that would help...
support that church more and put the meeting closer to most TXCoG members. Gaelen suggested that the discussion be opened up online after Merry Meet and a decision can be finalized at the September meeting.

Gaelen mentioned the next meeting was when we vote in new officers and encouraged everyone to think about their relationship with TXCoG and what they may enjoy doing here. She encouraged folks to think about running for a board position and offered to help anyone who was interested in it.

In a post meeting discussion, Gaelen made the following proposal: Using no more than $1200, any local council member can apply for a $95 stipend to Merry Meet if they wish to attend and will volunteer. The request for the funds must be no later than July 14th and they must register no later than July 15th. The standard volunteer discount would also apply. Breila seconded it in discussion. Gaelen reached out to Bastion and Amarok to see if this was financially feasible and they agreed it was, so it was put to vote via online and passed unanimously. This generated a total of seven people stepping up to volunteer.

Gaelen thanks Coventina.
Meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm CST

**Touchstone**

~ July 17 ~

**Covens/Individual Members:**
- Ecclasia – Jack, Stachia and Val
- Obsidian Oak – Chad and Lari
- Emerald Forest – Val had proxy.

**Quorum:** Yes

**Officer Reports:**
- **First Officer (Val):** No report.
- **Second Officer (Lari):** No report
- **Membership Officer (Joanne):** Not present and no report.
- **Pursewarden (Jack):** We currently have a balance of $1243.42 in our account.
- **Public Information Officer (Chad):** No report but am trying to re-establish our fundraiser; looking for a location.
- **Recorder (Val):** Will send minutes to National ASAP
- **Governing Board Representative (Jack):** We still have no National Recorder, but have 2 proposals so far, they were in the newsletter so please let us know of any opinions. Also, we are still getting ready for Merry Meet which is just around the corner.

**Old Business:**
- **Fundraiser:** Still working on a venue for our fundraiser

**New Business:**
- **Merry Meet:** Jack and Stachia are getting ready to go to Merry Meet.
- **Approve Minutes:** Yes
- **Next Meeting:** August 14th

![What's Happening Around CoG](https://www.txcog.org/our-classes/online-pagan-101-classes)

**What’s Happening Around CoG**

**Wednesday With Witches**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open to the Public</th>
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**Online Pagan 101 Classes**

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Tarot Series V</td>
<td>September 6, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amulets &amp; Talismans</td>
<td>September 20, 2023</td>
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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!

https://www.txcog.org/our-classes/online-pagan-101-classes
experiences and programs of study in the wisdom,

Teaching Intensive Online       August 26, 2023

I'll instantly say anyone who doesn't believe what I
do is full of shit. I'm not going to lay a ham-
headed Fundamentalist holy-roller church. All
even a spell (pardon the pun) in a hell-
raising tongue-talking Fundamentalist holy-roller church. All
they weren't so off-kilter after all. That, or there's a
whole lot of us who are off-kilter. Hmmm. ()

I'd nibbled on bits of several mainstream
Xtian religions for years and years: Protestantism of
varying stripes, Judaism, Catholicism, Mormonism,
even a spell (pardon the pun) in a hell-raising
tongue-talking Fundamentalist holy-roller church. All
this before I was 23, and none of this quite fitting.

There are fun aspects of the "occult sciences"
that appeal to the game-playing little boy in me. The
initial allure of the "occult" has worn away: the
boogedy-booegdy-ooh-this-is-scary-stuff mystique.

That was there at first. I am happy I moved beyond
that level. But the fun and joy of role-playing still
remains. That appeals to me. (I don't think I could
ever join the Catholic Church and let the priests have
all the fun.).

There are other points that appeal to me as
well. Keeping secrets is fun, right? Think how much
more fun it is to go through the world knowing that
you're a witch, and nobody (well, hardly anybody)
knows about it? It's the appeal of a secret society--
and, come on, let's be honest, we all like that idea,
don't we? In a world where most people know
that witches look like Margaret Hamilton, it's fun to bend
opinions ever so slightly from a position of
knowledge. "No, actually, there are witches in the
world today. I know some personally. And they're
quite nice. Normal, even." And they'll walk away
wondering if what they've read and heard and seen
in movies is the truth. No harangue, no sermon, just
a word to the would-be-wise.

It's enjoyable to belong to an "esclusive"
club. Not so much in the sense of superiority
(although Hera knows, most of us are superior), as
in a benevolent-elite way. We can do things other
people can't. That's just the way it is. Take healing,
for example. I've had a healing gift for longer than
I've known what to do with it. The craft has helped
me use this gift, channel it, focus it. I feel it's my
responsibility. Maybe, just maybe, I would've figured
out what to do with it without the framework of the
Craft. We'll never know, will we? But I consider it my
duty to use it when needed, whether on someone
near to me or not. Few. other belief systems would
encourage direct healing, insisting instead on
supplication, prayer, bowing and scraping, or baying
at the moon. Horsepuckey. When it comes to
somebody's pain or suffering, I know I've got to take
action. I'm reminded of the cartoon of the two
vultures sitting on a limb, staring hungrily down into
the desert. One says, "Patience, my ass... I'm gonna
kill something.

I'm still not 100% comfortable with all
aspects of the Craft, and probably never will be. I get
impatient with holier-than-thou attitudes in and out of
the Craft. and there are a great number of Crafters
who look at anything that's non-witchy as stupid,
misguided, dumb and so forth. Maybe true, but
there's some sort of cosmic truth in damned near
every religion. "There are as many ways to God as
there's some sort of cosmic truth in damned near
every religion. "There are as many ways to God as
there are breaths in the sons of Man," says an old
Arabian maxim. Sure, that saying is a bit on the
sexist side, but it speaks truth. I can't get behind
Dianic covens who insist on wielding their sexuality
like a spiked club. "We are Female, and thus
superior." Come on, ladies, we're all in this together,
aren't we? And I get miffed at power-tripping again
in and out of Craft circles (pardon the pun again).
But I know that there are karmic debts that must be
worked out. I've learned the patience to deal with it.
I may not like it, but I can put up with it.
And I'm not 100% comfortable with the Goddess--although so far she seems to think I'm okay. Being brought up with the Hairy Thunderer on the Throne has left its mark. Now and then, the image of Charlton Heston, bearded and pissed, scolds me for my debauched and evil ways. But I couldn't go back to that fuddy-duddy-goddy any more than I could entirely devote to Pan over the Goddess. That might be fun for a time, but doing that would ignore the softer, loving, female side of me. Slowly, painfully, I'm balancing between the comfort of the Mother's arms and the rowdy kick-ass of the satyr's hooves.

It will all work out. I may take several lives to do it, but everything will work out.

**BE STILL AND LISTEN**

By Noctum Child

"Be still and listen above the sounds of humanity." This seems all but impossible sometimes in the modern world of the "housing development." But if we try to listen above the sounds of children playing, motors running, planes flying overhead and weed eaters whirling about, there is a rich symphony of the Goddess playing. We only need to take the time to turn down the volume in our minds on man's ever playing "tape deck" and listen. We can hear beyond the annoying squeak of the neighbor's exhaust fan, the ear piercing squeal of the mailman's brakes, and the endless ebb and flow of traffic on the street an orchestra if we as Wiccans will only heed the Goddess' call and take the time to "Be still and listen." The Goddess gave the following message to me during a recent meditation done in my front yard:

"Be still and listen my dear children, I am not far from your den of humanity. Close your eyes, feel me, concentrate, rise above and drink me in. Come and listen to the call of my name in the wind, catch the sound of my hair in the rustling of the leaves, discover my angels voices in the songs of the birds, heed unto the voices of despair in the cry of the crow, carefully listen for soft fairy whispers in butterfly wings, feel for the soft velvet of my gown in the moist green grass, meditate on the earthy tones in my domestic "wolves" bark, listen to the buzzing of my insects as they go hard about their work. I surround you! Allow me to fill you, to pass through you, to entrance and delight you. Sit and feel the warmth and power of my lover the God shine down on you. Embrace us both and know we are one! Rise above and meet me, look up unto the trees, look down upon the earth, see my flowers and note my handiwork for I am the Goddess! Can any mortal imitate such gifts? I leave my thumbprint on each leaf, I breathe my breath into every breeze, and my reflection can be seen vividly in the moonlight. Yes, yes my child you can surround me with humanity, build houses over me, cover my face with concrete and asphalt, but yet I will continue now and forever to be, for I am the Goddess."

Blessed Be!

**HARVEST WORD SEARCH**

Harvest

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Lammas
production
summer
cauliflower
tomato
tractor

harvest
reap
spring
cabbage
vegetable
peas

gather
pick
reaping
corn
fruit
beans

protect
winter
drive
food
maize
seeds
pear

eat
autumn
broccoli
barley
polish
apple