

COVENANT OF THE GODDESS NEWSLETTER



First Autumn leaves by Janine Nelson

MABON 2017
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Black runes by Janine Nelson

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, 2017. The Drop-dead date is November 10, 2017 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 National Membership Officer - membership@cog.org.

PLEASE contact National Membership Officer if your renewal was due at Samhain.

CALAFIA LOCAL COUNCIL:

CHAMISA LOCAL COUNCIL:

DOGWOOD LOCAL COUNCIL:

EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:

HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL:

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:

ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:

TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:

TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL:

NATIONAL COVENS:

NATIONAL SOLITARIES:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATES:

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

FIRST OFFICER

Grand Council 2017 is history. We managed to accomplish a lot in those two days and I'd like to thank all of the attendees, both virtually and physically as well as those that sent their proxies in. It is YOU that make this organization what it is and will see it into the future. As with every GC, needless to say things could have gone better, but it was all of you that got us through it. Even if you weren't there in body, you were in spirit.

First, I'd like to apologize to Morgana, our recorder, and my tablemate up front. I put her in some rough spots, but she came through with flying colors and proved she was truly a wonder. I also want to thank Thea and Morgana for stepping up at GC in helping get things done when they started to stray; Zenah and Janine for their awesome work with virtual; and last, but certainly not the least, I'd like to thank my beautiful wife, Stachia, for all she did to keep things running smoothly when we hit the bumpy patches. I couldn't have done it without any of you.

I have been truly blessed with a wonderful board. I am both humbled and proud to have served with you, and I know that we have done the best we could to ensure the Covenant continues. I may not get to say this later, but I love each and every one of you for your special spark that you have brought to the table each time we have met. I may not miss the headaches, but I will definitely miss you all.

I know I leave the Covenant in the very capable hands of my successor, Canu, and I look forward to seeing where we go in the future. We still face many challenges and I know we will meet them head on.

May the Blessings of Coventina, be with us into the future.

In Her Service,
Jack Prewett
NFO

SECOND OFFICER

No report submitted.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

No report submitted.

PURSEWARDEN

No report submitted.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

No report submitted.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

No report submitted.



CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER

So this will be a brief report for Mabon, the Fall Equinox, which is to say it was a rather small amount of email and other correspondence.

Recently we've had more interest in the Hart/Crescent Awards program but it has also been realized that this service or program needs an overhaul or update, even slight. This was discussed somewhat at the recent Board meeting for Mabon, this report being subsequent to that. The review and update will probably involve coordinating it with the other merchandise CoG sells as such; tee-shirts, medals, pins, etc.

There have been requests for several awards or the information or specific images of the pins. These requests are faithfully forwarded to a member who's been handling the program for several years at least, that I know of. Turns out the person has not been a member in about 2 years, as their Coven did not renew their membership. So this former member has for 2 years been graciously processing and sending the awards but we seem to not have a true accountability in the paperwork and financial parts of all this. We hope to take care of and continue the program but this could also be a time for an opportunity. In addition to coordinating the sales or financial part into current merchandise sales, we should consider playing it up, advertising or presenting it to the widest audience possible. So I think it would be something important and also perhaps drawing beyond interest to a service or stand we support. Perhaps it can be a component of building the next hopeful generation of Covenant members. Children are the future and parents who have taken the time to find and work through a not easy system of finding and obtaining the earned merit reward the Hart/Crescent program offers should be commended, for instilling something of the Pagan World of Nature view to their children. Increased visibility may also introduce new members to the Covenant.

Besides those emails there were of course the usual sales or promotional type pitches. We had 2 or 3 requests to get involved in other media/web sites "stories" about the new cultural relevance of Modern Witches. These groups are mostly spurious and seeking hits or increased ratings and rarely seem distinct from reality TV programming, so our not worth our time.

CoG is not the only group or situation that gets weird mail, snail or otherwise. I usually will not dignify with any request. The latest was handwritten (poorly) and photocopied issues of "The Stag" which I honestly could not discern as

any one thing; Witch, Satanic, Nazi, Racist, etc. It was some horrid stew of all that and others. It was interesting to note that a gentleman from a corollary group to us; Sacred Wheel wrote to our info@cog.org to inquire if we too received these things and in our brief correspondence he indicated that the situation had happened a number of times before.

Something that has happened recently and is noticeable but not a significant uptick is the number of requests from outside the States. Sometimes they are people wanting to join and sometimes not. Can we offer membership to a coven in Puerto Rico? Of course they would need to have the correct letters in their application but PR is essentially a part of us. We have also had recent requests from Nigeria and Brazil for information about membership or an association.

Of course no report is complete without something funny, tragic, or both. My thanks to Canu for his networking on this one. In a revival of the Witch Wars of a few decades ago, someone wrote and felt he was calling out some renegade Witch from Panama City and he specifically said she was of our order, though it may have been generic anyway. Words he used seemed both Christian and Witchkin, so it was puzzling, but again thanks to Canu and others he networked with and of course it ultimately didn't require any sort of response.

That's really about it. I think I should address Anna Korn's questions at Grand Council, re my annual report. My writing style is rather conversational and my nature is some attempt at being charming and possibly – most likely – embellishing or over embellishing some things to make them more palatable or putting things in a more favorable light. There are no missing or lost opportunities with possible members to NCLC or any LC or situation that might be appropriate. I do forward what I feel are the relevant and real requests or queries for information. The former, while rare, or those I deem as truly Witch or Wiccan, truly in a coven, and truly adult and mature. The latter are what I see as respectful, sincere and interested persons who many know a little or perhaps more and want to check us out but not necessarily potential members. It's my call and I take all my years of networking from before and after the web. I've worked on 2 different newsletters for about 10 years. I've seen all the "just give me the magic" type letters, but I've also seen the kind of folks who would make great members despite how they find their way to the Gods. I myself may enact as a Traditional type of Witch but my training and education is much more coming from own study and working at mastery, than anything very formal.



In Her Service,
Oberon Osiris

NATIONAL RECORDER

After Grand Council I basically did no COG-related work for three weeks. I finally began preparing the Grand Council minutes last weekend. I'm approximately halfway through the minutes (Friday) and ready to start on Saturday. Of course that is the most difficult part of the minutes. There were 2 occasions in particular that things became rather heated.

Also, I would like to remind the Board that the Policy Manual clearly states that if a proposal is made at Grand Council, the proposer must bring 50 hard copies of the proposal to distribute to the persons present. Several proposals were made at Grand Council and no hard copies were available. Thea kindly typed up 2 of the proposals on Friday. On Saturday, I twice had to type up a proposal that was handed to me on a handwritten sheet and then post it to AIR while the members of the Covenant who were present had to sit and wait for me to do so. THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN NEXT YEAR. I did not make the rule, it's stated in the Policy Manual. If people don't like it, then CHANGE IT, but don't put the burden on me as Recorder or Thea (it isn't even her job). If anyone hands me a handwritten proposal again next year, I will take the time to stand up and read the applicable section of the Policy Manual. If anyone complains that they can't make copies I'll remind them that every hotel we book has a business center and if they complain about the expense I will remind them that IT ISN'T MY PROBLEM. I understand that things come up at the last minute, but I didn't make those rules – the Covenant as a whole did. I will make a few announcements on AIR just before GC next year.

Finally, as I am currently preoccupied with Pagan Pride LA/OC until Pagan Pride Day October 15th, I will wait until after Halloween to send out a message on AIR about the formation of the Review Committee and I will ask Netco to set up an elist for that committee if there isn't one already.

Morgana RavenTree
National Recorder

TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY

- None this issue

WELCOME TO COG

- None this issue



NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES

~ **September 10, 2017**

The National First Officer called the meeting to order at 4:16 pm.

Attendance:

National First Officer (Jack Prewett),
National Second Officer (Stachia Ravensdottir),
National Membership Officer (Thea Bristlebroom),
National PIO (Greg Harder),
National Publications Officer (Zenah Smith),
National Correspondence Officer (Oberon Osiris)
National Recorder (Morgana RavenTree)

Due to Hurricane Irma, National Pursewarden (Manny Tejada-Moreno) was unable to attend.

NMO declared a quorum.

Officer Reports:

National First Officers: Jack
(Please see NFO report on page 2.)

National Second Officer: Stachia
No written report.

Addendum: Zenah will transfer publication materials to Stachia.

National Membership Officer: Thea
No written report.

National Pursewarden: Manny
No written report.

National PIO: Greg
No written report.

National Publication Officers: Zenah
No written report.
Zenah asked folks be patient with her as her husband recently crossed over.

National Correspondence Officer: Oberon
(Please see NCO report on page 3.)

National Recorder: Morgana RavenTree
(Please see report on page 4.)

Committee Reports:

- Path to Membership - Thea



They have not met yet, but have been adding folks to the committee. Thea will be making a post to AIR. She would like to have meetings once per month.

- Board Training – no report.
- Administrative Support
Many members are in support of an Admin Support. Jack asked for a job description, but Zenah reminded him that one was written last year. Zenah will post to AIR again for a volunteer. She will update the job description and post to Board list.
- Social Justice Committee – Morgana
At Grand Council, we had a meeting of the Social Justice Committee. It was an informal meeting intended to give me an opportunity to show everyone else the blog and what I have been doing with it and try to drum up some interest in receiving contributions to the blog. Since Grand Council I have posted a couple of articles by Rowan Fairgrove about her activities with PACT, and I will post a new article of my own within the next few days. Several other people pledged contributions but nothing has materialized as yet.

Old Business:

- MerryMeet/Grand Council wrap-up:
Jack expressed his appreciation for everyone's hard work in putting it on.
- Update of National Archives project:
Jack will be handing over some papers. Zenah will continue to do National Archives, as she sheds wearing of some other hats.
- Update for Officer Handbooks:
Jack asked the officers to please finish this and be ready to hand off to your counterparts. Morgana said she has a draft of the Recorder's manual and will be sending it to Lady Emrys for her input shortly.

New Business

- Status of Grand Council minutes:
The minutes of Friday, August 11th are finished, but Morgana hasn't started on the minutes for Saturday as yet. However, she still plans to have the minutes of Grand Council finished by Samhain.
- Status of Updated Bylaws and Policy manuals:
After GC minutes are completed, Morgana will work on the Bylaws and Policy Manuals. There weren't many changes so they should be finished by Samhain as well.
- Preparation for transition of officers:

New Officers will be added to the Board list on October 1. They are observing how the Board runs until they take office on 11/1/2017.

- Hart and Crescent Award Status:
Jack said person in charge of this is no longer a member of COG. Stachia said she and Amber had discussed updating the Hart and Crescent paperwork. Since they will both be on the Board next year she would prefer to wait until then. Oberon said Becky, who was handling this has the pins and just needs to know where to send them. Oberon suggested reaching out to her about an Associate membership. Thea seconded the idea of reaching out to her about having a role in COG.
- Charlottesville PR:
Jack mentioned that he had released a statement as National First Officer. Morgana acknowledged that she posted it on the Social Justice Blog.
- Past NFO Review Award of Honor committee:
Jack said that at Grand Council it was decided that past NFO would be on the Award of Honor Committee. We already have a past NFO elist.
- Renew www.COGMerryMeet.org domain name:
Zenah said the renewal come up in a couple of days. The renewal is \$15 per year. She just needs to know if we want to renew it. The Board decided by consensus to renew it for 3 years. She will submit a reimbursement form.

Reminders:

- Date of Afternoon Tea virtual meeting, Oct 1, 2017 4 PST
- Newsletter deadline: Samhain deadline Oct 21, 2017
- Next National Board meeting: Sunday Oct 22, 2017

The meeting was adjourned.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Alpha Wolf

Hills and Rivers – Coven
First publication – Lammas 2017
Second publication – Mabon 2017

Statement of Practice

I am a third-degree Wiccan High Priest who runs my own teaching coven, Coven of the Alpha Wolf, established in 2014. I am also the tradition head for the Gala Tradition of Witchcraft, a male mystery tradition of Wicca for gay and bisexual men. We jokingly call ourselves Heinz 57 Witches, because my teacher and initiator has been



connected to and learned from many different and varied traditions-among the most notable of our influences are the Black Forest Clan (BFC), the Horsa Tradition, and the Sacred Pentagraph. This broad-based education is one of my most treasured experiences, and I do my best to impart that same level of depth and breadth to the training I give the witches in both the coven where I serve as High Priest and the broader Gala Witchcraft Community. That is one of the reasons that I am so excited to join Covenant of the Goddess and participate in a broader view of the Craft with witches from other covens and traditions.

We acknowledge and honor the Wiccan Rede as a central piece of our magical practice in Gala Witchcraft, taking it as good wisdom to guide our thoughts, emotions, and actions. In accordance with the oaths that we have taken, no Gala Witch will charge people for Wiccan training. I, personally, agree to recognize the autonomy and sovereignty of each Coven in Covenant of the Goddess. The tradition of secrecy that has saved the lives of many a witch is deeply important to me. I take my oaths very seriously and I respect other witches who have taken similar oaths, and I would never encourage them to break their vows to coven, tradition, or gods.

Personally, I am very active within the magical community-both in Pennsylvania and around the globe. Locally, I serve as the Cumberland County Rep for the PA Conference of Esoteric Clergy, I am working with the Interfaith Alliance of Pennsylvania to bring a Wiccan presence to their activities in the region, and I will present a workshop on the male mysteries at Pagan Pride. On a national level, I train several male witches long-distance and continue to take new long-distance students in the Gala Tradition. Internationally, I correspond with several seekers about the male mysteries in England, South Africa, Germany, and Australia. In each of these locations, I have at least one seeker who is serious about creating a Gala coven. I also write a public blog about the male mysteries for gay men within a Wiccan structure, and I run several online groups geared towards a discussion of the male mysteries through a gay male perspective.

As for the Gala Tradition of Witchcraft, we are, admittedly, a rather young organization, only having been established within the last decade. Currently, Alpha Wolf Coven has 10 active members, with three hived elders in the tradition who have their own covens in Seattle, Durham, (N. C.), and New York City. While Gala is not British Traditional, we are BTW-derived, so we keep the specific names of our gods secret, as they are used

by oath-bound initiates only. Even though we are a male mystery coven for gay and bisexual men, the Gala Tradition is not an anti-feminine movement. For me, the beauty of Wicca is its focus on balance. While men and women working together in a group is one way to honor the balance between the Sacred Masculine and the Sacred Feminine, it is not the only way. As Gala Witches recognize the Law of Polarity, with a Horned God and a Mother Goddess. Our Goddess is a Triple Goddess who helps us tap into our own internal feminine and balance the polarities inherent in every gay man through interaction with the Maiden, Mother, and Crone. Our God is a version of the Horned God, who helps us embrace our virile, masculine nature and connect with the fertility aspects inherent in homosexuality. We do not work exclusively with one pantheon (like the Norse, Roman, Celtic, etc.), because there simply is not enough information in any one cultural tradition. Instead, we derive our inspiration from various cultures who have a documented history of homosexuality in their mythologies.

As a gay male witch within a male mystery tradition of witchcraft that caters to gay and bisexual men, I am firmly aware of the need for diversity in practice and unity of the overarching faith that is Wicca. In fact, as the tradition head for the Gala Tradition of Witchcraft, I had a choice to start our own church or join an already pre-existing organization. I have never been one for isolating myself or for elitist behavior. Instead, I have preferred to be inclusive when and where my oaths would allow me, and so when the time came to make the choice between organizing a Gala Church of Wicca or joining a pre-existing organization, I chose Covenant of the Goddess, precisely because I believe that the underlying unity of Wicca and Witchcraft (despite the diversity of practice), which you speak about, is one of the most noble and respectable qualities of our collective faith.

Coven of the Alpha Wolf and all its members agree to abide by the bylaws and charter of the Covenant of the Goddess and the decisions made by the Council. In addition, we agree to hold harmless any members of the board working in their official capacity.

Thank you for your consideration. Merry Meet and Blessed Bel
- Casey Giovinco

Letter of Recommendation #1

Greetings Covenant of the Goddess members,

This letter is in support of Alpha Wolf Coven's application for membership to Covenant of the



Goddess through Hills and Rivers Local Council. Over the past six months, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Casey Giovinco, HP of Alpha Wolf Coven. He told me about his own spiritual journey that led to the development of his Gala Tradition. I was struck by Casey's dedication to others and his broad knowledge of witchcraft. This was due in part to his exposure to a wide variety of traditions into which he has been initiated, but also because he loves to learn. Despite his knowledge and experience, he is and will always be a seeker. He does not forget his early years when he needed guidance. This informs and motivates his teaching. He reached out to gay men to give them the spiritual guidance and an ethical spiritual foundation that took him years to discover. He is the mentor that he wished he had when he was a young seeker. While he has successfully founded a growing tradition, he recognizes his debt to his teachers and his local pagan community. He passes on knowledge of the craft through workshops and lectures and actively participates in events and organization in the broader Pagan community.

Although he started his tradition relatively new, he already has numerous students who have started their own Gala Tradition coven, following a structured process of initiation and sound teaching methodology. Students study ritual structure, ethics, and mythology. Although the tradition draws heavily from myths containing homosexual themes, there is careful attention paid to the Divine Feminine and an exploration of Her manifestation in the hearts and minds of these seekers. There is a balance of deep tradition and individual exploration, which gives each student space to grow and make their spiritual path very personal.

I give my full support of Casey and his Gala Tradition's membership in Covenant of the Goddess and Hills and Rivers Local Council.

In Her Service,
Faunina Del Bosco, HPS Circle of Diana
First Officer/Recorder
Hills and Rivers Local Council

Letter of Recommendation #2

Dear Hills & Rivers Council of CoG,
It is my pleasure to be able to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. Casey Giovinco. Casey is an exceptional member of our Coven; Coven of the Wolfa Coven (British Traditional-Horsa Tradition).

As High Priestess of the Wolfa Coven and Associate Member of the New Wiccan Church international, I

have known Casey for almost 5 years and worked closely with him. Casey is a full-fledged member of our coven, I can witness to this. I know Casey has probably gotten multiple letters of recommendation about his background both in Horsa and as the tradition head for his own Wiccan study of Gala tradition whereas Casey is teaching other strong male witches of the male mysteries.

I will focus this letter of recommendation on Casey as a human being and Witch. As I said, I have known Casey for almost 5 years, in this time period; I have seen Casey grow and change as a witch and as an individual. Casey has become stronger as a witch, maturing and even leading with temperance, mercy and strength. As an individual Casey has shown grace and knowledge in difficult times, caring, tolerance, and understanding for others whom may not be able to give the same to him. Casey has an insatiably for learning more about the Craft of the Wise, delving deeper with his learning and in return utilizes what he knows to aid others that are like minded on the path to their spirituality.

Casey is very successful at living a balanced life; he uses yoga, meditation, and his professional talents in hypnotherapy to aid with his body, mind, and soul, while being able to help others. As his High Priestess and a psycho-therapist, I very much appreciate this about Casey and feel his ability to be centered and balanced is one of the most important reasons that Casey has strength in all areas of his life. Extending membership in the COG can only be of a mutual benefit to both COG and to Casey. It is my hope that you will consider Casey for membership.

Blessed Be and May the Goddess Bless.
Tammy Flower
HPS and Lady of the Wolfa Coven;
Horsa & Sacred Pentagraph Traditions

Letter of Recommendation #3

Dear Hills & Rivers Council of CoG,
It is my pleasure to be able to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Casey Giovinco. Casey is an extraordinary person and member of our Coven; Coven of the Wolfa Coven (British Traditional- Horsa Tradition).

As High Priestess of the Strixa Coven and new member of CoG I have known Casey for many years and worked closely with him as students and as HP & HPS. He is of high ethical and moral character. Casey throughout the years has guided and aided many seekers, young and old to find their way along the path of their spirituality. He is the Tradition Head of the Gala Tradition of



Witchcraft which I have watched him develop this concept into a wonderful group. I have always known Casey to be passionate about teaching others, and passing on knowledge and education with compassion

I cannot speak highly enough of Casey; I hope that you will seriously consider Casey's application to CoG. Casey is a wonderful person, witch, and most importantly he is a real humanitarian and teacher in our community.

Brightest Blessings
Collette Wagman
HPS of Strixa

Letter of Recommendation #4

Dear Hills & Rivers Council of CoG,

I am writing you this letter on behalf of Casey Giovinco and his coven, Coven of the Alpha Wolf, and I can say without reservation that I highly recommend him for consideration and also his coven as a member of Covenant of the Goddess.

I feel that I am adequately qualified to make this recommendation because of my long spiritual relationship and friendship with Mr. Giovinco who has received his training within the Priesthood of witchcraft in my coven.

I am the Elder High Priest and Lord Father of the Wolfa Coven which is a British Traditional Wicca coven that practices in the Horsa Tradition and the Sacred Pentagraph tradition. I am and also a vouched for Seated Elder, Wiccan clergy and voting member of the New Wiccan Church International (established 1973} along with 5 other local Wiccan Elders of the Horsa Tradition who are also Associate Members.

Recently, as of the Spring Equinox/Ostara 2017 edition of CoG's newsletter, the Wolfa Coven has officially become a member coven in the local Hills & Rivers Council of the Covenant of the Goddess because we believe in its principles and feel it has a valid role in providing local nationwide leadership and collaboration among witches, Wiccans and pagans. Because Casey Giovinco is a vouched-for member of the Wolfa Coven, he also strongly supported our coven's unanimous decision to join CoG and also personally at the time began considering applying for CoG membership for his separate coven that is within his own tradition of Gala Witchcraft.

I can speak of firsthand personal experience on the hard work and dedication that Casey and his coven has made in the world of witchcraft and for himself

that make him uniquely qualified as a leader of his own coven, tradition, and witchcraft in general.

Casey Giovinco is an initiate and regularly attending member that I can provide a strong vouch for and is in good standing within the Wolfa Coven. During the time of his training within in the inner and outer portico of our coven, he established a new branch of coven-based witchcraft which is now called the "Gala Tradition of Witchcraft." This tradition is a separate initiatory line of witchcraft that brings together gay and bi-sexual seekers and initiates of Wicca and witchcraft in order to practice together, re-discover old and new roles of gay or bi-sexual men in the magical arts and to bond together as brothers in the Craft . His coven was specifically established to assist gay and bi-sexual men so they may safely express themselves in a safe space with not only their own unique struggles within religion, but to help build up gay and bi-sexual men through serious spiritual and religious practice of self-discovery and also ritual practices.

I also served as an advisor and collaborator for Mr. Giovinco to assist in him in the creation of this new coven based witchcraft tradition approximately four years ago. Since that time, he has brought together a number of seekers who sought him out for training. He now has helped establish multiple land-based covens on the East Coast of the U.S. and now a newly formed study group on the West Coast with more to come.

His coven located in South-Central Pennsylvania has been a successful venture and personally know each of the members of his coven. They are wonderful individuals who share the same ideas and ideals of building up bonds of brotherhood amongst gay and bi-sexual men in positive and progressive ways in order to continually evolve the role of LBGTQ within witchcraft and mystical spiritual traditions.

I also wish to speak to you more on Casey's own physical, mental and spiritual pursuits which have also adequately trained him in order to serve spiritual seekers as clergy outside of his coven training . These qualifications not only have helped him develop the much needed insight for guiding seekers and initiates in his own coven and tradition, but also amongst any spiritual seekers who seek his council.

Casey Giovinco believes in a body, mind and spirit approach for himself and also actively assists others who request this assistance. When I first met Casey, along with his studies in witchcraft, he also was a certified personal trainer and Life Coach. He also found many comparisons with how



even something that seems as mundane as physical fitness and body building can also become a spiritual process of growth within his own personal spiritual and religious experience. He continues his practice of body building for his own physical fitness and has also discovered how this physical activity can fit hand-in-hand with his own spirituality.

Another love that I have personally watched Casey develop and receive was his certification as a yoga instructor. He has taught yoga in a number of different venues and he teaches instruction in yoga to this day in the town where he lives at a highly reputable gym. The practice of yoga is something that he has also found has helped to foster his mental and physical states and becomes a self-discovery in the path to "Know Thyself" while he is practicing and teaching. He has also assisted many members in our coven and in other groups who wish to awaken or combine the physical movement of yoga with their spiritual practice. Casey and I have also talked a number of times about this, as I am an occasional practitioner of yoga. Casey continues to actively teach yoga for a living as well. He also combines his venture of Yoga with that in Life Coaching as well.

Another aspect that Casey has taken upon himself to study while also deepening his knowledge of the Craft is that of becoming a certified Hypnotist and had started his own business called "Deep Well Hypnosis" in order to provide hypnosis to the public at large. This is a proud achievement! As an initiate of the Wica and also as a leader of his own witchcraft coven he founded, I know this has assisted him in understanding the greater powers of the mind - which is something near and dear to practitioners of most forms of witchcraft and the development of human will. More information about his services can be detailed on his website, www.caseygiovinco.com

I can say whole-heartily and without reservation, along with the other members of the Wolfa Coven, that I support Casey Giovinco and his coven, Coven of the Alpha Wolf of the Gala Tradition of Witchcraft, to become contributing member coven of the Covenant of the Goddess. I believe that the vision of CoG matches the principles that Casey holds very near and dear in his heart!

Blessed Be,
Matt Daughenbaugh
Lord Father and HP,
Wolfa Coven Horsa & Sacred Pentagraph Traditions

Orion Foxwood

National – Solitary

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First publication – Mabon 2017

Statement of Practice

Rev. Kevin Shipman (OBA Orion Foxwood) is a traditionally trained High Priest in Celtic Traditional Witchcraft and Alexandrian Wicca and the founder of Foxwood Temple of the Old Religion and the House of Brigh Faery Seership Institute. Orion venerates and calls on balanced deity of Goddesses and Gods from the tradition's pantheons. He follows the esbatic cycle of 13 full moons and the sabbatic cycle of 8 holidays for the veneration of the Great Mother.

Orion writes, teaches, initiates and advises on the traditions he holds including: Traditional Witchcraft, British Traditional Wicca, Appalachian and Southern Conjure/ Folk Magic and Folkloric and Contemporary Faery tradition and Seership.

As a coven and lineage elder, Orion reaches and initiates clergy. In the House of Brigh he teaches and anoints Seers in an international institute. The focus of this work is eco-spiritual community and global action and service to uphold the well being of earth and her children.

Letter of Recommendation #1

Dear Members of CoG,

It is with great honor that I recommend Orion Foxwood for membership within Covenant of the Goddess.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Orion, a coven and lineage elder and founder of The House of Brigh, for more than 10 years now. I have worked closely with him in circle, in the community, as well as professionally. He is a dedicated teacher who is very well read and knowledgeable in Traditional Witchcraft, British Traditional Wicca, Appalachian and Southern Conjure & Folk Magic and Folkloric and Contemporary Faery Tradition and Seership. He is a man of great integrity and always honors his word. Orion meets our criteria for membership as he celebrates the Sabbats and Esbats, worships the Goddess, and follows a code of ethics that is compatible with CoG.

I feel that Orion Foxwood would make a wonderful addition to the Covenant of the Goddess.

Sincerely,
Mary Stuart
Elder High Priestess, Celtic Circle of Wisdom
Orange County Local Council PurseWarden



Letter of Recommendation #2

It is my privilege and honor to support Orion Foxwood's application for Covenant of the Goddess Solitary membership.

Orion is a trained witch, with the heart of a witch, and a teacher of traditional witchcraft as well as other magical traditions.

He honors the Lord and Lady of many names and encourages others to do so.

He also honors the spirit of the land as well as the holy days of Esbats and Sabbats. Through his books and his dedication to the craft, he shares magic with the world.

Pamdora
1st Officer of Orange County Local Council

LOCAL COUNCILS



CALAFIA

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Ostara 2017 edition.



CHAMISA

~ September 16, 2017

Location: Ardantane 10 am-12 noon

Agenda Check-in: Rowan
Called to order at: 10:02

Roll Call:
Circle of the Winter Moon,
Our Lady of the Woods,
Crowwymin,
Coven of the Silver Moon,
Circle of the Cauldron,
Silver Moon Health Services,
Pyramid,
Gaia,
Lady Athena, and
Ryan.

Officer Reports:

First Officer, Rowan: I have been working on the Membership Report alone since Litha. If someone

would like to step forward to help me complete the last seven interviews and the report, I will gladly accept your help.

Az and I did not complete a statement condemning the United States for pulling out of the Paris Climate Accords, as we had hoped to do. Since then, there have been several more issues in the news that would warrant a similar comment in a less fraught time. An incomplete list would include:
The white supremacist's march in Charlottesville, VA
The planned repeal of DACA
The pardon of racist judge Joe Arapio
The two category 4 hurricanes that hit the US mainland in the past six weeks
And I'm sure there are more

All this brings up the question of how do we cope? Are statements enough? I'd like to invite the activist minded in camp to drop by the OLW camp to discuss what the Pagan Community in general and the CLC in particular, should do going forward.

If you feel that the community should not act, I'd like to hear from you, too. The same invitation applies.

Second Officer, Ryan: Mabon is done. I think there are a few changes that need to be reviewed. I will be happy to mentor Dave through the bs and will make sure to pass on the instruction manual.

Membership, Dee: Silver Moon Health Services wants to join Chamisa!

Recorder, Lora: These minutes serve as my record.

Pursewarden, AmberIsis: Chamisa has paid stipends to members who attended Merry Meet. Discussion of Mabon expenses and donations will follow during New Business.

PIO, KariIsis: Mabon festival sold out!

Interfaith Committee, Amber K: Interfaith will now be both Amber and Jeff Youngs.

Friendly Reports:

Ardantane: Classes and Retreats are filling, so register early. Ardantane has a GoFundMe for the Uncommon Room. On December 31, the mortgages for the land will be finally paid off! Two covens have made HUGE contributions that are much appreciated!

Silver Moon Health Services: Silver Moon is planning for an incident-free weekend at Mabon!



Beltane Southwest: No report.

Old Business:

Report from the Membership Committee, Rowan: Dee will now be helping Rowan with the exit interviews. My target date for completion is Yule, 2017.

Rights and Responsibilities Pamphlet: There were several comments and suggestions for the pamphlet. What is it for? It will be specific to festivals, but also can be guidelines for life. Tiffany will work with Az and Carol to add these ideas to the pamphlet. A draft will be ready by Yule.

Merry Meet Report: Amber and Azrael were our only members to go. There were some technical glitches with the virtual attendance. We talked for a full day about what CoG means. We also talked about having supporting members who can make donations, just many organizations do, and about each council having a member on the board. The next MerryMeet is going to be in South Florida. Amber is the National Correspondence Officer!

New Business:

Elections: Everyone except will stay in their positions for another year, except for Ryan. David will take the 2nd Officer position. Ryan will mentor him in the coordination of the annual Mabon event.

Ardantane Uncommon Room: Chamisa Local Council will donate \$1,000 to Ardantane now and another amount, which could be another \$1,000, after Mabon final accounting is done. These donations are toward the finishing of the Uncommon Room.

Fees for Mabon:

Guest expenses: \$1000-1300 (Honorarium + mileage)

Silver Moon Health Services: \$600-700

Extra \$120 for getting camp space on Wednesday instead of Thursday.

Albuquerque PPD will be September 24th. CLC will be there.

Mabon Report: Newcomers workshop was well attended. S.J.'s workshops were also well attended. The tavern idea did work and kept glass away from the drum circle, but the person in charge should take away any alcohol left behind. A big thank you to Pyramid and Gaia for taking care of the camp's facilities!

Merry Meet 2019: CLC is looking at hosting Merry Meet 2019. CLC will look into college campuses to

lodge the attendees, using dormitories and conference rooms. Some suggestions were:

Bodhi Institute
Holy Cross Retreat in Las Cruces
Former Santa Fe College of Art and Design
Sunrise Springs
Ghost Ranch

A call is going out for members to think about serving on the CoG board.

Adjournment



DOGWOOD

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Samhain 2016 edition.



EVERGLADES MOON

~ August 27, 2017

Start time: 1:50 pm Location: Port St. Lucie, FL
Having quorum, the meeting started at: 1:50 pm.

ATTENDANCE

(Magickal Name, Position, Coven)

In Person:

Shaylee, First Officer, Beachfyre Coven
Kasha, Co-Second Officer, AoS
Raven, Membership Officer, AoS
Alpandia, Publications Officer, DragonWhisper Coven
Canu, Co-Recorder, Beachfyre Coven
Lady Bridget, Witch and Famous
Chloe, Beachfyre
Coyote, AoS

Adobe Connect Room:

Lady Circe, Pursewarden, AoS
Qabal, Public Information Officer and National Pursewarden
Amber, Co-Second Officer

OFFICER REPORTS

First Officer Report - Shaylee

We are coming into our Pagan Pride Season and heading towards our annual meeting. Its time to start thinking about helping and volunteering with



your local pagan pride event - if you are interested see our point person for the event.

Also have you made plans to attend the Annual Meeting????? If you haven't please remember it is the one meeting that is Mandatory Attendance. Last year we didn't meet quorum and I would not like to have a repeat of that this year. EMLC rocks and one of the reasons we rock is because we are active and participate. I am hoping to be able to use the Adobe Chat Room with a Wi-fi pack but this will not be guaranteed. The best way to make sure you can attend and participate is to be there.

Additionally it has been a pleasure to be your First Officer this year and I look forward to doing so again next year.

Second Officer Report - Kasha/Amber Moon

We have 10 members registered for the annual retreat, which is about 5 weeks away.

On 9/1, we will put out a call for anyone who wants to lead a discussion or do a workshop or a craft so we have opportunities for planned time together.

Budgeting and menu prep continues. Ritual on Saturday evening- we plan for that to come together onsite with those who are present.

In Service
Amber and Kasha
Co-Second Officers

Membership Officer Report - Raven

As my own CoG Renewal is due at Mabon, I thought it might be a good time to remind the others of you who renew now that the deadline is 9/21/17. I'm not sure of the "drop dead" date at this time, but I will contact our NMO Thea to find out, and ask that she have mercy on us, after our ordeal.

The following members are due at Mabon:
All members of the Assembly of Solitaries;
Alpandia
Dona Pantera
Ceos

In Her Service,
Your EMLC M.O.
Raven

Pursewarden Report - Lady Circe

\$6,846.60 in PNC Main
513.18 in PayPal
7,359.78 Total
Pending income \$300 in annual retreat/meeting invoices to be paid

Publications Officer Report - Alpandia

All of our email lists and publicly-accessible methods of contact are up and running without issue. Our Facebook page currently has 1347 likes, and our posts are consistently reaching about 200-300 of those people. Gotta love facebook algorithms. Reaching for the Moon, podcast, continues to be popular. We're averaging about 500 listens per episode, with many people returning to enjoy older episodes. Our most listened to episode so far (based on total downloads) is Beltane 2017, followed by Imbolc 2017, and then Imbolc 2013! The EMLC.net website has been visited over 400 times in the last month and a half by over 300 users. We've seen an increase in traffic with the announcement that registration is now open for Turning the Tide 2017. I've added additional Google Analytics tracking to links that get shared so that we can better track how people are finding us. In the next few months I'll be working on an updated homepage. We'll also be incorporating a section of the EMLC site dedicated to Grand Council/Merry Meet 2018. Finally, we have a page dedicated to all of the Pagan Pride Day celebrations around Florida, along with which EMLC members will be attending. This is being shared via social media and email.

Give a listen to our podcast by visiting:
<http://emlc.net/category/emlc-podcasts/>
And while you're there, be sure to subscribe and leave us some feedback!

If you're interested in joining us in Florida for our Yuletide Celebration Turning the Tide, you can register at: <http://emlc.net/turning-tide-2017-io-satvrnalja/>

Get a list of Florida Pagan Pride Events here:
<http://emlc.net/florida-pagan-pride-day-events-2017/>

Public Information Officer Report - Qabal

Nothing new.

Recorder Officer Report - Canu/Aequitas:

Minutes of the last meeting were drafted, approved, and sent to the membership and National Publications Officer with thanks to Aequitas for handling it promptly!

WHAT EMLC-ERS ARE DOING:

- Canu is the incoming National First Officer. He's grateful to have a constructive and active incoming National Board. He expects to be trying to understand our Local Councils' and National Members' needs.



- Shaylee performed her first marriage ceremony!
 - Lady Bridget went camping in the Adirondacks and is organizing a canoe/camping trip on the Peace River September 29-Oct 1st. Let her know if you want to
 - Treasure Coast Pagan Pride Day T-shirts are done and up on Teespring.com! Oct 14th is the event date.
- OLD BUSINESS:**
- EMLC'ers at the Movies – Qabal will contact O Cinema to see what scheduling is available and if Witches of Eastwick is available. Discussion of whether to fundraise there. Best idea was to give them a card that would indicate if they enjoyed the movie they can donate to EMLC with a scannable QR or other code that would link to a PayPal donation.
 - Kasha - PPD Kits are available for Lady Bridget and Shaylee, including banners, EMLC flyers, CoG's tri-fold flyers, business cards, pencil boxes, folders, notebooks, etc. (The EMLC tri-fold needs a tweak to bring the left-most columns in. Canu did and sent out.)
 - The EMLC logo needs an update. The current one is too low-res for many purposes. Discussion of how to get good submissions. We might start inside EMLC regarding the design elements and see about getting it cleaned up and in a scalable format. We'll have it on the next meeting agenda and be more ready to discuss.
 - Tequesta Drum Circle ritual at Yule? Qabal will check on whether they expect us to be leading it. If so, we'll pull together volunteers.
 - Grand Council
Incoming National Officers
FO – Canu
SO – Circe
PW – Qabal
Membership – Thea
Publications – Stachia
PIO – Janine
Recorder – Morgana Raventree
 - Officer and LC Committee reports are in the agenda.
 - Some committees had no report or activity during the past year (Harm None, Social Justice, Vision, and Path to Membership)
 - MM 2018 Presentation made for MerryMeet in Fort Lauderdale. Some questions answered.
 - 2016 Board minutes not approved. Some discrepancies noted between minutes and bylaw/policy manual decisions. Will be reviewed for accuracy and brought back.
 - Administrative position – no decision
 - Creation of a national advocacy network – Craft-related social justice issue and crisis response. No decision
 - National Officer Training – no decision
 - Streamlined Policy for Issuing Statement – no decision
 - Simplifying Attendance Funds Accounting – it will go back into the General Fund
 - Proposal to adjust the subscription hard copy subscription for newsletters to \$50/year - passed
 - Virtual Manager Position – National FO will appoint a person to do year-round tech support, like opening Adobe Chat rooms. National SO will establish a tech team for each GC. If tech team costs need to be incurred, they will be incorporated into each GC cost.
 - Form name change to Proxy/Quorum form passed.
 - Proposal passed to form a committee to talk with Cherry Hill about what it costs to gain accreditation.
 - Proposal to standardize letterhead passed.
 - Audit results and details on the members site passed.
 - Email list cleanup passed – unused lists will be noticed and authorized for deletion
 - Awards of Honor were not given this year. New nominations will be submitted to a list of prior FOs, who will narrow it down to up to 3 nominees. At GC, they will be considered for unanimous support.
 - Budget passed!
 - CoG Records are being archived digitally and otherwise at Adocentyn.



NEW BUSINESS:

- CoG's Hart and Crescent Award – Kasha distributed Hart and Crescent Award materials to discuss. Wanted to see if EMLC might promote this and update the materials for the program. We could do it in time to possibly promote it in Florida and be ready to give awards in person if any Scouts are ready. Possible awardees could include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Spiral Scouts. Could we possibly underwrite part of the \$15 cost? Good way to possibly connect. Twinkled that we contact CoG National regarding updating the Hart and Crescent material, will promote it, will support getting through the process for participants, and help underwrite half of the application cost. Alpania volunteered to be the point of contact.
- Alpania will inquire about a psychic house party location. Discussion of the past way that the services, fees, and scheduling worked. Best past ones were around Samhain on a Saturday night. Twinkled to form committee to get it ready for next meeting. Lady Bridget is temporary lead. Alpania and Shaylee are on the committee. Email Lady Bridget if you want to be on the committee.
- Annual Meeting
 - Officers – current officers should post to the EMLC list about candidacy/openings and what the role entails so we can identify our LC Board position needs. Co-officers are encouraged.
 - Membership – We'll need to approve and submit our membership variances to the National newsletter for publication.
 - Agenda – Shaylee will email out the annual meeting agenda and solicit agenda ideas.
 - Calendaring thinking – bring your calendars! We need to set up our meeting dates for at least the first half of the year. We'll be busy getting Grand Council arrangements done, so we need to get those nailed down.

Merry Meet 2018

- Embassy Suites Terms and Conditions draft distributed. Discussion of whether guest room costs will be broken out or paid with registration. We should have a room rate code that will be published for our guests. Breakfast and lunch options reviewed.
- Circe will email the EMLC Board about other decisions necessary in the short-term, including any Committees we'll need.

- Tech team will include Canu, Alpania, and Qabal. Alpania and Bridget may help with the Adobe Connect Chat room management.
- Kasha, Qabal, Bridget, Canu, Shaylee, and Circe are on the GC Ops Committee.

Turning The Tides 2017 - Saturnalia

- Registration is up online; Qabal made a flyer, too.
- Discussion of workshop scheduling, ritual, and workshop/ritual tokens.
- Registration – Lady Circe
- Workshops/Program – Aequitas
- Kitchen – Raven
- Silent Auction – Kasha
- Wreath Contest - Shaylee
- Ritual Point Person – Alpania
- Decorations Point Person – Rayna

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS:

Pagan Pride Days -

- Ft. Lauderdale 9/23/17 (Lady Bridget is EMLC point person)
- Treasure Coast 10/14/17 (Lady Bridget is EMLC point person)
- Orlando 9/30 (Kasha is EMLC point person, if she's able to make it)
- Volusia County (no date or EMLC point person yet)
- Jacksonville (Kasha is EMLC point person).
- EMLC Annual Meeting - (Blue Spring State Park) October 5-8, 2017
- Tuatha Dea - playing in Stuart on 10/12/17
- Pagan Pride Day - (Treasure Coast) October 14, 2017
- Turning the Tide - (North Miami Dade County) December 8-10, 2017

Meeting adjourned at about 5:02 pm.

Next Meeting: October 5-8, 2017, Blue Spring State Park

Reminders and directions will be sent prior.



HILLS AND RIVERS

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Ostara 2017 edition.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Litha 2017 edition.



ORANGE COUNTY

~ **No Report**

Last published minutes in the Beltane 2017 edition.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ **July 23, 2017**

Minutes of SoCal Local Council Meeting
 Date: July 23, 2017
 Time: 2:50 p.m.

The meeting was held at the home of Maureen and Barbara on July 23, 2017 and was called to order at 2:50 p.m.

Covens Attending in Person:

- Alani's Eyes (Maureen & Barbara)
- Moon Birch Grove (Emily & Laura)
- White Buffalo Clan (Tracy & Leticia)

Covens Attending by Proxy:

- The Circle of The Dragon and the Phoenix (via proxy holder Barbara)
- Ghostwheel (via proxy holder Leticia)

Covens Not Attending:

- Ashesh Hekat

We have quorum.

OFFICERS REPORTS

First Officer: Leticia
 The annual report has been sent to COG National after review by SCLC COG membership. Proxies for Grand Council for those not attending in person will be carried by other SCLC COG members. Currently, five individuals are planning to attend in person and will carry two proxies.
 Merrymeet Leadership Institute: An agenda has not been published as of this meeting, but Leticia will forward it as soon as it is available.

Membership/Correspondence: Tracy
 There was confusion about Moon Birch Grove's renewal but that was determined to be a clerical error by National and has since been cleared up.

Pursewarden: Monica (not present)
 No report available. All Pursewarden reports have been completed and submitted in a timely manner to date.

We believe the refund from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach ("UUCLB") for the cancelled event has been received and deposited in the SCLC COG account, but we are awaiting official confirmation from the Pursewarden..

PIO: Barbara
 Nothing specific to report. Barbara is forwarding material to the group via the Yahoo page when she deems it of interest and appropriate.

Recorder: Monica (not present)
 Minutes of the previous meeting were presented to the Council for review prior to this meeting and have been sent to National for inclusion in the next newsletter.
 Maureen is taking minutes for this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Pagan Pride LA:
 PPLA will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at Rainbow Lagoon Park, 400 Shoreline Village Drive, Long Beach 90802. Our application has been submitted but we have not yet heard back. Morgana advises us that they're running out of space. Further discussion revealed that a number of people would not be able to attend due to time conflicts and health issues and we have decided to cancel for this year.

Action Item: Leticia will notify PPLA that we will not be officially presenting this year (although a number of individuals still plan to attend).

NEW BUSINESS

2017 Leadership Institute:
 Even though an agenda has not yet been published our understanding is that it will include a discussion of possible changes in membership rules; i.e., the possibility of individual memberships with voting rights that would supersede the current solitary rules. This generated a lively discussion of how that might increase membership, whether it would dilute coven's voting rights, how it might affect anonymity (i.e., for people in underrepresented areas of the country where being public might make them vulnerable). If this is the topic we expect the Leadership Institute discussion will be just as lively.

Public Outreach:
 A discussion of declining membership led to ideas for possible public outreach events. Ideas included: A public salon, perhaps at a local coffee house to talk with interested people in the community. It would need a theme. One suggestion was "Wicca: What it was, what it is, what it will be."



A "Resistance" theme about protecting our First Amendment rights we agreed would probably be too political for a public event sponsored by SCLC COG.

Something fun and entertaining might generate more attendance: i.e., games such as Wiccan Jeopardy or Bingo, songs and chants, crafting for ritual, etc.

Action Item: Barbara will check with the local coffee house to see if it would be available and at what cost.

Other Activities:

We talked about possibly doing a SCLC COG ritual (members only), perhaps for Yule.

Next Meeting:

We will hold our next official meeting on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 2 p.m. at Barbara and Maureen's house.

This meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.



TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL

~ No Report

Last published minutes in the Litha 2017 edition.



TOUCHSTONE

~ June 5, 2017

We began the meeting with introductions because we had many new people attending.

In attendance: Ecclasian Fellowship, Temple of the Sapphire Sky, Circle of the Emerald Forest (by proxy held by Val)

Invocation – Val

Quorum – Yes

Also at the beginning the meeting we came to consensus that we are very happy to have Theresa come back to us as 1st officer.

Announcements:

*First thing on the agenda is that we all welcomed Temple of the Amethyst Moon as a new coven member of the Touchstone Local Council.

*Ecclasian Fellowship: Val has confirmed a date for Litha at the Moose-Lodge in Mentone on June 25th at 2pm

*Circle of the Emerald Forest: No report.

*Temple of the Amethyst Moon: We have our Litha Ritual together with the Temple of the Sapphire Sky on the 17th of June at the Crystal Fantasy. I'm also dedicating two new people into the Amethyst Moon and I will be elevating one of our lovely ladies on Lughnasadh.

*Temple of the Sapphire Sky: We are dedicating people on Litha and we are having our public ritual at the Crystal Fantasy on the 17th of June

*Temple of the Diamond Sands: Will be participating at the public ritual at Crystal Fantasy on the 17th of June and we hold classes weekly at 5:30pm at the Crystal Fantasy in Palm Springs.

*Community: 2 guests from the "Obsidian Oak" (Chad & Lari) have once again attended our meeting. And they will be soon starting their public classes in Idyllwild, CA.

* We have some new people tonight among which are Summer and her husband (Mike) who have created an application for Android phones called Witch Digest. Please download it on your phone and check it out, it is extremely useful.

* Jack: If you cannot attend the Ecclasian ritual for Litha on June the 25th, COG will be having its afternoon TEA on virtual at 4:00pm. The discussion will be lead by our National Membership officer and they will be discussing Merry Meet, Grand Council, Proposals, etc.

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Theresa): No report.

Second Officer (Joanne): No report, not present.

Pursewarden (Zenah): Our quarterly report went in and we have money in the account. All is going smoothly.

PIO (Mandy): No report but many people have been asking about Merry Meet so I've been directing then to our website and to the COG website.

Membership Officer (Lugh): I've been approached by Ivy and her son who are interested as joining as solitaries to Touchstone Local Council but were unable to make it to tonight's meeting.



Recorder (Val): The minutes for Aprils 2017 meeting were posted over the TLC website; they have been passed out and are awaiting approval by the council before I send them off to National.

Membership Applications:

Temple of the Amethyst Moon has been accepted as a new coven member to TLC. The Obsidian Oak is currently fulfilling the requirements needed for membership into the council. Also 2 people have approached Lugh for membership into TLC as solitaries but are not present tonight.

Old Business:

*TLC Calendar: We are planning some type of social get together in July so as not to interfere with Merry Meet. This fundraiser is to be organized by Mandy and put out on the TLC email list.

*The creation of a TLC meetup site was discussed and dismissed due to the cost of creating such a meetup site. However joining a Pagan meetup site was also discussed which might remedy the situation.

*TLC Supplies will be taken to the meeting two bins at a time and will be taken by Val and Zenah will go through them at her leisure and get rid of what is not needed and hopefully be able to condense them and store them.

New Business:

*Merry Meet Is the annual gathering for Covenant of the Goddess (CoG) which includes workshops, rituals, lectures, vendors, and entertainment. The Covenant also conducts its annual business meeting known as Grand Council (GC). This year's meeting will be held in Ontario, CA on August 11-12, 2017 at the Azure Hotel. To be hosted by our lovely Stachia. However this year's Merry Meet will be bare bones.

*Find new storage for TLC supplies (being worked on)
Will be ongoing until the situation can be solved.

*Online virtual websites, video conferencing for times when we do not meet:
We decided to go with Adobe Chat and it will be set-up by Zenah which has been working out nicely.

An email will be sent out over the TLC email list by Zenah with link before the virtual meeting.

*A proposal was made by Zenah to offer to any and all of our members of TLC travel funds for Merry Meet not to exceed \$140 and registration needs to be done by July 11th.

* In addition, after confirming funds were available to attend Leadership Institute, Lugh volunteered to assist with Leadership Institute for Merry Meet 2017.

Closing: Was done by Theresa and was very nice, short and sweet...

Next Meeting: August 7th, 2017





BACK MATTER



**Covenant of the Goddess
Membership Application Form**

Please *print* or *type* your information. **Forms that are illegible or incomplete will cause a delay in the membership application process.**

Please complete the entire form and return it with your payment to:

If applying to National, deliver to:

Covenant of the Goddess: NMO
POBox 12193
San Bernardino, CA 92423

If applying to a Local Council, deliver to:

Local Council Membership Officer

| | |
|---|--|
| I/We are applying for Membership in the Covenant of the Goddess as: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Coven (minimum \$110 Tithe enclosed) | <input type="checkbox"/> A Solitary (minimum \$50 Tithe enclosed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two Solitary Members Living in the Same Household (minimum \$75 Tithe enclosed) | |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| I/We are applying for Membership to: | Local Council Name |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National - <i>There is no Local Council serving this area.</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is our/my statement of practice and letters of recommendation from two different Covens or Solitaries who are members of and/or known to the Covenant. | |

| Membership Information and Confidentiality Levels (<i>see reverse side for additional information</i>) | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| SECRET | COG ONLY | PUBLIC | OUT REACH | WEB | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Coven Name or Name of Solitary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tradition (if any) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Contact Person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Name of 2 nd Solitary living in same household (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Street address or PO Box |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | City, State, Zip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Telephone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | E-mail Address |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Member website URL (if any) |

I recognize that I am personally and individually responsible for knowing and abiding by all local and state laws that apply to members of the clergy and I agree to hold harmless the Covenant of the Goddess.

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Signed: | Title: |
|---------|--------|



| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Date you sent this form: | Amount Enclosed: \$ |
|--------------------------|---------------------|

*Make your tax-deductible check payable to **Covenant of the Goddess** or to **CoG**.*

The **Coven Name/Name of Solitary** is the name that will be published in the Covenant’s Membership Roster in each newsletter and must be either level P or level O. The **Contact Name** is the name that will appear on your mailing label for all official Covenant business (i.e. the newsletter, etc.). If you designate **Secret** or **CoG Only** in the contact information, we will use the CoG P.O. Box in Berkeley as your published address. Information which is not designated will be considered to be **Secret**.

Confidentiality Levels:

- Secret** *Known only to the CoG Board of Directors (National and Local)*
- CoG Only** *May be given to other CoG members*
- Public** *May be revealed or published as appropriate (i.e., membership roster)*
- Outreach** *Actively networking - please circulate for contacts*
- Web** *Include on CoG Website Members Contacts page (and Outreach page if applicable)*

Your tithe entitles you printed copies of the CoG Newsletter during the membership application process, after which the CoG Newsletter is in electronic format on the CoGWeb. Hard-copy subscriptions are available by submitting a Subscription Form for a donation of \$30.

Upon approval you will receive a frameable Member Charter and copies of the CoG Bylaws and Policy Manual. Additional documents are available on the CoGWeb Members’ site.

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------|
| For Local Council Membership Office Use Only | | |
| Date Applied to Local Council: | Date Received Application: | |
| Statement of Practice Received: | Tithe check # | Amount: \$ |
| Recommendation 1 Rec’d | By: | |
| Recommendation 2 Rec’d | By: | |
| Date of Membership Acceptance of Application for Publication and Further Process: | | |
| Date sent to NMO: | Signature of LCMO: | |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| For National Membership Office Use Only | |
| Date received by National: | Amount Enclosed: \$ |
| Date check deposited or forwarded to National Pursewarden: | |
| Date forwarded to Publications Officer: | |
| Date Statement published in National Newsletter issue: | |
| Objections received, if any: | By: |
| Date Returned to LC for reconsideration, if any objections received: | |
| Date of final approval of Application, in consultation with LCMO: | |
| Date Membership announced in Newsletter: | |



Covenant of the Goddess Credentials Application

I am an initiated member of _____, a member in good standing of the Covenant of the Goddess, and hereby apply for credentials as:

- Minister — I meet the requirements of CoG By-Laws Article 7, Section B.1
- Elder — I meet the requirements of CoG By-Laws Article 7, Section B.2

Note: Your **LEGAL NAME, COUNTY AND STATE** ARE REQUIRED for the CoG credential files. This information is legally a matter of public record. If you register with any agency, you must use your legal name. Check your local area requirements for registration guidelines.

The name on my credentials should read: _____

Legal Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ **County (required):** _____

ZIP Code: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

For information about the various state laws, please contact your state, county and local municipalities or relevant websites. We offer the following websites as additional resources. These are not necessarily complete, comprehensive or current.

- Mandatory laws: Child Welfare Information Gateway: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/>
- Marriage laws: Cornell Law School: https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/table_marriage

I recognize that I am personally and individually responsible for knowing and abiding by all local and state laws that apply to members of the clergy and I agree to hold harmless the Covenant of the Goddess.

Signed _____ Date _____

You can pay using the PayPal donation button on the CoG website, just include a note with your name and that it is for credentials. If you pay by check please make your tax-deductible check payable to Covenant of the Goddess.

Complete both pages of this form and return it with payment of \$30.00 to:

| | |
|--|---|
| If you belong to a Local Council, deliver this form to your Local Council Membership Officer | If you are a National or International member, deliver to |
| Who will sign and send on to -----> | Covenant of the Goddess - NMO P.O. Box 12193 San Bernardino, CA 92423-2193 |



Verification of Eligibility of Other than Coven Leaders

I, _____, Elder/HPS/HP of the above Coven, certify that the above-named member is active in our Coven and is eligible to receive the credential requested according to the CoG By-Laws.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Local Council Membership Officer (not applicable for National Covens or Solitaries)

Above Signatures Verified by (please print): _____

Membership Officer of: _____ Local Council. Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signed _____ Date: _____

National Membership Officer

Date Received by National: _____ Recorded and credentials issued on: _____

Signed NMO: _____

Check #: _____ or Paypal Amount \$ _____ Date Forwarded to Pursewarden: _____

Date Credential Certificate Mailed: _____

Credential Number Assigned: _____

Mail to:
Covenant of the Goddess
National Membership Officer
P.O. Box 12193
San Bernardino, CA 92423-2193

Credential application is \$30.
Credential renewals are \$10 to \$20 annually.



Covenant of the Goddess Newsletter Subscription Request Form

Please enter a subscription (8 issues) for the Covenant of the Goddess Newsletter.

- I am enclosing my contribution of \$30 made payable to **Covenant of the Goddess** or **CoG**.
- I am a member of (Coven): _____
(Local Council): _____
- I am not a CoG member.

Please complete the entire form and return it with your payment to:
Covenant of the Goddess – Newsletter Editor
PO Box 12193
San Bernardino, CA 92423-2193

Please PRINT or TYPE all information.

Information that is illegible will be returned and may cause a delay in receiving your newsletter.

All information is considered secret and is known only to the CoG Board of Directors.

Name

Street address or PO Box

City, State, Zip

Telephone

E-Mail address

For Publication Office Use Only

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Date Received: | Amount Received: |
| First Issue: | Last Issue: |
| Date Check Forwarded to National Pursewarden: | |



Covenant of the Goddess Associate Participant Application &Renewal

New Application:

I wish to **participate** in The Covenant of the Goddess Associate Program.

- Associate Tithe enclosed \$40 (Renewable annually)
- We are solitary Associates living in the same household and qualify for the \$60 Tithe. This includes one electronic copy of the newsletter.
- Enclosed is my letter of introduction
- Letter of recommendation enclosed (optional, but strongly recommended)

If Renewing:

- I wish to renew my participation with the Covenant of the Goddess.
- Associate Tithe (\$40) enclosed. (Renewable annually)
- We are solitary Associates living in the same household and qualify for the \$60 Tithe. This includes one electronic copy of the newsletter.

Associate Card number(s): _____

Current Expiration Date: _____

Make your tax-deductible check payable to **Covenant of the Goddess** or to **CoG**.

Complete this form, marking your confidentiality levels, and return it with your tithe to:

If Applying at National

If Applying to a Local Council

**Associate Participation
Covenant of the Goddess: NMO
POBox 12193
San Bernardino, CA 92423**

Local Council Membership Officer

Name of the Local Council you are applying to: _____

- There is no Local Council in my area. I wish to apply to National.
- Check here if the above information has changed since your last renewal

Please be sure to fill out all the information requested on this form.

Confidentiality Levels

Please mark all ()s. Note: Information left blank will be considered to be Secret.

- S = Secret Known only to the CoG Board of Directors (National and Local)
 - C = CoG Only May be given to other CoG members
 - P = Public May be revealed or published as appropriate
 - O = Outreach Actively networking - please circulate for contacts
- Please PRINT or TYPE all information.

Information that is illegible will be returned and may cause a delay in the membership process.

() Must be P or O Associate Name: _____

() Street Address or Box # _____

City: _____ State/Province _____

() Zip/Postal Code: _____ County: _____



() Phone: _____ () E-mail address: _____

I hereby declare the following statements are true and *that I am over the age of 18*:

1. I am a Witch.
2. I subscribe to a code of Ethics compatible with that in Article 9 of the CoG By-Laws (on next page).
3. I worship the Goddess and recognize the Old Gods.
4. I know that CoG includes Witches of Various traditions. I will keep in mind both the underlying unity of our Religion and the diversity of its manifestations.
5. I agree that I will hold harmless any Officers or Committee of the Covenant and any Committee members acting in their official capacities.
6. I realize that being accepted as an Associate in no way entitles me to full membership in The Covenant and that I must apply in the usual manner, should I wish in the future to become a voting member.
7. I realize that if I violate any of the By-Laws on the attached page I will not be renewed.
8. I will maintain the confidentiality of any and all Associates and Covenant of the Goddess Members.

In the Name of the Goddess,

Signed: _____

Date you sent this form: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

For Local Council Membership Office Use Only

Date Applied to Local Council: _____ Date Approved by Local Council: _____

Date Published in Local Council Newsletter: _____

Date Sent to National Membership Officer: _____

Signature of Membership Officer _____

For National Membership Office Use Only

Date received by National: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Date Forwarded to Publications Officer: _____ Associate Published in Issue: _____

Date Check Forwarded to National Pursewarden: _____

Final Approval: _____ Published in Issue: _____



Please read carefully before signing the Associate Application

ARTICLE 9: ETHICS

A. POLICY AND PURPOSE:

The Covenant strongly encourages its Members to comply with the Code of Ethics described in Section B of this Article. The Covenant recognizes that ultimately questions of ethics violations are between individuals and their Gods.

B. CODE OF ETHICS:

The following shall constitute the Code of Ethics of the Covenant:

1. An ye harm none, do as ye will.
2. Since Our Religion and the arts and practices peculiar to it are the gift of the Goddess, membership and training in a Coven of members of Our Religion are bestowed free, as gifts, and only on those persons who are deemed worthy to receive them; nevertheless, a Coven may expect each of its members to bear a fair share of its ordinary operating expenses.
3. All persons have the right to charge reasonable fees for the services by which they earn a living, so long as Our Religion is not thereby exploited.
4. Every person associated with this Covenant shall respect the autonomy and sovereignty of each Coven, as well as the right of each Coven to oversee the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical development of its members in its own way, and shall exercise reasonable caution against infringing upon that right in any way.
5. All persons associated with the Covenant shall respect the traditional secrecy of Our Religion.
6. Members of Our Religion should ever keep in mind both its underlying unity and the diversity of its manifestations, and should make clear on any communications just whom they are speaking for or about.
7. These ethics shall be understood and interpreted in light of one another, and especially in light of traditional laws of Our Religion.

C. ETHICS VIOLATIONS:

The Covenant recognizes the following to be ethical violations:

1. Knowingly and willfully making a false statement to any Council, Board, Committee, or other duly constituted agency of the Covenant; also knowingly and willfully making a false statement about the Covenant to non-members.
2. Theft of Covenant property, commission of fraud upon the Covenant, or the intent to defraud the Covenant;
3. Persistent refusal to abide by the provisions of the Charter, these Bylaws, or such decisions of the Council as are necessary for the continued viability and usefulness of the Covenant as an instrument of the joint will of the Members;
4. Willful violation of the confidentiality provisions of Article 10 of these Bylaws;
5. Such persistent use of the veto power that the usefulness or viability of the Covenant is seriously threatened;
6. Misrepresentation by an individual or a Coven of that individual's or that Coven's status within the Covenant;
7. Deliberate intimidation, coercion, or manipulation of any individual, against that individual's will, at any business function of the Covenant; or
8. Making statements about a member of the Covenant to non-members, without that member's permission, that in any way offend, compromise or injure the security or reputation of said member.