

COVENANT OF THE GODDESS NEWSLETTER



BLODEUWEDD BY [ROSLANA](#)

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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 LITHA

Litha renewals are due on **June 21, 2019**. The Drop-dead date is **July 1, 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: NONE



EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE



HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE



ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE



TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE



TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE



NATIONAL COVENS: NONE



NATIONAL SOLITARIES: NONE



NATIONAL ASSOCIATES: NONE

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

FIRST OFFICER

No report given.

SECOND OFFICER

No report given.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

No report given.

PURSEWARDEN

CURRENT ASSETS

Chase Main Account: \$78,821.59

Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: \$5,585.62

PayPal Account: \$3,453.52

Synchrony: \$31,903.68 (from Stmt end 2/28/19)

CURRENT AND PENDING ISSUES & ACTIVITY

1. USPS Box was paid. This took a stunning amount of time; but it is set up to be automatically paid for the future.
2. Our taxes were received by our agent. I was anxious that I had not heard from her so I contacted her again. She automatically filed a no-cost/liability extension so she has time to submit them. Our portion was completed in February.
3. We received the highest AmazonSmile donation ever. It is not much \$36.68; but yay! But it shows that individuals are hearing our invitations to use the Smile program.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

No report given.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

Now that tax season is over and the teaching of taxes is about to begin, I plan on working on a few projects for CoG; the online workshops/classes via WebEx and some updates to the website. This means I will be bugging some of you for content that was offered, but never delivered.





Orange County Local Council is at risk of becoming provisional as they have not published minutes in almost a year.

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

Blessings,
~Stachia Ravensdottir

CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER

No report given.

NATIONAL RECORDER

No report given.

WELCOME TO CoG



Please welcome:
❖ None at this time

NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES

~ April 6, 2019

Meeting commenced at 9 minutes past the hour with a request for the blessings of Coventina.

Present unless noted otherwise: First Officer (Canu), Second Officer (Azrael), Membership Officer (Thea), Publications Officer (Stachia) Not Present, PurseWarden (Manny), Public Information Officer (Janine), Correspondence Officer (Amber) and Recorder (Faelind).

Agenda Items: Canu asked for additional Agenda items. Amber noted that she did not see the three she added. These were added under new business and an update to the Governing Board proposal under Old Business.

Officer Reports:

Second Officer (Azrael): Azrael has updated AIR with the Grand Council/Merry Meet information so registration is open and available.

Azrael secured approval from the board to book a room for S. J. Tucker for Thursday and Friday night, August 15th and 16th, 2019. Manny will take care of the reservation for S. J. Tucker and ensure costs are associated to Merry Meet in the financials.

Azrael requested some contact information from Janine for promised videos for Leadership Institute. Everything is going well and progressing for Merry Meet vendors and workshops.

Membership Officer (Thea): Thea let Amber know that NCLC discussed the Governing Board Proposal. They have suggestions she will provide to Amber.

She also reminded everyone that all Local Councils need to discuss their processes for transitions/transfers and post them in their LC Minutes for the newsletters.

EList clean-up running late this year. Need a new password for this year.

No membership updates as we are in the middle of a cycle.

Publications Officer (Stachia): Not Present – She is helping people with their taxes.

Pursewarden (Manny): The PO Box is technically under Jack’s name. Manny is still not on the NCLC account because the LC PW must coordinate and be at the Chase Bank at the same time as the National PW. Thea will have the NCLC PW contact Manny.

Outside of the report, I’m anxious that I don’t quite know how much funding to set aside for Grand Council attendance. In the past since I have been PW, we have set aside \$10K and CoG members can request up to \$500. But CoG is now covering registration, so, does that mean the allowance is kept at the same level? I have no issues with that, though I think it is a board decision. So, Grand Council/Merry Meet: As we ramp up toward Grand Council, there are some issues related to Travel Expenses resulting from last year’s accepted proposal on funding GC that I would like clarified before I change the Reimbursement form:

1. I understand the CoG members attending Grand Council do not pay registration for Grand Council. [Board: Confirmed by 2018 GC Minutes and current Second Officer.]
 - a. The Grand Council Reimbursement form will now exclude this; but we did not pass a related resolution on attendance expenses. Given that, how much are we covering of travel? If we keep the amount the same at \$500; then we have opened more travel funds for Grand Council. Is this correct? [Board: Yes, we are keeping the same amount of \$10,000, limit of \$500 per person, \$450 per National Board Member.]
 - b. Related to this, are we keeping the cap? [Board: Yes, we are keeping the cap.]
2. I understand from the current proposal that all virtual attendance is now free of charge. Correct? [Board: Yes.]

Deadlines (need to go to AIR ASAP):



- Submit Grand Council Reimbursement Request Forms: June 14, 2019
- Funds mailed: Week of June 19, 2019 (advances) [Reimbursements will be sent upon receipts of travel receipts]
- Grand Council Reimbursement Request Forms completed/Receipts due: September 23, 2019

Public Information Officer (Janine):

Janine thanked Manny for posting about Amazon SMILE working. She will continue posting how to donate to CoG through Amazon to keep that going.

Janine mentioned that she received a late request to issue a statement about Raven Grimassi’s passing. She noted that in the past we have not always issued statements about prominent public pagan passings. She wants to know what should be placed in the PIO guide for future reference. The board discussed. She will continue to share the information through social media, but CoG will not officially make a statement for prominent public pagans. Pagan public vs. CoG Member. CoG would issue a press release on the passing of one of our own members, but not necessarily about another well-known figure.

Janine will help promote Merry Meet/Grand Council through our social media.

Correspondence Officer (Amber): People are writing and Amber is answering. Amber plans to add the following as proposals for Grand Council:

- 1) Encourage Local councils to add Witchcraft/Wiccan books to prison libraries,
- 2) Create a database of resources for Legal services for Pagans. CoG would not provide the legal services, but could compile a list of resources that could be provided when asked.
- 3) She will also publish something to CoG membership about the Governing Board Proposal she plans to present at GC 2019 that will include the changes she has received.

Recorder (Faelind): Faelind noted that these minutes my report.

Faelind will complete the 2018-2019 Bylaws from Grand Council 2018 and get them to Stachia and Canu for publishing to the membership.

Old Business:

Conflict of Interest Forms: Manny has one done and will forward to the board for layout and editing assistance.

Purchase of D&O Insurance: Pursewarden Report included a “decide what we need” usually related to employee suits and minority are malfeasance. Manny is ready to meet with Canu for a decision. This is D&O for the board members, not for Grand Council.

2018-2019 New Bylaws up on web: Bylaw Review Committee discovered an error of

omission: The board has reviewed this proposal at the direction of the 2018 Grand Council and has determined that this omission will not be reinstated into the bylaws at this time as it directly conflicts with the legal duties and supervisory powers of the National Pursewarden, but the language will be included with an annotation to be reviewed at the 2019 Grand Council where the proposal language will be removed.

Governing Board Proposal: Discussion under Correspondence Officer Report. Amber provided a revised copy with additional material to be shared with the Local Councils.

Janine presented the CoG Style Guide that she will be using for the flyers and new documents. It will include colors and suggestions for fonts and content. The Style Guide will include suggestions to direct folks to our online social media and not be content-heavy on a flyer, for example. Manny and Janine have been working together to create the logo in vector format so it is easily used on different mediums. Janine will make suggested changes and publish this month. She plans to also publish new flyers this month as well.

New Business:

Thea mentioned the Spring elist email clean-up followed by a new password for the website: She and Canu will coordinate data dumps and the board created a new password. They hope to complete in May.

“ASSURING PAGAN RIGHTS SINCE 1975” by-line statement: Manny brought up that we don’t really assure anyone’s rights and the board agreed. There were different tag lines offered by several people. We may discuss this at the next Grand Council. We need a short and memorable tag-line.

Faelind sent an update from the Tech Team on ongoing work to port the CoG website and email functions to a new server. Work is progressing slowly but a proposal will be ready for GC 2019.

TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS





LOCAL COUNCILS



CALAFIA

~ No Report

Last published minutes in the Yule 2018 edition.



CHAMISA

~ March 3, 2019

Meeting came to order at 11:52 a.m., Las Cruces, NM.

Roll Call: Circle of the Cauldron, Coven of Silver Moon, Circle of the Winter Moon, Crowymn, Our Lady of the Woods, Lady Athena (WebEx), Jose (guest), Dru (visitor).

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Lora): No report.

Second Officer (David): David called Coyote Ranger District recently; officer not there and the area is still inaccessible due to snow. Recommends renting entire campground for Mabon. Need to find out what fees will be. We have no reservation at this time. There will be an expedition to the campground when the snow clears. Rowan needs pictures for publicity. CLC agreed that we should rent whole site. Action/Decision: Expedition to site in spring. David to ascertain fees and rent site.

Membership (Cherie): Local Councils have new responsibilities regarding transfers into a Local Council as a result of the newly approved national 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. New application from Ryan Coe's coven (Caim of the Desert Moon) and Charlie Keen applying as a solitary. Larissa is joining Circle of the Cauldron. There is a CUUPS chapter in Las Cruces interested in starting a coven and joining CLC. Dee offered to help them do their application. Renewals due in March include Circle of the Cauldron and OLW. Action/Decision: Both the Caim of the Desert Moon and Charlie Keen's applications for membership were approved. The CLC decided to follow the process below for potential transfer members. The full membership report is attached.

Recorder (Dru): Thanks to Lora for distributing minutes to the list and submitting them to COG. Anyone wanting to send me written reports prior to the meetings can mail them to TehomOLW@aol.com.

Pursewarden (AmberIsis): After final expenses for Silver Moon Health Services for Mabon 2018, the quarter ending balance is \$10,430.12.

PIO (Rowan): Rowan will be going to a meeting of New Mexico Interfaith Dialogue and will report back. Not sure they are open to membership but will find out. Action/Decision: Rowan will post pictures of camp site when she receives them. Rowan will post announcement about Merry Meet on WitchVOX.

Interfaith Committee (Amber K, Ryan, and Lady Athena): Lady Athena attended Interfaith Council of CO, but they are more of a political action group than a religious group. She will discontinue going to their meetings. She met with a woman who is the head of the Living Earth Church in Denver and will continue to stay in touch with her. The Living Earth Church is a pagan church that operates in a private home with invitees screened; they were previously more Wiccan identified but the leader was targeted by the community.

Friendly Reports:

Ardantane: The dome roof repairs are the primary concern on campus, after which attention will turn to the Common Room. Pantheacon was great. Online attendance is decent recently, no one signed up for goddess retreat (April 5-7, for both women and men) on campus. There will be another stream of Paladin training opening in a couple months.

Silver Moon Health Services: No one present.

Beltane Southwest: Alane reporting that if you want to attend, get in on the early list.

Old Business:

Mabon update and discussion: See Second Officer's report.

Merry Meet and Grand Council 2019 update (Azrael): August 15-18, 2019, in Albuquerque, New Mexico Rio Grande Inn, Albuquerque. Theme: High Desert Magick.

Giving info to Deb for website. National is paying for Grand Council (GC) and associated costs. Merry Meet should also pay for itself if 30 people register for the full program and 20 for the reduced program. There are two registration levels—Whole Enchilada, includes leadership, moon drum-up, two meals a day, nature center, workshops, concerts and snacks. Tasty Taco includes concerts, workshops, one meal each day of Friday and Saturday and snacks. All other expenses, such as lodging are extra. Planning continues for health and safety, transportation auction and workshops. It's likely that Brown Paper Tickets will handle registration. Want to get as many local folks to



register as possible. Do shorter workshops for more variety; no concurrent workshops (only one room available).

Purpose of CoG Committee update and discussion (Azrael, Lady Athena, KariIsis, Dee, Sylvia, and Alane): How can we bring CoG into the 21st century? How do we explain the importance of CoG and membership? Azrael reported that the committee has not met but will soon. Azrael stated that youth are not using the words Wicca or wiccan or witch, but words like earth-centered. We can get videos about this phenomenon. If we do not respond to this audience, we will lose them. This topic is likely to be the focus of Leadership institute at MM. We want to reach out and be as accessible as possible to current pagans who are very eclectic. Azrael will set up a meeting with the committee, which consists of Azrael, Lady Athena, KariIsis, Dee, Sylvia, and Alane, and they will report in the next meeting.

Outreach: How can we, as an organization within the community, make people who are new to the path or new to our area feel welcome? Discussion: Lora—wants us to have a process for meeting new people. There were many suggestions, such as capitalizing on Albuquerque Pagan Pride (which occurs at end of September), to hold a CLC gathering about 2 weeks after, and also similar meetings in Las Cruces. Several members have prepared presentation and handouts to share with the CLC at large; these will be collected and posted on the website/list to share. CLC is considering using Meetup to coordinate events.

New Business

Litha Retreat Update (Lady Athena): Trinidad, Colorado for July 12–14, 2019. Two hotels in the running, Holiday Inn and Quality Inn. Lady Athena will select the best option and let the group know through the list as to the choice.

A request was received from the Chaplain at Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility and is being passed on the Amber K for response.

Meeting adjourns at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held at the Litha Retreat in July 2019.

CLC Membership Officer Report:

Coven Applications: Ryan Coe changing from Solitary to Coven (Caim of Desert Moon)

Solitary Applications: Charlie Kiene

Transfers In or Out: None

Renewals coming up and due by March 10, 2019 (drop dead March 31st):

The following members are due at **Imbolc** and have until **3/10/2019** to renew:

Roster Name	Local Council
Circle of the Cauldron	Chamisa
Our Lady of the Woods	Chamisa
The Sylvan Forest	Everglades Moon

Renewals coming up and due by April 10, 2019:

The following members are due at **Ostara** and have until **4/10/2019** 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

Chamisa Post Office Box 3212, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190 chamisa@coq.org National Board Contact: Amber K www.chamisa.org

Member Coven	Assembly of Solitaires	City
Circle of the Cauldron - 2/2	C. Ryan Coe - 10/31	Rio Rancho, NM
Circle of the Winter Moon - 6/21	Kari Tornow (KariIsis) - 3/21	Pine Grove, CO
Coven of the Silver Moon - 6/21	Lady Athena - 6/1	Evergreen, CO
Crowymmin - 8/1	Merlyn - 5/1	Edgewood, NM
Our Lady of the Woods - 2/2	Vivienne - 5/1	Albuquerque, NM

National: Thea stated that there are grace of the goddess funds for those that have been affected by the government shutdown. Also, remember that if you are able, to donate to the fund for those in need.

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.

Caim of Desert Moon is applying for Coven status. Caim means Sanctuary, an invisible circle protection, drawn around the body with the hand, to remind one of being safe and loved, even in the darkest times. Because Caim is Gaelic we will be an Eclectic Celtic practice of the Craft with Wiccan influence. Recommendation Letter from Dee



Proctor, HPS Coven of the Silver Moon. All info to be forwarded to National Upon Approval.

Charlie Kiene is applying for Solitary Status, recommendations from Crowwimmen, AmberK & Azrael Arynn K. All info to be forwarded to National Upon Approval.



EVERGLADES MOON

March 3, 2019

Start time: 1:38 PM EST

Lady Bridget led everyone in a brief prayer with hands and hearts joined together.

In Attendance:

- Kasha, AoS, EMLC First Officer
 - Coyote, AoS, EMLC Second Officer
 - Lady Bridget, Witch & Famous Coven, EMLC Membership Officer
 - Lord Riekin, Witch & Famous Coven
 - Canu, Beachfyre Coven, COG First Officer
 - Raven, AoS, Circle of the Moonlit Sea
 - Minos Ceos, Minoan Brotherhood, AoS
 - Oakdancer and Mercury, guests and prospective members from Punta Gorda
- Via Zoom:
- Aequitas, Beachfyre Coven, EMLC Recorder
 - Marla, AoS

OFFICER REPORTS

First Officer (Kasha): It's been an uneventful 6 weeks. Scanning of old Membership materials is slow but continues on. The e-list for Circe's Veil was created so the work on that project can begin. I'm looking forward to our planning activities for the busier part of the year.

Second Officer (Coyote): Retreat planning had been moving slowly, until Marla & Gypsy offered their land for a possible annual retreat and meeting! We thank them for their generosity, and more discussion about this will be covered in a later agenda item today.

Membership Officer (Lady Bridget): We have four members who were due to renew at Imbolc: Qabal, Coyote, Amber Moon, and Sylvan Forest. Lady B has heard from all of them except Sylvan Forest. Coyote let me know that Thea did not send out the renewals, and Thea informed me that she was late so she has extended the deadline to get those in. We have only one member to renew at Ostara, Witch and Famous, so since that is Lady B's coven, we are good there.

Our EMLC tithes were also due at Imbolc and we have only three folks who still need to send in their yearly tithes. Lady B has sent reminder emails to all of them as well.

She has not yet received paperwork from one of the folks who has expressed interest in EMLC and may already has one letter of recommendation, they were invited to this meeting. Lady B also invited several other folks who have expressed interest.

Pursewarden (Lady Rayna): The transfer process continues with most tasks now complete. The 1st quarterly report has been submitted, and my oh my was it a thing. Much more complicated than I thought it would be, although the first quarter is when EMLC does all the business of Tides so hopefully future reports will be much easier. All Hail Lady Circe for doing quarterly reports for the entire history of EMLC! EMLC annual tithes have been collected from almost all members, and most chose to donate to our three EMLC Special Funds. Based on my best forensic accounting, the Grace of the Goddess fund has \$165.00, the Fyredancer fund has \$135.00, and Circe's Veil has \$60.00. These figures may change if I find any expenditures or donations to these funds between March 31, 2018 and Samhain 2018 when I took over. The transfer process continues...Our current balance in the PayPal account is \$3,484.24, and our checking account balance is \$4,195.14, for a total of \$7,679.38. Missing you from still frozen Washington D.C.

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

Public Information Officer (Qabal): No report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sirona is closing on her condo and if all goes well she will be buying a house near Lady Bridget.

Marla reports with Mystic South over 100 workshops were accepted! July 19-21st, 2019 in Atlanta, GA. Website: <https://mystic-south.com/>

Minos Ceos, Minoan Brotherhood, reported on their activities and updates and also on his personal life events and developments.

Canu updated everyone on his bees, he lost one colony but the other is going strong.

Lady Rayna is in Washington, DC for a resident fellowship.

Turning the Tide Festival: Save the dates! Fri-Sun, December 13-15, 2019. "Lucky 13" theme! Inspiration for decorations thus far has been Victorian Seance. Various workshop ideas were discussed.

Circe's Veil: After Lady Circe's passing, EMLC members realized that end of life planning resources are needed in our community. Circe's Veil will provide resources and information for end of life planning specifically geared for Pagans. \$500 was



allocated to this fund. The Circe's Veil committee is working on developing these resources.

Fundraising & Outreach: Discussed upcoming opportunities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Turning the Tide Festival Motions: A motion was made by Rayna, via email communication, and read aloud and seconded by Kasha, to change EMLC policy of charging registration fees for children 2 years of age and up for Turning the Tide festival to be free for all children 10 and under. The motion was twinkled by all and passed.

Another motion was made by Rayna, via email, and read aloud and seconded by Kasha, to change EMLC policy for reimbursements to be the following: "Expenses related to one of the core functions of the festival may be reimbursed at the discretion of the Pursewarden. Qualifying expenses include supplies related to registration, decorations, feast, ritual, or a workshop, that were consumed entirely at the festival (i.e, not goods that you are now going to use at home or in Coven), and for which you have an original receipt that shows a full balance paid."

Discussion ensued. The motion did not pass as written and will be sent back to the Pursewarden with a few suggestions for a re-write: 1) Consider advance approval of amount and what supplies will be used for; 2) Pursewarden will consult with EMLC board for any complex requests that require an extraordinary amount, or pose some type of dilemma.

Another motion was made by Rayna, via email, and read aloud and seconded by Kasha, to change EMLC festival refundment policy to be the following: "Tides Refund Policy: A refund of 50% of the registration fee may be provided given written notification in advance of the event. Refunds are made at the discretion of the Coordinatrix and valid reasons for a registration refund include illness, family emergencies, and other unexpected circumstances. In lieu of a refund, EMLC gratefully appreciates the donation of unused registration fees."

Discussion ensued. The motion did not pass as written and will be sent back to the Pursewarden with a few suggestions for a re-write: 1) "Advance of the event" – put specific time frames of deadlines so it's more clear, e.g. must be x amount of days in advance; 2) Consider removing "valid reasons" because we don't want to be the judge of what's valid or not, 3) Consider adding some language about EMLC Board having the power to over-ride any of these policies.

Camping Proposal: Marla described the amenities of camping at Marla & Gypsy's land and

residence. Cost would be for porta potties \$75-100 and your own travel expenses to and from Jacksonville area.

A motion was made to have the annual retreat at Marla & Gypsy's land in Jacksonville targeting the September 27-29, 2019 weekend, with EMLC covering the cost of porta potties. The EMLC annual meeting will be conducted on Saturday, September 28 both live and via Zoom for those who cannot travel that weekend. The motion was twinkled by all and passed.

Pagan Pride Updates: Raven shared about Pagan Pride updates.

Coyote's Litha on the Beach, Blind Creek Clothing Optional Beach, Hutchinson Island. Saturday, June 22, 2019 4pm - 7pm

MEETING ADJOURNED: Lady Bridget led everyone in a brief prayer with hands and hearts joined together.

NEXT MEETING: Sat April 6, 2019. Meet at 1pm. Location TBA



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

Last published minutes in the Ostara 2019 edition.



TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL

~ March 17, 2019

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

Covens:



- X Circle of Danu (Bonnie M & Jason M)
- A Circle of Earth, Sea, and Sky
- X Circle of Shadow and Light (Willow, Allura, Adler)
- X Circle of the Blood Moon (Chaos)
- X Circle of the Serpent (Gaelen, Arrwen Datura, & Guinevere)
- A Circle of the Star
- A Circle of the Unicorn
- P Circle of the Wild Wood (Faelind)
- X Coven Firemoon (Bastion, Micheal, Ruby & Essynce)
- C Tree of Knowledge Coven (Faelind)

Solitaires

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

Officer Reports

First Officer (Gaelen): All items to report go under old or new business.

Public Information Officers (Willow McKenna & Arrwen Datura): No report. Gaelen will arrange meeting with PIOs to further train and guide on social media.

Pursewarden (Micheal L.):

Bank Balance: \$2,548.40

Imbolc: \$208.00 in donations
 \$104.00 to TXLCOG
 \$104.00 to CCDS

There was a discussion on different apps that can accept credit cards. Cash App, which is run by Square, also accepts Apple Pay. Our account handle for Cash App is \$TXCOG.

Membership Officer (Faelind): All Covens and Solitaires in the Texas Local Council are current. Two covens due to renew at Beltane – Circle of the Serpent and Tree of Knowledge Coven.

Recorder (Allura): Previous minutes were posted to the TXLCCOG e-group, corrections were made, then sent to national.

Wicca 101 Classes - Arlington (Bastion): The Arlington Pagan 101 classes have dropped in attendance averaging 10 students per class. Paid \$108.00 for Jan-March to UU Church.

Wicca 101 Classes – Addison (Faelind): The Addison Pagan 101 Classes are going well, averaging 15 to 18 students per class and our current balance is \$305.00 (we have not paid for April rent yet). We have also secured each Monday in June with Ananda Dallas as the dates for our Runes Intensive classes this year with Delfin volunteering to teach them. As we did last year, after the summer intensive, we will probably have money to be deposited into the CoG bank account if things continue going so well.

Webweaver (Faelind): The website is up to date (as far as I know) but I have not upgraded yet to addition pages. Hope to get to that over the summer. Please reach out if you would like anything added. I have a question for the local council. Would you each like to have your coven links added to the upgraded website when we have additional pages and tabs? It would show who are member covens in addition to all the work we do. I would like to include a page for the other work this council has been engaged in over the years, like the Transgender Panel, the LGBTQW Panel, and our renewed Witch’s Ball. With additional pages, we need more content!

MOTION by Gaelen: We add the coven website links to our www.txcoq.org webpage; as well as additional content such as our current videos and content housed on Facebook. Seconded by Williw McKenna. Discussion about a blog and other writing in the future occurred. VOTE Result: Unanimously passed

Sabbats (Gaelen): Our next Sabbat is next weekend. Coven Firemoon is doing the ritual.

Sabbat Sub-committees:

- **Vending (Allura):** There was no new vendors at CCDS at Imbolc. Allura shared a vending contract that was passed around the council and comments were written on it for her to review, rewrite and send out to the TXLCCOG list for final approval. It was suggested to the vending coordinator that she post or have the PIOs post to the Facebook page and other social media to increase vendors for CCDS.
- **Grounds (Essynce):** Next Saturday at 10 am, Essynce and anyone who wishes to join her can come on out to CCDS to help prepare the yard for the Sabbat. She will also send a similar email to the TXLCCOG list. Arrwen will find out how much mowing the yard will cost by professionals. MOTION by Arrwen: To contract his mowing vendor if the charge is no more than \$50 a Sabbat. Arrwen also needs to find out if the vendor will move limbs or just move. Seconded by Bonnie M. Discussion ensued. VOTE Result: Unanimously passed. Arrwen will let everyone know what his vendor says.
- **Parking (Dragan):** Dragan is now trying to get larger signs or banners for the parking spots. He has been told that you cannot see it very well from the road coming in either direction. He is still looking at different options.
- **Youth Activities (Guinevere):** Guinevere proposed a *Moon School* for children at each Sabbat with an hour of activities that she would do with them. All ages are welcome; however, children under age 5 years would need to be accompanied by a parent. Guinevere would like to do a related booth at the Samhain carnival. MOTION by Chaos: to accept Guinevere’s



proposal and to purchase a fruit snack and water at each Sabbat for the kids that would run no more than \$10. Seconded by Essynce. Discussion ensued. VOTE Result: Unanimously passed. Chaos donated \$20.00 to go towards snacks or supplies for *Moon School*. Guinevere would like to start at Ostara and was encouraged to go for it.

- **Community Table & Food (Bastion):** No Report will continue as is.
- **Marketing (Bastion & Faelind):** Marketing at P3 Silver Key and Enchanted Forest. Updated on website.

Witches Ball Committee (Gaelen (chair), Bonnie, Christal, Chuck, Willow McKenna): P3 Silver Key is donating prizes for the Costume Contest. October 5th 2019 12pm to 12am. A deposit of \$225.00 needs sent to the church with the contract. Micheal L. will take care of it. First Jefferson UU Church, the same location as last year, is where it will be held. The committee will meet in early summer. Gaelen will look at the different monetary apps and discuss the best way to do registration with Micheal L.

Old Business:

Kids Classes and Awards (Willow McKenna): tabled

Pagan Unity Day: Booth Volunteers so far (times are 8 am to 4 pm – 8-10am is setup). Jason and Allura 7:30am-8am (set up and help reserve spot), Bonnie & Jason: 11 am - 1 pm, Willow McKenna 1 pm – 4 pm?, Essynce: 4-6 (teardown).

Allura to ask the vending coordinator for Pagan Unity if it is possible to save a spot. Has concluded it is a first come first serve basis from Pagan Unity Vending Coordinator. We still need more volunteers. Gaelen will repost to the TXLCCOG group.

New Business:

Proposal from Amber K (Faelind): The proposal from Amber K that the National Board requested us to bring back to our local councils for discussion was shared. It's titled "National Governing Board Proposal." Faelind discussed it and everyone was asked to review it and send all input and inquiries to Faelind.

Transfers within a Local Council (Faelind): The National Membership Officer has requested that Local Councils include to their meeting minutes HOW THEY WILL DECIDE to accept or decline a transfer requests regarding transfers from Coven to Solitaire, name changes from one Tradition to another, and name changes for a member Coven as a result of the newly approved Bylaws regarding transfers. 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. LC Boards should put this issue on their next meeting agenda and include the final decision in their LC procedures and meeting minutes. MOTION by Chaos: All transfers within the Texas Local Council, be it from coven status to solitaire, coven name changes, or tradition changes must be completed by sending the local council a declaration of the change that is to include their updated statement of practice on the TXLCCOG Yahooogroup. This should be sent to both local and national at least one month prior to renewal. Seconded by Gaelen. Much Discussion ensued. VOTE Result: Unanimously passed.

Gaelen thanks Coventina. Adjourned at 11:51 am.

TOUCHSTONE

~ No Report

Last Published in the Yule 2018 edition.

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE COVEN'S STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

Many of you know me as I have been an active participant in the Texas Local Council of Covenant of the Goddess since 2008 and a Coven member since 2014, nearly two years after I became a High Priestess. I created the growing Tree of Knowledge Coven in 2012, the same day I received my Third Degree.

At my upcoming Beltane renewal, I am transitioning my Coven and myself from the American Tradition of the Goddess Wiccan Tradition to the Spiral Web Tradition, a new Witchcraft Tradition I created last year.

My Coven pledges to honor and abide by bylaws and policies of CoG and serve our community as we have in the past.

The Tree of Knowledge Coven follows a triple path of study that mirrors the sacred tree with its roots connecting it deeply to the earth, the trunk that connects it to the life we share, and the flexible branches and fluttering leaves that connect it to the heavens above.

My coven consists of six initiated Witches (including myself) plus six new students who just began their studies at Ostara. We will continue to practice and teach of the Goddess's constancy and daily presence and the God's birth, growth, death and rebirth throughout the Wheel of the Year, through ritual and training on the Sabbats and Esbats. My Coven will add a focus to successfully awaken the Priestess that is within each of us, while teaching ethical magic and living transformational lives. Our eclectic rituals will continue to utilize myth and lore to honor our ancestral and historical



roots as we grow and spread our 'branches' from a strong foundation. We hold ourselves to high standards as representatives of the Goddess.

The Spiral Web Tradition is a modern Witchcraft practice where orthopraxic (right actions) rather than orthodoxic (right beliefs) encourage our own journey of self-discovery as a self-fulfilled and divine woman.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

THE WICCAN REDE

From Vol 4 Issue 8

May 1979

*"Eight words the Wiccan rede doth tell
An it harm none, do as ye will."*

By Robin Goodfellow and Lady Gaia

Witchcraft is an earth religion, a religion of nature and natural magick. This, in essence is what we are and do. By the word natural, I mean to say that our magick is very intentionally in harmony with the living forces of this world, the earth, and we seek to go with rather than in opposition to Her cycles and rhythms. We venerate the archetypal deities of nature and invoke natural forces, and we evolve toward the realization in all of us that we too are spirits of nature. Learning that all spirits are facets of one Spirit, and the material world is not different from this, we cease creating any division or duality of matter/spirit in the field of this great oneness. Instead we lovingly embrace all of Being, manifest and unmanifest and rejoice in this world that most others perceive as a trap from which to seek some kind of escape or salvation. We do not seek to "get off the wheel," because we have discovered that we ourselves are the wheel, its creator, its sustainer, and its destroyer, as well as the fantasy of being the helpless victim of "outside" forces.

As Children of the Mother Goddess, we trust in Her nature, and our magick is rooted in this trust. We enter into our religious expression in "perfect love and perfect trust," and speaking for myself (Robin in this case), I have not ever found this love and trust to be betrayed, it is to enter into a sacred space "between the worlds" where our power may be concentrated and directed that we erect our circles: they aren't set up to protect us from any "ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasties and things that go 'bump!' in the night" that we might fear are lurking just outside our "protective" circles and ready to pounce on us should we accidentally step outside the perimeter. The whole notion is a source of great humor among Witches, and I've never known any of us to cower inside the circle in agony when nature calls. Of

course some of us just stretch our circles to include bathrooms (or latrines if outdoors), but the simple rite is to draw a doorway in the circle to come and go by.

So, what is this Natural Magick of which we sneak? How does it manifest, and from where does it derive? Just as we have said before, is a mystery religion. We go through a very long process of self-work and study prior to formal initiation into a coven of the Craft. What may not be obvious to the initiate at first is that process is essential to the initiation, and without it the ceremony would have little meaning. Those who claim to be Witches because someone somewhere gave them an "instant" initiation because they had some quality such as Witch blood" or "the Power," or whatever, are only deluding themselves.

We learn magick by doing magick. All the theory and learned commentary are of no use without the experience of magical practice, and this work issues forth from the heart, the genitals, the gut. It is not, nor can it ever be, a merely intellectual preoccupation. I aver that those magical lodges that attempt magick which is all head and no heart can never understand or work any real magick, no matter how elaborate or rational their methods.

With the above understood, it remains to get down to proving the reality of magick and presenting some of the basic laws and principles necessary, to its practice. Now these are subtle matters and may best be discussed in a relatively general way, for precise instruction must be given on a person-to-person basis and not through writing, though, with understanding of these fundamentals, one might very well become competent to construct and create one's own magical workings. Within the group, the coven, one learns of the "Law of three." This law states that Whatever one puts out returns to the sender threefold. A curse will come back to you threefold, as will a blessing. This itself is enough to discourage those whose motive for getting into the Craft is vengeance against another or a desire for power over others. We do not teach Wicca to those who will not accept this Law. All power is removed from any magicks we reveal to these, even though one may follow every step of what is taught. We regard all the laws of magick as statements of fact and not merely our own intent, for we have found them true whether we will it so or not, so we simply acknowledge them, for when one begins to consciously practice magick, one steps into a different relationship to Being than one had before. Not all Witches practice magick outside of a coven context, for there is a great sense of responsibility that dawns when magick is seen to be a reality and not just a mind-game; one begins to take oneself seriously, as a conscious agent with the power to alter the shape of things beyond the immediate



scope of one's personal life, and this consciousness is discovered to be a continuum with Universal Consciousness. The will of the magician can act in total harmony with the Intelligence of the Universal Will. This might be termed "the droplet merging with the ocean;" there is no loss of self-identity, but instead a great expansion of self.

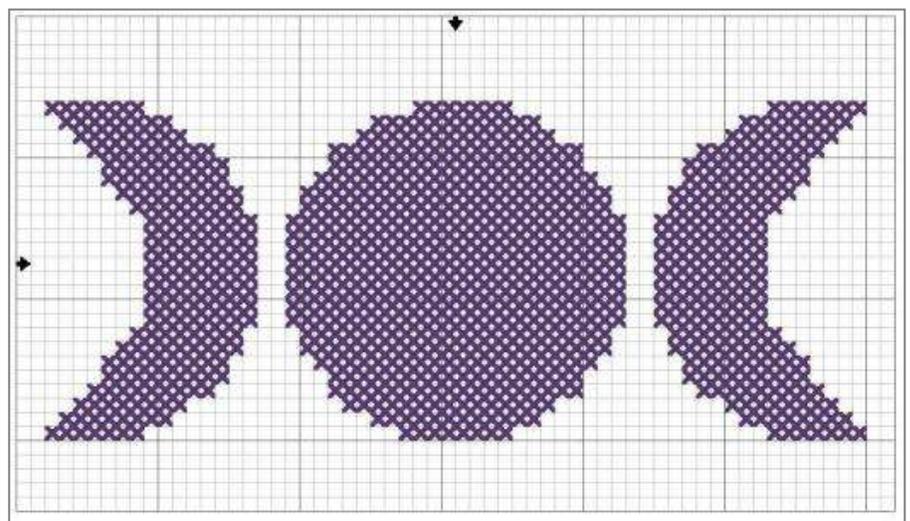
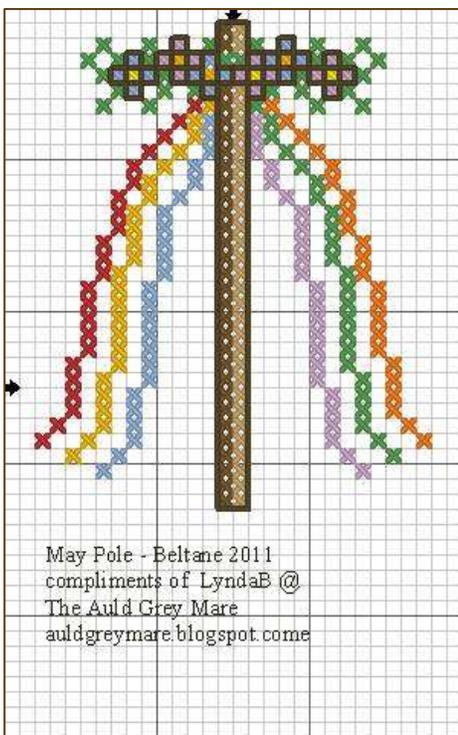
Will is an essential ingredient to any magickal operation, and many occultists devote much energy to seeking what. Aleister Crowley called "one's True Will." Crowley's concept is not what we are dealing with here, but it is well worth investigating for those desiring adeptship in magick. What we mean here by will is how it is used in practical magick, and this leads us into a discussion of "The Witches' Pyramid," of which will is a component. The four sides of the witches pyramid are the basic structure of a witch's magical work, and without these elements being present there is no magick. Not all Witches are familiar with the term, but all who work real magick use the principle described.

The Witches' Pyramid has four sides. The first side is imagination. Most people are somewhat familiar with the method of creative visualization. It's like positive thinking, affirmation, and other modes of "New Thought" psychologies are based on the immense power of the imagination. Fundamentally, the idea is that one creates one's own reality, and the ability to visualize something as if it were already reality sets in motion those forces that do in fact make it real. The essential

first step in losing weight is to get a good, clear, well-realized image of the goal of a slender body. One must develop this image until it is even more real than what is seen in the mirror, and only then can one activate the next side of the pyramid, Will. Will is what distinguishes the imagined goal from any other thought or day-dream. Will gives thrust. and force to the desired end; it is what propels the arrow to the target with great. emotional content, to bless or blight. It adds vitality and energy to the working, but it cannot exist at all without the side of the pyramid called Faith or Belief, which underlies both the values of imagination and will and on which they depend. We trust the Powers we have invoked will carry out their appointed tasks; there can be no doubt, or the whole structure is weakened and may disintegrate. Indeed, the presence of doubt or antagonism even from others outside our circle has an ill effect on our workings, so Secrecy is the final essential of the Witches' Pyramid. Besides the negative force of doubt, there is an adage: "Power shared is Power lost." The more people who know what. one is doing magically, the more diffuse the power. Everyone reacts in a different way to such knowledge, and singleness of intent is important to magick; such singleness can only be maintained by a small, harmonious group, such as a coven.

So, for one who wishes to begin the practice of magick, study the steps of the Witches' Pyramid: Imagination, Will, Faith and Secrecy: be pure in your motives. Work on yourself.

PAGAN CROSS-STITCH PATTERNS



Happy Stitching