

COVENANT OF THE GODDESS NEWSLETTER



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



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE AT BELTANE

Beltane renewals are due on **May 1, 2019**. The Drop-dead date is **May 10, 2019** after which your membership will lapse and you will need to reapply. Renewal forms are emailed to the email address on file from your last renewal. If you have NOT received this form, please contact the National Membership Officer immediately (membership@cog.org).

CALAFIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

CHAMISA LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Merlyn
- ❖ Vivianne

EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Beachfyre Coven
- ❖ Kathleen Lezon

HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL

- ❖ Coven Ashesh Hekat

TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Circle of the Serpent
- ❖ Tree of Knowledge Coven

TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

NATIONAL COVENS: NONE

- ❖ Marian Dawn
- ❖ Spiral Tor Coven

NATIONAL SOLITARIES:

- ❖ Jennifer Bennett
- ❖ Sophia
- ❖ Yesod

NATIONAL ASSOCIATES: NONE



REPORTS OF OFFICERS

FIRST OFFICER

No report given.

SECOND OFFICER

Grand Council/Leadership Institute/Merry Meet 2019 is coming along.

I sent copies of the proposed budgets for all three sections of the event to Manny, Sylvia (CLC Pursewarden), and Rowan of OLV (another set of accountant eyes), and have responded to Manny's questions. I have not heard from Sylvia or Rowan, and am hoping that's good news.

Registration costs will be based on those budgets.

I will meet with Becca at the Rio Grande Inn on Monday, March 4, to check in and finalize a few details. I will ask when she plans to charge our account; I don't believe she's done that yet.

The menu will not be decided until closer to the event, because the selections are based partly on how many people are being served, and we won't know that until registrations are basically in. I'm aiming for buffet lunches and moderately healthy hors d'oeuvres.

Speaking of registrations, I will get the registration info to our CLC WebWitch the week of the 3rd of March, for the CLC website, which will be the link for registration. Registration options are so simple this year (choice of two) that she may recommend using Brown Paper Tickets or a similar site.

All room reservations will be through the hotel phone, and we have a discount code that will be publicized far and wide. Start arranging roommates now.

SJ Tucker will be our concert Friday night, and I'm working with her to get her here. So far it's all verbal agreement; I expect to firm things up in March or April.

The Crowwomen from Chamisa LC will be our concert Saturday, possibly with a short live auction beforehand, with Amber as auctioneer. Again, all is verbal agreement, and will be confirmed in the next couple of months, but I do know that some of the alumna Crows have already made plans to fly in.

The CLC meeting is March 3, and I hope to finish filling required staff positions then—only a couple are vacant.



MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Spring is here and Summer is on its way! As the rainy season in Northern California comes to an end, we are mopping up after the floods.

Website password change and elist purge will be coming soon – hopefully we’ll have as smooth a changeover as we did last year. Keep your eyes on the AIR elist for the announcement, and instructions. Remember that you are responsible for signing up to the optional elists. Check out the CoG website for more information on how to manage your subscriptions and to refresh your memory of elist etiquette.

Grand Council/Merry Meet - August 15-18 I’m getting ready for Albuquerque, how about you? It’s going to be a lot of fun!

Grace of the Goddess and Tithe payment flexibility If you are affected by the shutdown or by the recent fires, floods or other natural disasters, and your renewal is coming up, please know that there is some money in the Grace of the Goddess fund, and the NMO is willing to work with you for deferred tithe payments. If you have benefited from this fund in the past, please do consider repaying the gift so we can continue to support our Membership in their time of need. If you are blessed to have a little extra to share, please consider donating to the fund via the Paypal button at the bottom of our webpage, or at the time of your renewal. I greatly appreciate all those people who have done so already.

2nd reminder - Local Councils need to make a decision. I need to alert all Local Councils of new responsibilities regarding transfers into a Local Council as a result of the newly approved Bylaws regarding transfers. Each LC has to figure out **HOW THEY WILL DECIDE** to accept or decline a transfer request. **The process is up to the LC, but the results of their decision MUST be noted in the minutes of their meeting when sent to the newsletter.** I would not be surprised if many LC’s will handle this as they do for applications for membership, but... it is up to the LC. This is complicated by the fact that each LC meets at a different frequency, some meet only once a year, others meet once a month, or once every two months. So what works for one LC may not work for another. **LC Boards should put this issue on their next meeting agenda and include the final decision in their LC procedures and meeting minutes.**

Renewal reminders are now coming with a pre-filled out renewal form attached to the email reminder as a pdf. Membership(at)cog.org is the email address to use to reach me, but mail from me will come from **Thea(dot)Bristlebroom(at)gmail.com**. However, I was very late sending these out this cycle (again!),

so I’m **extending the Ostara renewal period to 5/1/2019.**

New Member Applications: None at this time. **REMINDER** – The review period is now 45 days instead of 90 days, that is one Sabbat cycle instead of two.

Transfers: Glenda Phillips’ (formerly Amethyst Dragon) transfer to the TxLC Assembly of Solitaries was approved in January 2019 and became effective 2/2/2019.

Cancelled/Lapsed Members: None at this time.

Membership Status: We currently have 131 members total, consisting of 69 Covens, and 62 Solitaries. Because things can change quickly between the Newsletter publishing deadline and the actual date of publication, this may have changed by the time you read it.

The following members are **overdue** and have until **5/1/2019** to renew:

Roster Name	Local Council
Circle of the Cauldron	Chamisa
Dragonweyr	National
Ecclasian Fellowship	Touchstone

The following members are due at **Ostara** and have until **5/1/2019** to renew:

Roster Name	Local Council
Circle Angkur	Calafia
Kari Tornow	Chamisa
Witch and Famous Coven	Everglades Moon
Jodi Affuso	Hills and Rivers
Moonfire Coven	Hills and Rivers
Wolfa Coven	Hills and Rivers
Amber	National
Dragon's Weyr Circle	National
Raven Star Coven	National
Coven of Bran-Faol Reannag	Orange County
Greenwood Glen	Orange County
Circle of the Dragon and the Phoenix	Southern California
Ghostwheel	Southern California

The following members are due at **Beltane** and have until **5/10/2019** to renew:



Roster Name	Local Council
Merlyn	Chamisa
Vivianne	Chamisa
Beachfyre Coven	Everglades Moon
Kathleen Lezon	Everglades Moon
Jennifer Bennett	National
Marian Dawn	National
Sophia	National
Spiral Tor Coven	National
Yesod	National
Coven Ashesh-Hekat	Southern California
Circle of the Serpent	Texas
Tree of Knowledge Coven	Texas

In Her Service,
Thea Bristlebroom

PURSEWARDEN

CURRENT ASSETS

- Chase Main Account: \$78,791.59
- Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: \$5,585.62
- PayPal Account: \$3,046.81
- Synchrony: \$31,903.68 (from Statement ending 2/28/2019)

CURRENT AND PENDING ISSUES & ACTIVITY

Taxes have been submitted after the internal audit. I've have not received confirmation from Purple Mountain that taxes were accepted and processed yet.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Exciting news! The COG Awards campaign for the month of March and April has been launched. It includes posts to Instagram (initially) with the images of the awards and brief description. If members have family or friends to share this information with, I encourage you to do so. Our awards program could use your help in promotion outside COG.

Another campaign launched, "How to donate to COG" will run throughout the year. If any members are participating in the donation program, I would like your feedback.

And, I reached out to the membership at large through AIR to see if there were any members interested in social media and posting to our accounts. So far, one person has responded.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

Tax season is keeping me pretty busy, once its over I'll get to catch up on the website and starting to put together a series of classes/workshops for CoG to be offered through WebEx. I've already had a few people contact me to say they are willing. I'm really excited about getting this project going!

Please send any articles, poetry or minutes to newsletter@coq.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 coqweb@coq.org.

Blessings,
~Stachia Ravensdottir

CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER

Greetings COGkin,

Volume of inquiries is up for both COG Correspondence and the Religious Awards program.

The general correspondence is affected at least a bit by our provision of information packets "Learning Wicca") to incarcerated Witches/Wiccans. Some inmate correspondence is repeat from earlier people to whom we sent booklets, thanking us and asking about other resources.

I should mention that Azrael and I expanded the "Learning Wicca" material and have self-published it as "Witchcraft and Wicca: Page by Page." We would be willing to replace the "Learning Wicca" packets with the new book, if COG wants to buy them at our cost and replace the packets. I need to do a cost comparison so I can let the Board know if that would be economical.

Some of the correspondence uptick related to inquiries about the Over the Moon and Hart & Crescent Awards. They are very much appreciated by the families whose kids earn them, but I think they are still little known in the Pagan community nationwide.

We still need to order more adult Distinguished Youth Service Awards, which are completely out of stock. I haven't gotten to that yet because we went to Pantheacon, then promptly got sick upon our return; I am behind on a lot of stuff. Still sick, though Azrael is improving.

We still get miscellaneous inquiries, everything from "I'm solitary in Honduras and would like contacts" to "How do I design a Christian-Wiccan-Celtic handfasting" to "So what's your religion all about?"



That's all for now. I apologize for being behind in some tasks, and hope to get healthier soon and catch up.

Blessed be,
Amber K
National Correspondence Officer
Religious Awards Coordinator

NATIONAL RECORDER

No report given.

WELCOME TO COG



Please welcome:

- ❖ None at this time

NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES

~ March 2, 2019

Present unless noted otherwise:

- First Officer – Canu – Canu was ill and left the meeting after opening the call
- Second Officer – Azrael
- Membership Officer – Thea
- Publications Officer – Stachia – Not Present
- Pursewarden – Manny – Not Present
- Public Information Officer – Janine
- Correspondence Officer – Amber
- Recorder – Faelind

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Canu): Canu opened the meeting and mentioned he was communicating with Ken on the server and the work the tech team is doing to replace it. Canu then left the meeting due to illness.

Second Officer (Azrael): (Please see full report on page 2). Azrael sent in a written report. She will send the budget after the meeting. For Merry Meet we will need 20 people for the Tasty Taco package and 30 for Whole Enchilada package which is 50 total. She is currently running about 10% underbudget for cash flow which is a good amount. There was discussion around flexibility on some of the costs if we do not have enough people.

Membership Officer (Thea): (Please see full report on page 3). Thea will submit a written report. She is assessing her Friends of CoG membership process to prevent missing any applicants or responses. Thea has signed up for a lot of committees so she has a lot of meetings to attend in a month. She has been invited to speak at a local church so she is venturing out into Interfaith and will be participating on a women's panel as well. She is also working with the Interfaith group about sustainable food. They are gathering

blessings over food and have been asked for a hand-washing blessing that the local CoG folks will provide.

Public Information Officer (Janine): (Please see full report on page 4). Janine launched marketing campaigns on March 1st for the CoG awards. She launched the Youth awards first and the Military awards second. She also launched information on how to donate to CoG painlessly through Amazon. She reached out on AIR for Social Media help and had one person respond. She is working on the flyers. Will have them soon. She is also working with Manny on getting the CoG logo as a vector graphic for use on social media. She will also send a written report.

Correspondence Officer (Amber): (Please see full report on page 4). Amber sent out a written report, she has sent out a trickle of awards and has had multiple letters of acknowledgement and appreciation in addition to the uptick in correspondence requests. One letter of acknowledgement came from an incarcerated man from Texas who requested information and after receiving the new Prisoner Packet responded with a long letter that contained this excerpt:

"Thank you so very much for the endless hours members of the Covenant of the Goddess work for our behalf. The time and resources used are precious and I am incredibly grateful as a Witch."

The second letter was from a nine-year old girl:

"Dear Sir or Madam, I am a fourth grader and the reason I am writing to you is because my teacher gave us an assignment. We were supposed to decide on one topic to learn about throughout the rest of the school year. I have picked the topic, Wicca for the sole reason that I have recently been studying this wonderful craft with my mother and a friend and I want to learn more. One part of the assignment we were given was to write a letter to experts for more information on this topic. You are the experts I am depending on to supply this information. I am nine years old and my aspiring practice of Wicca started not too long ago. I have always had an interest in magic and my abilities in it have been quite strong. Though I am just an aspiring practitioner of the craft, I have had my first ritual, Candlemas, and have a white altar in my bedroom with statues of the God and Goddess on top of it. Also, my friend and mother might be starting a coven in which I am to be a junior member if the coven is to be. I look forward to hearing



from you. Sincerely, Fourth Grade Student."

The letters are heartwarming reminders that the work we do is important and that we are looked to as experts.

Recorder (Faelind): These minutes are my report.

Old Business:

Conflict of Interest Forms: work on these is ongoing.

Purchase of D&O Insurance: PW Report included a "decide what we need" usually related to employee suits and minority are malfeasance.

GC 2018: Canu will follow up on Netco Tasks re: committee list creation/deletion.

New Business:

Thea brought up that we have had a member move to Nevada. We are trying to get CoG's Clergy Credentials recognized in Nevada but they approve them county by county. We are looking for ways to get this pushed forward. We have the potential to have new Local Councils started in Nevada and the Pacific Northwest and Thea wondered whether there were any documents or manuals prepared to help in such cases.

Getting 2018 Bylaws with changes loaded to the website. Thea and Faelind met after the board meeting to discuss getting updates completed so the bylaws can be updated and published. There is only one bylaw resulting from a prior process error identified by the bylaw review committee that needs to be updated. The board will need to approve. Approval will be sought via email.

The board discussed the idea of restructuring the National Board for an upcoming 2019 Grand Council Proposal.

Meeting adjourned.

TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY

NONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

NONE

TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY

NONE

LOCAL COUNCILS



CALAFIA

~ No Report

Last published minutes in the Yule 2018 edition.



CHAMISA

~ No Report

Last published minutes in the Mabon 2018 edition.



EVERGLADES MOON

~ January 12, 2019

Start time: 1:30 PM EST

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Call to order 1:30 PM EST. Lord Coyote led a prayer to Coventina, asking for blessings and guidance as EMLC goes about the Work of the Goddess this year.

In attendance: First Officer – Kasha, Second Officer – Coyote, Membership Officer - Lady Bridget, Public Information Officer – Qabal, Recorder - Aequitas/Coyote.

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Kasha): It has been a quiet month FO-wise, since we were all last together at Turing the Tide. I have addressed two inquiries from Florida Pagans needing resources for housing and food, and since they were located on the West Coast, I connected with Hands of the Goddess over there. Witchvox is still not accepting sponsorships so I have not been able to complete that task as directed from the summer. I continue to sift through materials handed over by Lady Circe's daughter and forward them to our Lady Rayna, our Purswarden, as they come up. The scanning of old membership records continues and I hope to have a thumb drive full of documents for Lady Bridget, our Local Council Membership Officer, by our next meeting. I'm looking forward to whatever projects EMLC has in store for the coming year!

Second Officer (Coyote): I will be focusing on Annual Meeting and Annual Retreat planning. (Coyote led discussion about feedback from membership about keeping Annual Meeting and Retreat separate this year. Discussion of The Savannah's, Sebastian Inlet State Park, and Blue Springs State Park as possible locations.

Membership Officer (Lady Bridget): Our EMLC tithe is due at Imbolc, thank you to all who



have sent that in. It's payable online also, and I have sent the tithe form out to the list. There is also a form on the website, which still may say 2018 on it, but since there are no changes, you can also use that form. Tithes are \$10 per Solitary and \$25 per Coven member. There are also optional donations on the form to specific funds if you so choose. If anyone is having trouble with finances, please get in touch with me. We have four members due to renew at Imbolc: Sylvan Forest, Qabal, Amber, and Lord Coyote. Please remember to send me a copy of your renewals for our records, and again if anyone needs help - either with filling out the form or financially - please get in touch with me. There are funds available to you! We don't ever want to lose a member for lack of a few dollars. Although I have heard from a few people that they are interested in joining EMLC, I have not yet received any forms or letters. I will keep in touch with those folks and continue to invite them to meetings and events.

Publications Officer (Alpandia): No report at this time.

Public Information Officer (Qabal): Committed to doing another "Movies with Witches" event, however not at the present moment.

Pursewarden (Lady Rayna): Our current balance in the PayPal account is \$3,196.28, and our current balance in checking is \$3,280.14. The Merry Meet account has been closed. Once again Turning the Tide made a significant profit. We had \$3,008 in income (registrations and t-shirt sales) and \$1,982.00 in costs (site rental, drummers, Pat the musician, supplies) for a net of \$1,026.00. Way to go EMLC! Thank you notes will be sent to those people who were not able to attend and donated their registration fees to EMLC (rather than requesting a refund). A contract has been signed for 2019 at Greynolds and the deposit paid. EMLC received a generous donation from our CoG brethren in South Florida, Lavender Dragons Coven. The transfer from our beloved but no longer with us Pursewarden to our new Pursewarden is not entirely complete, but significant progress has been made. Thankfully Lady Circe took some steps to add our EMLC FO and the National Pursewarden to the accounts before she passed, but there have been many details like security questions and such that have required some sleuthing. I will write up a manual of all the steps involved in transfer of the EMLC Pursewarden office. So far I have obtained passwords for PayPal, the checking account, and our gmail account; got added to the checking account, got my own debit card and destroyed the old ones, and obtained login info for that account; and processed all Tides expenses and income. I am still working with PayPal to replace Lady Circe's info with mine as the contact person for the account. I look forward to serving EMLC as your new Pursewarden.

Recorder (Aequitas): Kasha will be finalizing and sending the October 2018 EMLC Annual Meeting minutes to National.

Old Business:

What EMLC members are doing? Lady Bridget is working on the Afghan Squares project.

Kasha handed over Treasure Coast Pagan Pride to Raven & Christina - date scheduled for October 12, 2019 at The Savanna's. A Space Coast Pagan Pride is also being planned.

Mens Satyr Gathering at Coyote's. Details and dates will be sent out to interested mens mysteries spirituality

Sarah has launched website "Notorious Needle" which is snarky

Aequitas is offering astrology workshops at Luna Bohemia Shop in Miami, Florida. Next workshop: Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 7pm. Topics focus on Planets in astrology. \$20 per person or 2 for \$15 each.

Turning the Tide 2018 Debrief: Everyone liked earlier start time on Friday. Liked the flow. not too rushed. Workshops were great. Perhaps move the movie to Fire Circle Friday night, movie in Great Hall was too loud for registration.

Fundraising and Outreach: Kasha asks that we keep this in mind in the coming year.

New Business:

Updates to the website re: membership: Moving to next meeting.

Guidelines for making statements: Discussion ensued about this topic.

Circe's Veil: Discussion of a fund in Lady Circe's name for mundane end of life and spiritual end of life affairs. Talked about putting resources on the web for loved ones about healthcare surrogacy, last will and testament, financial planning, etc.

Coyote made a motion to allocate \$500 to create the Circe's Veil fund which will aid in education, awareness, and support for end of life planning and transitions for Witches and Pagans and their loved ones. The motion was twinkled unanimously and passed.

Kasha made another motion to update the EMLC Tithe form with an option to contribute to Circe's Veil donation. The motion was twinkled unanimously and passed.

13th Annual Turning the Tide 2019: Dates reserved and deposit put down. 13th Annual Tide occurs on Friday, December 13th! Full moon on Thursday. Theme ideas: Lucky 13, Victorian Seance, New Orleans / Hoodoo vibe. Qabal offered



a Misa Blanca. Lady Bridget offered Lucky Mojo Talisman making.

2019 EMLC Meeting Dates: EMLC Board is working on planning meeting dates throughout the year, on alternating Saturdays and Sundays to accommodate different membership schedules.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50pm EST.

Next Meeting: Sunday, March 3, 2019.
Location: Lady Bridget & Lord Riekin residence



HILLS AND RIVERS

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Samhain 2018 edition.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ No Report

Last published minutes in the Samhain 2018 edition.



ORANGE COUNTY

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Litha 2018 edition.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ January 20, 2019

The meeting was held at the home of Maureen and Barbara on January 20, 2019 and was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Covens Attending in Person: Alani's Eyes (Maureen & Barbara), White Buffalo Clan (Tracy & Leticia)

Covens Attending by Proxy: Ashesh Hekat (via proxy holder Tracy), Moon Birch Grove (via proxy holder Barbara)

Covens Not Attending: Circle of the Dragon and the Phoenix, Ghostwheel

We have quorum.

OFFICER REPORTS:

First Officer (Maureen): No report.

Membership/Correspondence (Tracy):

There was a question as to whether Moon Birch Grove had renewed. After a few text messages back and forth during the meeting, he was able to confirm that Moon Birch Grove did indeed renew.

Purse Warden (Monica - not present):
No report.

PIO (Barbara): No report.

Recorder (Leticia): No report

OLD BUSINESS:

No updates.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pantheon: Tracy reported that three members of White Buffalo Clan will attend Pantheon this year. There are plans to visit the COG hospitality suite. They will report back at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The date for the next official meeting is TBD.

This meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

End of Minutes



TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL

~ January 27, 2019

X=present, P=proxy, C=call-in, A=absent

Covens:

- X Amethyst Dragon (Glenda)
- X Circle of Danu (Bonnie & Jason)
- X Circle of Earth, Sea, and Sky (Delfin)
- X Circle of Shadow and Light (Willow M, Allura)
- X Circle of the Blood Moon
- X Circle of the Serpent (Gaelen, Arrwen & Guinevere)
- A Circle of the Star
- X Circle of the Unicorn (Chuck P)
- X Circle of the Wild Wood (Rhys & Breila)
- X Coven Firemoon (Bastion & Sphinx)
- P Tree of Knowledge Coven (Gaelen)

Solitaires

- X Anastasia Lankford
- X Dragan
- A MD Talyn Ray

Guests:

- X Ruby

Invocation to Coventina by First Officer

Quorum determined by Recorder.

Call for additions to the agenda

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Gaelen): Dates & Location for 2019 TXCoG meeting: They start at 10:30 am. They will all be held at P3 Silver Key at 10:30 am at 120 Wanda Way Suite 210, Hurst.

The remaining dates for this year are:

- March 31
- June 30



- Oct 20

Regarding a Member changing their Tradition: A member, be it Coven or Solitary, who changes to a new Tradition (regardless of how long such a tradition has existed) is not required by the Bylaws to reapply for Membership in CoG.

In order to inform the Membership and provide clarity, the member making the change should submit to the newsletter (newsletter@coq.org) and to the AIR elist (air@coq.org), at least 10 days prior to your renewal date (which is the deadline for newsletter publication), a statement of the situation that includes:

- The (current) coven leader or solitaire's signature
- As much or as little detail as the leader or solitaire wishes to share
- An affirmation that the Coven continues to meet all the requirements for Membership in CoG (spelled out in detail)
- That the group's members (existing and new) agree to abide by the CoG Bylaws.

Then, when this group or person fills out their renewal, they should update both the Name AND the Tradition fields and **include the above documents with original signatures.** (The Tradition matters when a Local Council is forming or in danger of dissolving, so it's a mandatory question.)

Public Information Officers (Willow McKenna & Arrwen Datura): Requests for weddings to be officiated may 11th for wedding in Rhome Texas and May 20th 2020. We have been asked to be interviewed for Imbolc. Faelind, Brelia, Anastasia have volunteered thus far. Request for house cleansing in Amarillo. Human Trafficking Amber Michelle Parker? Missing info will give more info when received

Pursewarden (Micheal L):

- Bank Balance: \$2,892.07
- Samhain:
 - Donations Received: \$540.00
 - To CCDS: \$270.00
 - To TXCOG: \$270.00
- Yule:
 - Donations Received: \$267.00
 - To CCDS: \$133.50
 - To TXCOG: \$133.50

Membership Officer(Faelind): Gaelen reported from Faelind's email.

We do need to add an agenda item to vote on allowing Glenda from Amethyst Dragon to transition to Solitaire as well as any eligible members of her Coven as she desires. Following is what the National Membership Officer is looking for to be added to the minutes of the Jan 27 meeting:

a. If the Local Council accepts the transfer, the Local Membership Officer shall notify the National Membership Officer of the Local Council's decision in writing. The National Membership Officer will update the Roster and will announce the transfer in both the Newsletter and on the AIR e-list.

[My question to NMO:] The local Council meets January 27 and could 'vote' on Glenda's transition to Solitaire at that time if we require this language to be in the minutes before you can process her renewal and Credentials. Which do you need? [NMO's response:] This would be the ideal situation as envisioned by the Path to Membership Committee when they wrote the proposal for this new Bylaw.

My vote, via proxy, is that Glenda and anyone from her Coven she says are eligible to be Solitaires should be allowed to Transition to Solitaire.

I have processed Glenda's transition paperwork, but anyone else wanting to transition would need to get me their paperwork ASAP as this is VERY PAST DUE!

Recorder (Allura): learning the position. Gaelen: last meeting's minutes were posted & sent to national

Wicca 101 Classes - Arlington (Bastion): Attendance varies by class. Bastion will have numbers for us soon but we are paid through last year and are ahead right now as far as monetary issues go. Discussion about Gaelen's Tarot class for summer planning. Flyers are up at the shops. Bastion is going on Tuesday 1-29-2019 to make sure all flyers of classes and Sabbats are at metaphysical shops.

Addison - (sent in by Faelind): The classes in Addison are going very well with above average attendance this month, and healthy attendance all last year. The report has two pages. One showing all of 2018 and the second page showing 2019. We just had our second class in January that was very successful (taught by Breila)! Please see the attached report for the Addison Classes.

I am hoping to do a Summer Intensive on Runes this year, if anyone is interested in teaching that, please let me know. Delfin stated she will call Faelind for runes class.

Webweaver (Faelind): No report

Sabbats (Gaelen):

- **Imbolc** - Sunday, February 3 - Circle of Shadow & Light
- **Ostara** - Sunday, March 24 - Coven Firemoon
- **Beltane** - Sunday, April 28 - Circle of the Serpent



- **Midsummer** – Saturday, June 22 – Circle of the Wild Wood
- **Lughnasadh** – Saturday, August 3 – Circle of the Star
- **Autumn Equinox** - Sunday, September 22 – Circle of Earth, Sea, & Sky
- **Samhain** - Sunday, October 27 – Tree of Knowledge
- **Yule** - Sunday, December 22 – Circle of Danu
- **Sabbat Sub-committees:** call for sub-committees
- **Vending** – Vending notebook to Allura from Bastion? Yule 2 pre existing 3 new vendors. As well as \$155.00 in gathered funds from vending fees. Ask for a small donation for silent auction. Will be making a vending contract for CCDS vending. Spreadsheet for CCDS vending has been made and is operational.
- **Grounds** – Essynce nothing done for yule.
- **Parking** –4 new metal parking signs were to be acquired by Dragan. Signs have not been purchased yet; possible this week it will be received. Cog will reimburse.
- **Youth Activities** – Essynce - no report
- **Community Table & Food** – Bastion goes to Kroger or local supermarket for food. Recommends that others in the council could help and do the same if felt inclined. Possibly assign people to do so during the seasons.
- **Marketing** – Signs are up.
- **Youth -Essynce**
- **Community Food Table-**Arwen for Imbloc, Bastion and Delfin for spring,
- **Marketing-** Gaelen set up the sabbats to post on Facebook for the whole year and made sure to use copyright free pics.
- **Witches' Ball Committee:** Gaelen, Bonnie, Willow Mckenna, Christal B., & Chuck P. First weekend of October. P3 Silver key volunteers for prizes for Contest. Bonnie is going to go ahead and see about renting the same UU church. Gaelen will look into Paypal, Venmo and Cash for payment to reduce fees.

Additions- Pagan Unity Date April 13th Saturday. CoG wants a community booth. Gaelen will see about getting it set up. No Fee to sign up.

Discussion ensued about Pagan Pride and Gaelen will look into gathering the information..

Gaelen thanks Coventina.

Adjourned at 11:44 pm.

TOUCHSTONE



~ No Report

Last Published in the Yule 2018 edition.

Old Business

Kids Classes and Awards: Willow McKenna Postponed till next meeting

New Business

Vote on Glenda's transition from coven to solitaire: Gaelen motioned: The Texas Local Council accepts Glenda as a transfer from Amethyst Dragon to solitaire status. Delfin seconds. Glenda steps out of the room. Discussion is held. Vote is unanimous and Glenda comes back and is welcomed as a solitaire of TXCoG.

No other members of Glenda's coven will be transitioning. Scott is leaving CoG for personal reasons.

The National CoG website may not reflect the latest updates to the bylaws so it is a good practice to send a note to someone on the National Board to ask for the latest copy of the bylaws.

Call for Committees:

- **Arlington Classes-** Bastion
- **Addison Classes-** Brelia and said she felt Faelind would wish to continue as well
- **Webweaver-**Faelind
- **Sabbats** - Gaelen
 - **Vending-**Allura
 - **Grounds-**Essynce
 - **Parking-**Dragan

MERRYMEET AND GRAND COUNCIL 2019

Greetings from your Second Officer

The Chamisa Local Council invites you to celebrate Merry Meet and Grand Council 2019 August 14-19, in Albuquerque and at Ardantane in Northern New Mexico.

You are invited to arrive (merry meet!) on Wednesday the 14th, settle in to your charming room at the Rio Grande Inn, and enjoy cocktails in the shade of large trees by the pool, followed by dinner on your own, and schmoozing later before bed.

Thursday you will be shuttled to Ardantane, about an hour's drive through beautiful New Mexico scenery, and enjoy Leadership Institute among the Red Rocks of the southern Jemez Mountains. We'll return to Abq for dinner, followed by Drumming up the Full Moon on the Westside, overlooking the lights of Abq as the moon rises over the Sandia Mountains. Then back to the Rio Grande Inn for the night.

Grand Council will be held on Friday and Saturday, and vendors will be available for shopping therapy. Workshops will also be available as Merry Meet is in full swing.

We'll have a nationally known musician to entertain us Friday night (SJ Tucker? Celia? Wendy

Rule?) and CoG's own Crowmyn singing on Saturday night.

Sunday we'll go to the Rio Grande Biopark and the Nature Center and have a custom tour of the beautiful Rio Grande Bosque. Then a final lunch, more schmoozing and head home Sunday afternoon or Monday morning. Merry Part!

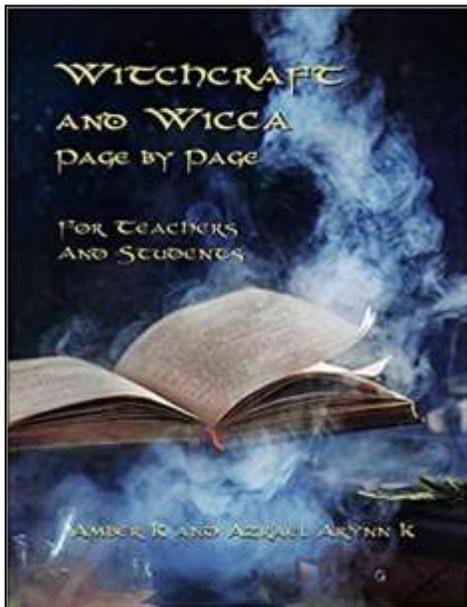
It's not too soon to make your plane reservations, and details of MM/GC registration will be made available soon, as will reservation info for the Rio Grande Inn (there will be a special CoG rate), so start lining up roommates now! Rooms will be available for 1, 2, 3, or 4 people. HC rooms are also available.

Watch this space for further updates, and Chamisa LC looks forward to seeing you here in August!

BOOKS BY COG AUTHORS

WITCHCRAFT AND WICCA PAGE BY PAGE: FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

By Amber K and Azrael Aryn K



Announcing our newest book—a guide for teachers and students of Witchcraft and Wicca. It has a one-page summary of each topic, with discussion questions, exercises, and further resources on the back of the page. Most lessons include a few additional pages of supplemental materials.

We hope you find it useful!

<https://www.amazon.com/Witchcraft-Wicca-Page-Teachers-Students/dp/179534301X>

BLAST FROM THE PAST

CAN A COVEN TEACH IT ALL?

From Vol 24 Issue 3

Ostara 1999

By Beth, Raven Star Coven

Sometime ago during a discussion with several other Witches from across the country, the topic of a pagan university was raised. One of the participants stated that he wasn't in favor of a pagan university since everything someone needed to know could be taught by the coven. Since that time, I've wished I had said something, but I was too stunned to speak and the moment was lost. Since, it's bothered me all this time, I figured I'd speak now, in this forum. I don't want to debate the issue of a pagan university. I'm not sure where I stand yet, but I continue to this day to be disturbed by the notion that a coven or coven leader could teach everything and that there was no need for additional, non-coven education. I'll never know if that's what the original speaker meant, but I want to take the opportunity to strongly advocate advanced training of witches outside and apart from any coven training. I believe there are many advantages and only a few disadvantages to this practice.

First, however, I want to make clear, that I'm not talking about coven or tradition-specific training. Learning what makes up a coven's tradition, its symbols and rituals can only be taught by the coven and its leadership. But I see that type of training as basic training. Training that can be enhanced, and should be, if one plans to become a coven leader.

What advanced training do I advocate? Although having a counseling, or social work degree isn't necessary, I believe that having some basic psychological training is a pre-requisite. Although covens aren't therapy groups and coven leaders, for the most part, don't want to be therapists to their coveners, serving as the leader means that coven members come to you when they are in crises. You preside over significant life events - birth, marriage, divorce, death. Leading also means understanding inter-personal dynamics and navigating the waters of ever changing personalities. Having an understanding of psychological theories of personality and development; having crisis management skills, provide a solid foundation for coven leadership. Yes, it's possible to do all this intuitively, but some background supports our intuition and can provide additional skills. A more cohesive group mind can be created when the leadership understands how individuals and groups work. In addition, effective rituals actuate our unconscious. They speak to the unspoken and sometimes inaccessible parts of our persona. A basic understanding of the unconscious can result in more effective rituals. The ritual planner can

