

COVENANT OF THE GODDESS



SAMHAIN 2023

VOLUME 48

NUMBER 8

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership Renewals due at Samhain 2

Our Governing Board 2

Reports of Officers 2

 FIRST OFFICER2

 MEMBERSHIP OFFICER.....2

 PURSEWARDEN3

 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER3

 PUBLICATIONS OFFICER4

 CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER4

 NATIONAL RECORDER4

 NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER4

Governing Board Minutes..... 4

Welcome to CoG..... 5

Membership Applications 5

 TERRA LUNA **ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**

 MORGAINE7

 JOSHUA RAMEY-RENK ... **ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**

Transitioning from Solitary to Coven 8

Transitioning From Coven to Solitary..... 8

Local Councils 8

 EVERGLADES MOON.....8

 HILLS AND RIVERS8

 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA8

 ORANGE COUNTY.....8

 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA8

 TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL.....8

 TOUCHSTONE 10

What’s Happening Around CoG10

 WEDNESDAY WITH WITCHES**ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**

 ONLINE PAGAN 101 CLASSES.....10

 ARDANTANE LEARNING CENTER10

CoGs’ Statement on Prejudice and Racism **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

PWR: The Women’s Village **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Women Armed with Favorite Weapons**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Back Matter11

 COG ARCHIVES.....11

 YOUTH AWARDS11

 GENERAL INFORMATION11

 COG SOCIAL MEDIA12

National Officers13

CoG Interfaith Representatives.....14

Local Council Lists/Contacts14

Applications and Forms.....17

Bylaws and Policy Manuals.....17



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





MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE AT YULE

Yule renewals are due on **December 21, 2023**. The Drop-dead date is **December 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:** NONE
- HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE
- NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE

ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ KEN CRAIG-SAUNDERS
- ❖ LYCEUM OF AUSET HAUHET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Circle of the Blood Moon
- ❖ Circle of the Moon & Sun
- ❖ Q'est

TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Zenah Smith

NATIONAL COVENS:

- ❖ Circle of the Lavender Dragons Coven
- ❖ Coven of the Mystical Merkabah
- ❖ Grove of the Golden Phoenix

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

- ❖ Grace Moonhawk
- ❖ Gus diZerega
- ❖ Orion Foxwood
- ❖ Prodea

FRIENDS OF CoG:

- ❖ Amartya
- ❖ Olivia Briggs



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 Minutes on page 4.]*

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Samhain Greetings CoGkin!

Thank you to everyone that renewed at Mabon. Samhain renewals are due this month and prefilled renewal forms for those that renew at Yule will be sent shortly.

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

Outreach is a great way for interested members of our communities to become affiliated with CoG members. If you or any members of your coven or council are interested in connecting with our Friends of CoG or perspective CoG members please send an email to our outreach officer at outreach@cog.org or the NMO at 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 will contact you.

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 . Groups IO does not allow replies to AIR to forward directly to DD so we have to manually change the field address to DD for replies.

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 tithing 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@coq.org.

- **Applications –**
 - RiverSong Coven (Hills and Rivers)
- **Friends of CoG**
 - Ganesh Natarajan
- **Please Welcome –**
 - Tera Luna (Everglades Moon)
 - Morgaine (Friend of Cog)
 - Joshua Ramey-Renk
- **Transfer Requests:**
 - Thea Bristlebroom (from Coven to Individual Member)
- **Overdue at Mabon**
 - Circle of the Ancient Mother (Texas)
 - Ceos (Everglades Moon)
 - Jander Zen (Texas)
 - Lady Bhride *Northern California)
- **Lapsed or Cancelled Members**
 - Daduchos Coven

MEMBERSHIP STATUS – We currently have 139 Members total (65 Covens, and 57 Individual Members); and 17 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

PURSEWARDEN

No Report. *[Please see Board Minutes on page 4.]*

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Serving as your National Public Information Officer (NPIO) for the past six years has been my sincere pleasure. Each year has brought new challenges that engage collective creative senses. Early in my tenure, I often received requests that I needed to write statements from the Covenant about local or regional concerns. Encouraging local councils to compose their position statements or press releases helped create positive exposure for themselves and their community support.

When I began, I knew I couldn't achieve all the goals for marketing discussed during the previous Grand Council by myself. As the Covenant's goals increased, so did my activities. However, with the advent of the Outreach Officer, it became apparent that to reach our desired objectives, we needed new ways to reach our audience. The Marketing and Outreach team began, initially inviting all local council PIOs and opening to members interested in helping with promotion and outreach.

Using social media and existing CoG communication pipelines, the team has worked to maintain connections among the membership and to promote the Covenant throughout our communities. During the most recent challenge, the "Great Pause" Coronavirus of 2019 (COVID-19), we began a new way of connecting with membership and beyond.

One of the significant events promoting the Covenant and bringing us closer to our nationwide communities was the concept of Wednesday with Witches. The goal was to get quarantined Witches together using a digital platform and help reach new regions of the United States. In some cases, we also had International visibility.

The original concept was to have two episodes per month. The first Wednesday was open to the public and CoG members. The third Wednesday of each month was available only to our membership and Friends of CoG. These meetings allowed CoG members to express their views, explore topics easier than through AIR or DD, or enjoy intimate talks with community leaders. We gain new members or Friends of CoG in the process.

Each episode of Wednesday with Witches highlighted a topic based on The Wheel of the Year or a specialty of our members or guest speakers. Our guest speakers include Byron Ballard, Laura Tempest Zakroff, Eric Purdue, Diana Paxson, and our members like Don Frew and Orion Foxwood. We have also used Wednesday with Witches to share information about the Covenant and help to ensure all members had a voice in the Covenant.

We continue to use our social media to connect with new audiences and increase engagement. TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube are three platforms where we reach a younger audience.



Our YouTube channel allows us to house the reels from TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook so that it can be a better platform for promotion.

Digital Platform	Fans/Audience	Primary Audience	Began Using
Facebook	252K	45-54 age	
Instagram	2,978	35-54 age	Launched 08/2018
X (formally Twitter)	3,387		Launched 04/2012
Threads	220		Launched 09/2023
TikTok	1,297	25-44 age	Launched 2022
YouTube	196	25-44 age	Launched

Serving as your Public Information Officer has been a challenge and a pleasure. I want to thank the Marketing and Outreach Team for their support and devotion to the outreach and promotion of our organization. I also want to thank the membership for keeping me grounded and supporting my work over the years.

This report is respectfully submitted,
 Janine Nelson Hoffman
 Outgoing National Public Information Officer

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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

CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER

No Report. [Please see Board Minutes on page 4.]

NATIONAL RECORDER

No Report. [Please see Board Minutes on page 4.]

NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER

No Report. [Please see Board Minutes on page 4.]

COMBINED EXECUTIVE & GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

~ October 15, 2023~

Roll Call Quorum has been met.

Executive National Officers:

- ✓ First Officer – Morgana Raventree – Present
- Second Officer – Position is open
- ✓ Membership Officer – Lauren – Present
- ✓ Purse Warden – Manny, Elizabeth Raven Fire as successor – Both Present
- ✓ Public Information Officer – Janine out going, Rae incoming – Both Present
- ✓ Outreach Officer – Bastion – Present
- Correspondence Officer – Taffy – Absent
- ✓ Publications Officer – Stachia Ravendottir – Present
- ✓ Recorder – Stone – Present

Governing Board National Officers

- ✓ Speaker – Lord Soec - Present
- ✓ Purse Warden – Qabal – Present
- ✓ Recorder – Stone

Governing Board Representatives

- ✓ Everglades Moon LC – Marla – Present
- ✓ Hills & Rivers LC – Lauren (Alternate) – Present
- ✓ Northern California LC – Linnea – Present
- ✓ Orange County LC – Janine – Present
- ✓ Southern California LC – Stone – Present
- Texas LC – Absent
- ✓ Touchstone LC – Lord Soec & Stacia – Present
- ✓ National Covens – Lord Verderius – Present
- National Individual Members – Absent

Old Business:

Thanks to all of the outgoing officers for your service. We wish you well on your future endeavors.

Welcome to the incoming officers, Elizabeth, Rae, and Stone.

Transfer of the Zoom account to Elizabeth in October 2023.

Newsletter: the minutes are completed are ready to be published. The newsletter will be completed even if it is late.

New Business:

Discussion: The NetCo position and tech team need to be filled. NetCo task examples are:

- Attention to the server
- Website management



- Backing up website
- Constant attention
- No coding required
- Maintaining access to the website
- Email switch overs
- Uses WordPress so not major technology requirements

Decision: New NetCo will be Janine. Tech Team: Manny, Stacia, and Lauren. Lauren volunteered to handle the IO lists.

Addendum: Orin has graciously agreed to stay with the team of NetCos

Discussion: Should the Governing Board have a separate Recording Officer?

Decision: Stone will be the Governing Board Recording Officer as well as the Executive Board Recording Officer, with back up.

Discussion: How often should the Governing and the Executive Boards meet?

The first order of business for the Governing Board is to elect a speaker and set up processes. That needs to happen as soon as possible because very soon after November 1 the Purse Warden needs to communicate to the state of California the update of the officers. There are three positions on that form, President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Purse Warden has dual roles of Secretary and Treasurer for the purposes of this form. The form can be filed online.

What are the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Board vice Governing Board? Encourage everyone to review the by-laws. The purpose of the governing board is to ensure that everyone in COG has a say. Governing board is to set policies and executive board to carry out. By Laws State, "The First Officer shall chair all meetings of the Council and the Governing Board, coordinate the activities of the National Officers, and may speak for the Membership of the Covenant within the parameters provided by the Charter, these Bylaws and policy decisions of the Council.

How many times should the different boards have separate meetings?

Suggestion-hold two separate Executive Board meetings, two separate Governing Board meetings, and four combined Executive and Governing Board meetings.

Decision: These concerns and scheduling meetings for 2023/2024 will be tabled until the next meeting on Sunday, November 12 and the Governing Board can be stood up with the incoming board. Will also discuss if the Governing Board wants the speaker as an honorary position.

Discussion: Purse Warden has still not received anything from the hotel and is unable to close the books.

If revenue is under \$50,000 IRS only requires one document to be submitted. Then the accountant suggested that COG will no longer need her services. COG received \$60,000 from Charles Wanke, as a result this year COG will need a PNL.

Decision: This year COG will use the accountant to file a PNL. In the future it will be year to year if COG will need to use an accountant or if the purse warden will submit the 990 easy. The 990 easy is easy to use.

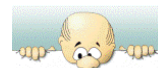
Please remember Charles Wanke this Samhain

Next Meeting will be a Combined meeting on Sunday, November 12

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Stone

WELCOME TO COG



Please welcome:

- ❖ Terra Luna (Everglades Moon)
- ❖ Morgaine (Friends of CoG)
- ❖ Joshua Ramey-Renk (Friends of CoG)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS



RIVERSONG COVEN

Hills and Rivers

McClellandtown, Pennsylvania

STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

RiverSong coven is a community of like-minded individuals who seek to study and practice Wicca. Our ritual format and initiations come from Gardnerian roots, yet we embrace ritual creativity and many of the tenets of progressive witchcraft. Instead of having a set hierarchy of a High Priestess or High Priest who rules over the coven, we honor everyone's wisdom and seek to empower all our members to become spiritual leaders. Hence, we practice rotating ritual leadership and consensus decision making.

RiverSong coven holds monthly esbat rituals (usually Full Moon, but sometimes other phases of the moon) and celebrates all the sabbats together during the wheel of the year. Rituals are generally planned for the Friday, Saturday or Sunday closest to the Full Moon and the Saturday or Sunday closest to the Sabbath. Ritual location will vary depending on who is hosting or if it is outdoors.

Regular member attendance and positive participation is important to build a healthy and vibrant spiritual community. We understand that



personal health and mundane life demands can get in the way of attending rituals from time to time. However, members are expected to prioritize attending scheduled rituals as much as possible. If the reason a member is not attending is that they are losing interest, prioritizing other groups and social activities or not feeling connected to the coven for some reason, we ask for honesty and open communication regarding this.

It is the responsibility of all members to support the coven's expenses. Expenses the coven typically incurs include ritual supplies, outdoor location rental, and Covenant of the Goddess annual membership fees. We do not have regular coven dues, but we do our best to divide up expenses and contribute ritual materials as needed.

As a coven, we follow the wiccan rede when doing magick together. We respect if a member also chooses to pursue interests in other magickal arts or spiritual groups and we believe this can be enriching to our group as a whole. We do seek each other's counsel regarding any magickal work that could have repercussions to the coven. Our coven seeks to provide a solid home base for each other on our journey of personal growth and empowerment. We are committed to honor and care for each other as sisters and brothers as we follow the beautiful path of Wicca. As a coven, we pledge to abide by all the provisions of the Charter, these Bylaws, and all policy decisions of the Council; and agree that the Coven and all its members will 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 official capacities.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #1

Dear Hills and Rivers Local Council and Covenant of the Goddess NMO,

It is with pleasure that we recommend our new sister coven RiverSong for membership in Covenant of the Goddess. We had the opportunity to get acquainted with the new members when teaching the Philosophy of Magick and Wicca Call in Uniontown, PA and during our shared Sabbat celebrations. The transferring members are known to us to be positive and ethical Wiccans who hold clergy credentials in good standing. RiverSong Coven share our progressive wiccan practice, our dedication to follow the wiccan rede and has a very similar statement of practice (membership and path of study).

We are excited that the underserved region of Fayette County and surrounding areas will now have the opportunity to take classes and participate in open rituals with RiverSong Coven. We are certain that they will be a wonderful representation of Covenant of the Goddess to everyone they come in contact with. They have already done some community outreach through a local yoga studio and have celebrated Midsummer and Mabon rituals that

have been open to the general public. We are sure their continued positive presence in the community will further the goal of dispelling negative stereotypes about witches in this region.

Bright Blessings,
Denise Whetzel
Elder Priestess of HearthFire Coven

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #2

Covenant of the Goddess members:

This letter is in support of RiverSong Coven's application for membership to Covenant of the Goddess through Hills and Rivers Local Council. Over the past 13 years, I have known some of the founding members of HearthFire and their new sister coven, RiverSong. These members have been active in the Pittsburgh area for many years and now are bringing their good work to the Uniontown, PA region.

They host the Philosophy and Magick of Wicca classes and sabbat festivities with HearthFire coven. Their core members have helped promote Hills and Rivers and CoG events throughout the years and hold Covenant of the Goddess ministerial credentials. Through my frequent interactions with these founding members, I have learned much about their personal dedication and their progressive Wiccan practice. I have personally seen and participated in their public outreach and service through their beautiful public rituals, and have come to admire their dedication and hard work to support the Pagan community in the Pittsburgh area. I am certain they will bring this to the underserved region of Fayette County.

Having studied many of the members as I started down the Wiccan path and have shared sacred space with them in their public rites, I am confident foundation that they will help new members build a firm spiritual foundation as they go through the initiation process, while respecting their individual spiritual exploration. Their diversity of personal spiritual paths and active empowerment of their members are strengths that will make RiverSong Coven a great addition to Hills and Rivers. They will continue to support Hills and Rivers in its local work and further CoG's mission of outreach, education, and networking in Fayette County.

I give my enthusiastic support to RiverSong as new members of Covenant of the Goddess and Hills and Rivers Local Council.

In Service of the Goddess,
Faunina Del Bosco
HPS Circle of Diana
Pursewarden, Hills & Rivers Local Council



GANESH NARATAJAN

Friends of CoG
Hudson, Kentucky

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Blessings and Greetings,

Thank you very much for the honored opportunity to apply to The Covenant of The Goddess.

My belief and practice as a Solitary Eclectic Pagan Witch has accumulated to a long journey on the Crooked Path. I began on this Spiritual Journey back in 1990. I'm currently 59 years old.

The base of my core belief, lies in the Celtic Pagan Philosophy. That includes Lord Cernunnos and Goddess Cerridwen, as my main emphasis on Centring. Proceedings from this point, my Bhutanese heritage comes into focus. Where I have incorporated Deities of Buddhism, Hinduism and the Ancient Bon Religion. These include the Worship And Adherence to the following Deities: Goddess Kwan Yin, Goddess Green Tara, Goddess Bahuchara Mata, Goddess Manasa Devi, Goddess Dewi Sri of Bali, Lord Nandi, Goddess Kamadhenu, and Lord Shiva – In The Form Of Lord Pushupati.

I also include Goddess Aradia (Queen Of Witches). And Goddess Saint Brigid. And not to forget, The Spirits of Nature (Fairy Folk).

I follow and adhere to the cycles of The Witches Wheel Of The Year. With a strong emphasis on The Harvest {Fertilization, Sprouting, Fruitation and Death -- Rebirth}.

The Holy Pentacle is my Symbol of Adherence. Incorporating the Divine Aspects of the Element's and the Four Quarters into my Practice. My Cauldron, Ritual Bovine Suckle and Besom are Sacred Instruments in my Worship. Attesting to my Full and Uncompromising Devotion to The Craft and my strict adherence to the Wiccan Rede.

I am also a strict Vegetarian. And campaign tirelessly for Animal Rights, Environmental Conservation Awareness, and Non-Violence towards All Life.

To have a greater understanding of my Belief and Practices, I urge you to visit my Facebook site under: Gary Natarajan, Located in Hudson Kentucky. I'm also known as the Breck-Witch. Due to the fact that I reside in Breckinridge County, Kentucky.

Statements from my Wife and Friend and Co-Worker will follow shortly. I apologize for not being a Member of a Coven or Area Gathering. The nearest Official Coven, is located in the City of Louisville Kentucky. And that's a two hour journey from where I reside. And the Village that I reside in (Hudson) is 98% Christian (Southern Baptist & Pentecostal). And 10% of Amish (AnaBaptist). So I don't elaborate on

my religions beliefs with the area residents. But I do broadcast through Facebook!

Thank you again for this Blessed Opportunity to apply for Membership. And I look forward to becoming a Life Long Member!

Hail And Blessing!

Ganesh Natarajan
(Brother Elwin – The Breck-Witch)

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #1

To The Covenant Of The Goddess.

This letter is my written statement on behalf of my husband, Ganesh Natarajan.

We have been married for 25 year's. And during that time he has been truly adherent to the Pagan Path. He is extremely knowledgeable in relation to many aspects of The Craft. And has sincere love and dedication for it. He celebrates all the Esbat's and Sabbat's, has and maintains his beautiful Altar to the various Deities, and maintains an informative Facebook account that he updates daily.

I am very proud of him for his sincere devotion and acquired knowledge of the Pagan Witchcraft Lineage. Also taking into consideration, he is a Solitary Practitioner. The knowledge he has accumulated and possesses, is a true testament of his love and devotion to the Craft!

Thank you for taking my testimony on his behalf.

Hail and Blessings to you All
Mrs. Julie Natarajan

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #2

This letter is to state my personal knowledge and sincere recommendation of Mr. Ganesh Natarajan.

Ganesh is a co-worker and friend. Of my knowledge of him in this capacity, he possesses enormous knowledge of his Religion and Cultural Aspects relating to the Pagan Witchcraft Path.

I am not a Pagan Witch. And my knowledge is extremely limited in that respect. The knowledge I do possess is from his Facebook page where he makes daily postings on his faith and beliefs.

I hope this statement will be sufficient on his behalf.

Sincerely,
Witney Whelan
Guston KY





TRANSITIONING FROM SOLITARY TO COVEN

NONE AT THIS TIME

TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY

THEA BRISTLEBROOM

LOCAL COUNCILS



EVERGLADES MOON

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in the Mabon 2023 edition.



HILLS AND RIVERS

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in the Samhain 2022 edition.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in the Lammas 2023 edition



ORANGE COUNTY

~ No report ~

Last published minutes in the Mabon 2023 edition.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in the Ostara 2023 edition.



TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL

~ September 10, 2023 ~

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

X Circle of Danu - Bonnie
P Circle of the Ancient Mother - Bastion

P Circle of the Blood Moon - Christal
X Circle of the Moon & Sun - Rada
X Circle of the Serpent - Gaelen
X Circle of the Star - Breila, Tasmin, Hazel
X Circle of the Unicorn - Christal
X Coven Firemoon - Bastion, Amarok, Kara
A Tree of Knowledge Coven -
A Anastasia
A Keala
A Q'est
A Jander Zen

Roll Call: Quorum determined by Gaelen

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

- Guest: Wynne Rath, member of Northern California Local Council looking to transfer to Texas Local Council joined the meeting via Zoom.
- Quorum met.

Call for additions to the agenda and nominees by Gaelen

Officer Reports

- **First Officer:** Gaelen
 - Elections will be happening today if you're interested in running for a position.
 - I will not be seeking any officer position in 2024. Her family obligations have changed. She will also be resigning from all positions at the end of this year, including Sabbat Director and Arlington Class Coordinator. I am open to teaching some classes this next year and possibly a Sabbat, schedule pending. I will make sure the rest of the 2023 Sabbats and Arlington classes are managed.

➤ **Pursewarden:** Amarok

Pursewarden Report

Bank : \$2650.45
PayPal : \$ 1390.19
CashApp : \$ 222
Cash : \$ 50
Total Funds : \$ 4312.64

Income:

Lammas: \$ TBD
Online donations: \$ 30
Merry Meet Registrations: \$ 4604.39
Merry Meet Vendor Fees: \$ 359.40
\$3710.22 spent on airfare and event costs for Raven K and Wendy Rule

➤ **Public Information Officer:** Kara

- Total followers for Facebook: 4,905 which is up by 87 since the last report. With an



average of 1,500 reach and 229 post engagements.

- Total followers for Instagram: 324, which is up by 6 since the last report.
- Total followers for X: 465, which is down by 2 since the last report.
 - ★ *proposal from Kara to close X account. 2nd by Hazel. Discussion: too chaotic with continual loss of followers. Unanimous agreement to close the account.*
- Total followers for Tiktok: 173, which is down by 2 since the last report. Our Tiktok videos have reached over 3635 views, which is up by 135 from the last report.
- Gaelen mentioned Kara has done an incredible job building our social media and getting the word out about our local council activities.
- **Webweaver:** Kara
 - Website continues to be updated to reflect all the activities hosted by the local council.
 - Gaelen mentioned the Merry Meet website has a thank you page on it and asked Bastion what she wanted to do with the site.
 - Bastion agreed to having the Merry meet website redirected to TxCoG and dropped when the domain expires.
- **Membership:** Breila
 - Upcoming renewals:
 - ★ Jander Zen - Mabon
 - ★ Circle of Danu - Mabon
 - ★ Circle of the Ancient - Mabon
 - ★ Coven Firemoon - Samhain
 - ★ Circle of the Unicorn - Samhain
 - ★ Circle of the Blood Moon- Yule
 - ★ Circle of the Moon and Sun - Yule
 - ★ Q'est - Yule

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

- **Recorder: Bastion**
 - Newsletter dates this year:
 - ★ Mabon ~ September 11, 2023
 - ★ Samhain ~ October 20, 2023
 - ★ *Will finish minutes today and get them sent out for review immediately after the meeting.*
- **Pagan Classes in Arlington:** Gaelen
 - Classes are going well. The runes series with Jennifer C. had good attendance! We

are looking forward to our reiki and astrology series with Lopsi and Christal respectively this fall! Classes have been successful this year with a refocus on more advanced classes.

- Gaelen has the donations for the in person classes and will be giving them to Amarok.
- **Pagan Classes Online:** Rowan Jade
 - Classes have been going well. We have had many repeat students joining and participating in the classes. The Tarot series has been successful.
 - ★ Tarot I- 29 attendees
 - ★ Tarot II- 18 attendees
 - ★ Tarot III- 19 attendees
 - ★ Tarot IV- 12 attendees
 - ★ Tarot V- 12 attendees

I have noticed some people logging on to the wrong link for the classes. Is there a reason for using separate links for the first and third Wednesday? Would it be easier to use the same link?

- *Will change to just one link for upcoming classes.*

I also want to start putting classes together for 2024. If there are any willing teachers, please let me know! You can reach me at Rowan@circleofthestar.org. Gaelen offered to help her with this by providing a list of previous teachers and classes to start with and to help community contacts.

- **Reiki Class Series in Arlington with Lopsi - 4th Saturdays from 1-3 pm.**
 - *Lopsi sent in a report that said last class was canceled due to illness. Classes will continue in September as scheduled.*
- **Book Study with Jennifer C. & Kim B. - 1st Saturdays from 1-3 pm.**
 - *Book study is small in numbers but growing and doing well!*
- **2023 Sabbats:** Gaelen

Completed:

- ★ July 30 - Lammas - Circle of the Star

Upcoming:

- ★ September 24 - Autumn Equinox - Coven Firemoon
- ★ October 29 - Samhain - Circle of the Blood Moon
- ★ December 17 - Winter Solstice - Circle of the Oak's Shadow
- **Moon School:** Tasmin
 - *Moon school did not run because the coordinator was in the ritual. 10-12 children were present and Moon School will continue in the future.*



- **Governing Board Liaison:** Kimberly
 - *Kimberly was unable to attend today. No report.*
- **Old Business**
 - **Merry Meet:** Bastion
 - ★ *Merry Meet is complete. \$1001 raised for AIN during Drag Show. Discussion ensued about how future MerryMeets could be managed. We believe that further funding and management should be at the national level.*
 - **Samhain Carnival:** Gaelen - There will be no carnival as no one has stepped up to run it. Gaelen asked Kara to remove any advertising of it. Gaelen asked Tasmin if she could plan a little larger Moon School and have some fun things for the kids. Tasmin agreed.
- **New Business**
 - **Elections for:**
 - ★ **First Officer:** *Bastion*
 - ★ **Membership:** *Breila*
 - ★ **PIO:** -
 - ★ **Pursewarden:** *Amarok*
 - ★ **Recorder:** *Rada*
 - *Gaelen nominates the board as the slate. 2nd by Kara. Board passes unanimously. Breila thanked Gaelen for her service to the local council.*
 - **Gaelen thanks Coventina.**
 - **Meeting adjourned at 12:29 CST.**

Public Information Officer – Val: Pagan Pride Day is coming up very soon, and will be a combined effort by L.A. County and Orange County on October 8th.

Recorder – Val: Will send minutes to National ASAP

Governing Board Representative – Jack: We had a discussion on exactly what the Governing Board is responsible for.

Old Business:

Jack mentioned that Red Robin does fundraisers and Chad will look into that asap.

Quick report on Merry Meet.

New Business:

Working on our fundraiser.

Next Meeting: November 6th

WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND COG

ONLINE PAGAN 101 CLASSES

Chakras	November 1, 2023
Dream Walking	November 15, 2023
Pagan Chants & Yule Songs	December 6, 2023
Water Magick	December 20, 2023

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.txcoq.org/our-classes/online-pagan-101-classes>

ARDANTANE LEARNING CENTER

Liminality: With Hekate at the Edge of All Things **November 17, 2023**

The Morrigan **November 24, 2023**

Ardantane offers superb learning experiences and programs of study in the wisdom, practices, and skills of diverse Pagan, nature-centered, and indigenous traditions.

They are a resource for spiritual teachers, leaders, and learners, and promote excellence in Pagan teaching, learning, and leadership around the world.

<https://ardantane.org/events/>



TOUCHSTONE

~ October 2, 2023 ~

Roll Call:

- Ecclasia – Jack, Stachia and Val were present
- Obsidian Oak – Chad and Lari were present.
- Emerald Forest – Joanne was not present, but Val had proxy.

Verification of Quorum: Yes

Approval of Previous Minutes: Yes

Officer Reports:

First Officer – Val: No report.

Second Officer – Lari, Chad, Val: No report.

Membership Officer – Joanne: Not present and no report.

Pursewarden – Jack: Status quo, no change.