

# 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 SAMHAIN**

Samhain renewals are due on **October 31, 2018**. The Drop-dead date is **November 11, 2018** 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:**

- ❖ Amergini

**EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:**

- ❖ Marla K Roberson
- ❖ Spelcastor

**HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL:**

- ❖ Coven of the Apha Wolf

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE

**ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE

**TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:**

- ❖ Amethyst Dragon
- ❖ Circle of the Unicorn
- ❖ Coven Firemoon

**TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE

**NATIONAL COVENS:**

- ❖ Circle of Solitary
- ❖ Our Lady of Prairie
- ❖ Our Lady of the Trinity

**NATIONAL SOLITARIES:**

- ❖ Lady Pythia
- ❖ Lord GoldenOak

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATES:** NONE



**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**FIRST OFFICER**

No report given.

**SECOND OFFICER**

Grand Council and Merry Meet 2018 are history. I'm still compiling the receipts.

**MEMBERSHIP OFFICER**

I am riding the high of being part of the evolution and regrowth of CoG! I had such a good time visiting with EMLC at Grand Council, their hard work was front and center, and their hospitality was such a blessing to experience! Many proposals were passed which will affect the Membership process, and many of those grew out of seeds planted at the Leadership Institute workshops at the last two Merry Meets, nurtured by the Committees which focused on reviewing Bylaw and Policy manuals, and on our Membership process, and brought to flower and fruit by the labor of Witches who believe in CoG's mission. Oh! And a Mission Statement, as well as a Vision Statement, were created first thing at GC! No biggie! <grin> Lastly, I'm really looking forward to attending Grand Council 2019 in NEW MEXICO and visiting Ardantane!

**BIG CHANGES COMING:** Due to the numerous Bylaw amendments passed at GC 2018 relating to or affecting the Membership process, there will be some big changes coming soon. These amendments will take effect starting at Samhain, and I will write an explanatory email for each of the amendments (of those I presented at GC) and try to post them on AIR before the middle of October. (I am planning to go Parliament of Worlds Religion in Toronto, Canada, so will be off-line from mid-October until mid-November.)

**Next up on the NMO's plate:** I will be returning as NMO for a third term, and my goals are to continue to improve the process to return to the physical mailing of credentials, and welcome packets; plan for the transition to the next NMO by creating/updating the NMO Manual and recording training videos and by working more closely with Local Council Membership Officers to develop the Friends of CoG program. Lastly, and most importantly, I will continue to collaborate with CoG leadership and Members on reversing our downward trend in membership, to increase involvement and engagement in CoG. I will also continue as the chairperson of the Bylaw Review and Path to Membership Committees and will work on the Tech Team Community to further my



personal stretch goal - a way of renewing completely online, as well as the Committee's other goals.

#### Continuing Prefilled Renewal Forms:

Renewal reminders are now coming in the form of a pre-filled out renewal form, as part of the email reminder. This is not an attachment, it is part of the email. All you do is print the email and make notes on the form where information has changed, sign it, and send it back via electronic means. You can continue to pay your tithe online via PayPal, or by sending a check. Please feel free to give me feedback, or to request/suggest changes that you would like me to make. Be aware that various email programs and printers give differing results in how the text looks, and that aspect of things isn't under my control. This is only one of the ways to renew, and CoG will continue to offer options so that people who are not as comfortable with technology can still do things the 'old school' way, i.e., print a form, fill it out, snail mail to the PO Box with a check.

**New Associate applications** will become **Friends of CoG** (not included with the count of current members listed below.)

The Associate's Program was ended by the decision of Grand Council 2018 and is in the process of being replaced with the Friends of CoG program, which is currently in development, and will start at Samhain. These applicants will be offered the option to join the Friends of CoG program, or to have their money refunded.)

- Paul Abijah Raphu (National Associate) 2nd mention, would have become effective at **Samhain**. (Last newsletter, I said he would be welcomed at Mabon, which was an error.)
- Darrell Riffe (National Associate) 1st mention, would have become effective at Samhain.
- Nerissa Sparkman (National Associate) 1st mention, would have become effective at Samhain.

#### Welcome New Members!

- Circle of Earth Sea Sky (Texas Local Council) (Lewisville, TX)
- Circle of Shadow and Light (Texas Local Council) (Arlington, TX)
- Circle of Danu (Texas Local Council) (Bedford, TX)
- Rita Rippetoe (NCLC AoS) (Orangevale, CA)
- Circle of the Obsidian Oak (Touchstone Local Council) (Cathedral City, CA)

#### Transfer Requests

- DragonStone Circle Coven (Northern California Local Council) has requested to transfer from a Coven to a Solitary Membership (Marilee Bigelow). 2nd mention, if no objections will become effective at Samhain, but will be moved to renew at Mabon with the rest of NCLC.

#### Cancelled/Lapsed

Regrettably, Lady Cliona Nic Tavish didn't renew. This means we currently have 128 members total, consisting of 69 Covens, and 59 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.

#### Members:

**If you have sent your renewal in, and your name is listed below, PLEASE CONTACT ME ASAP so I can follow up.** Membership(at)cog.org is the email address to use to reach me, but mail from me will come from a new address, Thea.Bristlebroom@gmail.com.

There are no overdue members at this time!

#### PURSEWARDEN

##### CURRENT ASSETS

Chase Main Account: \$60,741.50 (The reduction in the Chase Account is from the Payment of Some Grand Council Expenses and Travel Advances to Covenant Members and Covenant Board Members)

Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: \$5,585.62

PayPal Account: \$14,590.41

Synchrony: \$31,460.47 (from Statement ending 6/30/2018)

##### CURRENT AND PENDING ISSUES & ACTIVITY

1. If anyone has outstanding travel advance checks, please deposit immediately.
2. Please submit receipts and/or return unused funds.
3. I will be sending travel advances for PWR this week.
4. Once the semester is in full swing, I will return to regularly scheduled programming which includes Synchrony & PayPal fight, D&O Insurance.

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

My report this month will be brief. First I want to thank Everglades Moon Local Council for their hard work planning Merry Meet and Grand Council. Their Southern Hospitality was warm and inviting and they were well organized throughout the event. Thanks again! I enjoyed my time in Fort Lauderdale.

I came away from Grand Council with lots of ideas for improving our visibility in the community, encourage deeper communications, and create social media fans. I will be working on a marketing plan for 2019 along with a Style Guide to



help in creating a consistent content and image for our materials and digital media.

I will also be looking for volunteers to help with Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and the PIO website to bring in new ideas and visions for better communications with others.

Janine Nelson, NPIO

**PUBLICATIONS OFFICER**

Greetings! MerryMeet was wonderful! I always enjoy getting to see folks I rarely get to see in person.

I'm still getting stuff up and on the website. Some Interfaith stuff has been added to Interfaith Connections on the main CoG website and hopefully the History of CoG video will be up soon – keep your fingers crossed!

Please send any articles, poetry or minutes to [newsletter@coq.org](mailto: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](mailto:coqweb@coq.org).

~Stachia Ravensdottir

**CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER**

No report given.

**NATIONAL RECORDER**

I'm working on the Grand Council 2018 minutes and I'm making good progress. I'm on track to circulate the minutes in mid- to late-September and finish the final by Samhain. I'm uncertain if I should complete the bylaw and policy updates as well or leave that to the Bylaw Review Committee.

Morgana

**WELCOME TO COG**



Please welcome:

- ❖ Circle of Earth Sea Sky, Texas
- ❖ Circle of Shadow and Light, Texas
- ❖ Circle of Danu, Texas
- ❖ Rita Rippetoe, Northern California AoS
- ❖ Circle of the Obsidian Oak, Touchstone

**NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES**

~ July 8, 2018

Call to Order at approximately 3:05pm Eastern Time. Canu, National First Officer; Janine

Nelson, National Public Information Officer; Manny Tejada, National Purswarden; Amber K, National Correspondence Officer and Morgana RavenTree, National Recorder, were present and represented a quorum. Thea Bristlebroom, National Membership Officer and Stachia Ravensdottir, National Publications Officer, were absent.

**Officer Reports:**

**First Officer (Canu):** We held Grand Council 2018. We ended up with three items withdrawn. We were able to complete the agenda Saturday without needing to run overtime into Sunday. Canu thanked Everglades Moon Local Council for their hospitality. Virtual attendees said they felt they were able to participate in the meeting.

**Second Officer (Manny):** (See full report on pg. 2) I met with Azrael Arynn by phone today to pass on any information she needs for next year. We didn't complete the loop on Jack's proposal regarding the National Budget covering Grand Council so we should keep that in the back of our minds.

**Membership Officer (Thea):** (See full report on pg. 2).

**Publications Officer (Stachia):** (See full report on pg. 4).

**Purswarden (Manny):** (See full report on pg. 3).

**Public Information Officer (Janine):** (See full report on pg. 3). Manny said we need to find the vector version of the COG logo because all versions he has are too small. Janine suggested we set up our flyer correctly so local councils can print them on their own paper.

**Correspondence Officer (Amber K):** She is keeping up with correspondence and has made adjustments to prisoner packet and sent it to people in correctional facilities that requested it. She has exceeded her budget as it costs more than allocated to print and send out the prisoner packets. The Board agreed to reimburse her. May need to increase budget allocation in next year's budget.

**Recorder (Morgana):** (See full report on pg. 4). Morgana asked what to do with the handheld recorder. She will send it on to the next Recorder. Morgana will contact the Bylaw Review Committee about updates to the Bylaws and Policy Manuals.

**Continuing Business:**

**Conflict of Interest Forms:** work on this is ongoing.

**Purchase of D&O Insurance:** see Purswarden's Report in Newsletter.



**New Business:**

**Appointment of Recorder:** Faelind (Linda Stack of Texas Local Council) has offered to act as National Recorder for the term commencing November 1, 2018. The Board confirmed the appointment by consensus.

**COG Tripart Flyer:** Macha has submitted specimens of a tripartite flyer she created for Northern California Local Council. Discussion: Janine gave summary of Macha’s proposal. She asked if Local Councils actually use the materials we have. Manny said that we need to bring our materials in alignment with the Mission and Vision Statements adopted at Grand Council and look at the Covenant’s entire portfolio to know how we communicate to the outside world and make sure it is all consistent. Janine suggested that many of the flyers on the website be updated to include the new Mission Statement.

**Fundraising email:** the Board discussed an email Amber K received offering services for fundraising purposes. Manny and Morgana said that we already know what we need to do, the problem is staffing – we don’t have the personnel and the Board has time constraints. We already have the talent within the Covenant and don’t need to hire an outside company.

**Board Changeover:** Canu will let Faelind know about her appointment.

**Grand Council Equipment:** Canu has meeting equipment. He never received the webcams and other equipment purchased by previous Boards. He will coordinate with Azrael Aryn.

**Parliament of the World’s Religions:** the funds set aside for each attendee is \$500 plus the Registration Fee. Manny will update the Request for Attendance Funds form.

**Grand Council Review** At Amber K’s request, Morgana will circulate a list of the Grand Council 2018 proposals and the status of each. The Mission and Vision Statements adopted at Grand Council 2018 are already being circulated and put into use.

**Meeting Platform:** Canu likes using Zoom, but with discuss with next Board whether to use Zoom or WebEx.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:23pm Eastern time. The next regular Board meeting will take place on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm Eastern Time.



**TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY**



**MARILEE BIGELOW**

Northern California AoS  
City, State

Transitioning from DragonStone Circle Coven  
First publication – Lammas 2018  
Second Publication – Mabon 2018

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**



**DARRELL N RIFFE**

National Associate  
Pikeville, Kentucky

**LETTER OF INTRODUCTION**

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to be considered for an associate membership with the Covenant of the Goddess. It has taken me a long time to find the right organization to provide me with the community I would like to be a part of and grow within.

I was raised within Appalachian Christianity, but have long distanced myself from that. I recognize the pagan traditions of the mountains, but Christianity was not the path for me. Since college, I have delved deep into mythology, particularly the works of Joseph Campbell. My interests in mythology and paganism has always been with me at an early age, but it was my college years that became so formative in my journey.

I have been fortunate enough to have travelled throughout Ireland and England. I have visited sacred sites to the ancient ways of Celtic paganism. The energies that surround these places helped encourage me to explore their significance and how it related to my own personal journey. The Celtic traditions have been the traditions I’ve been most interested in, but it hasn’t stopped me from exploring those in Taoism, Buddhism, Native American traditions, and those in Africa.

My level of knowledge is extensive, but as a practitioner, I am a novice. I have finally decided to take this step in hopes of cultivating a greater knowledge of the Goddess and ideally connecting with a community. I lost both my parents around five years ago and have been on a deeper journey in accepting life and death. I feel a connection to one’s ancestors is important in connecting to the past and to the Earth.

Ultimately, taking this step is part of my journey. Most recently I have been studying shamanism and the benefits of ecopsychology. Within the Wiccan traditions, I feel it is as much



about connecting with the universe at large and concentrating on personal well being.

Please consider me for an associate member. I will uphold the Code of Ethics and strive to be the best person I can to the organization.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Darrell N Riffe



**ALTA NERISSA SPARKMAN**

National Associate  
Dema, Kentucky

**LETTER OF INTRODUCTION**

To Whom it May Concern (CoG),

I am writing to respectfully request membership into the Covenant of the Goddess Associates Program. First and foremost, I will address the following:

- A. I am a Witch.
- B. The Goddess & Old Gods are and will continue to be the primary focus of my worship.
- C. I agree to adhere to the CoG Code of Ethics.
- D. I wish to become a Covenant of the Goddess Associate.

I have been interested in and studying Wicca & Witchcraft since I was approximately 14 years old (1993) and more fervently since the age of 19. I have never received any formal training, however, due to being in a somewhat isolated rural area. Recently, I have finally met a new yet very dear friend who is also interested in this pursuit and I finally see an opportunity to seriously commit to this practice.

As far as interests, I am particularly interested in Appalachian "Granny Witch" magic and healing as well as divination. I am interested in Celtic magic & folklore as well, which is the root of the Granny Witch.

Please allow me to be a part of the Associates Program so that I may gain more knowledge and practice and will hopefully qualify for full membership in time.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sincerely,  
Alta Nerissa Sparkman

**LOCAL COUNCILS**



**CALAFIA**

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Beltane 2018 edition.



**CHAMISA**

~ September 8, 2018

**Agenda Check-in:** Rowan

**Called to order at:** 10:05 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Circle of the Winter Moon, Our Lady of the Woods, Crowwimin, Coven of the Silver Moon, Circle of the Cauldron, Ryan, Jude, KariIsis, Dru, and Lady Athena

**Officer Reports**

**First Officer (Rowen):** I presented the Membership Report to Grand Council, and it was well-received. Since my presentation was a PowerPoint, I can't show it here, but will show it at the Yule meeting.

**Second Officer (Dave):** We had 200 people attend Mabon this year. This is down from last year due primarily to the date change.

**Membership (Dee):** The streamlining of the process will give us a general membership and a voting or sustaining membership that will take a fraction of the time to become a member.

**Pursewarden (AmberIsis):**

Beginning Quarterly Balance	\$8,725.21
Current Quarterly Credits/Deposit:	\$1.01
Current Quarterly Debits/Withdrawal	-\$1,210.71
Current Quarter Ending Balance	\$7,515.51

In addition to the expenditures listed above, \$800 will be paid to Silver Moon Health Services for providing health care at Mabon. The funds taken in for Mabon will be available after the event.

**Recorder (Lora):** These minutes serve as my record.

**PIO (KariIsis):** I am stepping down as PIO because it has been too difficult to participate in meetings remotely.

**Interfaith Committee (Amber K):** CoG is very busy with Interfaith and will be sending representatives to the parliament of World Religions. And we are of course members of New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light. I am stepping down to focus on National issues.

**CoG Board Rep Report (Amber K):** I will be addressing the CoG proposals in the Old Business.

**Friendly Reports:**

**Ardantane:** We have several retreats and workshops planned for the remainder of the year, including the Wisdom Retreat on October 5-7, the Torch and Key Hecate Retreat on November 16-18, and the continuing Paladin Training.



**Silver Moon Health Services:** Getting their paperwork in order.

**Beltane Southwest:** no report

**Las Cruces PPD:** We are ready for the event! The date is October 20, 2018.

**Old Business:**

**Three Proposals taken to Grand Council:**

1. Streamline membership application process. Create a general (non-voting) membership level (think Sierra Club or ACLU). They receive, for example, newsletter, chat room access, bumper sticker.

2. Create a job description for CoG's first professional staff person, and a plan to finance the position. The aim would be to relieve national officers of some of their routine administrative work (reducing volunteer overload) and to make new initiatives possible.

AmberIsis – could we (Chamisa) help pay for the secretary?

Lady Athena – there is a line item on membership to contribute. Could we stipulate that this contribution goes to the secretary?

3. Create a National Governing Board composed of reps from each local council and one for National members. Current National Officer positions will become volunteer staff positions. All positions would have two-year terms.

Ryan – to bring CoG into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, could we look into streaming information, lessons, videos, etc. on the CoG website? Let's utilize technology!

How do we put that into action? Az, Ryan, Dee, and Lady Athena will work on this.

**Az is the new CoG 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer!** Merry Meet 2019 will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico! Save the date: August 15-18, 2019. Theme: HIGH DESERT MAGICK. Staff needed for booth at Albuquerque PPD, September 30, 2018

**New Business:**

**Election of Officers:**

- First Officer, Lora
- Second Officer, David, with Mahonri in training this coming year, to make the transition less difficult between the terms of 2<sup>nd</sup> officers.
- Membership, Cherie
- Pursewarden, AmberIsis
- Recorder, Dru
- PIO, Rowan
- Interfaith Committee, Ryan and Lady Athena
- CoG Board Rep, Amber K

**Honorarium for Wendy:** \$1000

**New Place for Mabon:** David is looking at a new campground near Coyote called Resumidero. This campground has larger, flat, with ponderosa pines, and a stream running through it. It is going to be made into a group site starting in 2019, with brand new facilities! David, Rick Proctor, and Pyramid will go up to check it out.

**Fixed date for Mabon:** because of the problems with alternating the date for the Mabon festival between the second and third weekends in September, it was decided to fix the date for the weekend before the actual date of Mabon.

Chamisa will donate \$1000 to Ardantane to go to the construction of the Uncommon Room.

Ardantane will be the guests for Mabon 2019.

**Proposed Meeting Dates and locations for 2018-2019:**

- Yule Meeting, December 9, 2019 at Sylvia's in Albuquerque
- Ostara Meeting, March 3, 2019 at Lora and David's in Las Cruces
- Litha Meeting, June 28-July 1, 2019 in Colorado. Lady Athena will research this.
- Mabon Meeting, September 11-15, Cedro Peak or Resumidero Campground

Announcements

Benediction

Adjournment – 11:50 a.m.



**EVERGLADES MOON**

~ July 28, 2018

**Present:** Kasha, AoS – FO; Alpandia, DragonWhisper – PO; Bridget, Witch & Famous – MO; Qabal, AoS – PIO, Nat'l PW; Cat, Witch and Famous; Canu, BeachFyre – Nat'l FO; Lady Rayna, BeachFyre; Coyote, AoS

**Guests:** Lord Verderius, Nat'l Coven Lavender Dragons, Stefano, Cris, Jae

Meeting started with invocation to Coventina @ 2:05

**First Officer Report:** The past two months have been busy with Merry Meet planning. In addition to that:

- We have transitioned banking matters to me and Qabal (see PW report)
- Annual report has been submitted to the National First Officer for Grand Council Agenda.
- We had a successful fundraiser that covered Lady Circes funeral costs.

Pagan Pride Dates for Florida are as follows:





- Ft Lauderdale Sept 15 – Lady Bridget Point Person
- Jacksonville Sept 16 - Kasha Point Person
- Sublime Elms (in Orlando) Sept 22
- Orlando Sept 29
- Treasure Coast PPD Oct 13 – Coyote Point Person
- Volusia ?
- Bradenton ?

We are registered for vendor booth for Jacksonville and Treasure Coast and have inquiries out to the rest.

Several of Moonies were able to spend time with our new Georgia members at Mystic South in July. Lady Arden, Rune, and Miraselena looked spectacular and danced the night away at the masquerade dance!

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in Merry Meet Planning. We're on the home stretch, and I'm looking forward to our showing our Florida hospitality to the rest of the Covenant!

**Second Officer Report:** As of right now, I do not have a reservation for the retreat. I am leaning toward having it at the Savannas in Ft Pierce sometime in September or October. If anyone has a date suggestion, that would be great. The annual meeting will be Oct 6 in Ft Pierce at Ravens office.

**Membership Officer Report:** As we get ready for Grand Council I am happy to report that our local council has submitted all proxy/attendance forms to the NMO, so none of our members will be made provisional. All members due to renew at the last Sabbat have done so, and we have no members due to renew at this Sabbat.

We have gained two new solitary members and a new member coven. We are happy to welcome Marla, Lady Miraselena, and Sylvan Forest to our LC. Yay!

Sadly, we have lost one of our solitary members, Lady Circe, who passed thru the veil June 23, 2018. She was not only our perennial Pursewarden, and the National Second officer this year, she was also our dear and beloved friend and she will be missed very much.

May the days of summer be fruitful and bless us all.

Lady Bridget, EMLC MO

**Publications Officer Report:** Hoopla Moonies! I'm proud to say that our social empire continues to thrive. We've been busy posting the last minute information for Grand Council. Our homepage will be receiving some much needed TLC once we've gotten past Grand Council. If anyone

has content they'd like to provide for the page, just let me know!

**Public Information Officer Report:** [no report]

**Pursewarden Report** (provided by National Pursewarden): As everyone knows, after Lady Circe fell ill, Kasha and I have been working on EMLC finances. Kasha and I were already signers on EMLC accounts, as EMLC First Officer and National Pursewarden respectively.

Nevertheless, we had limited access to our accounts because we could not get online access. Kasha secured a copy of Circe's death certificate, a requirement of the bank to remove her name from accounts and deprecate all extant charge cards, then worked with PNC to restore access. Manny worked with the PayPal accounts to review access and check that all transactions were accounted for.

Currently EMLC has three bank accounts:

- Main Checking Account: \$4928.01
- Secondary Account (PP): \$1,491.55
- Merry Meet Account: \$6407.02

EMLC has two additional PayPal Accounts:

- Merry Meet Account: \$1,132.27
- EMLC PayPal: \$312.25

Recent Main Checking Account Activity:

- Ordering of Checks: \$49.24
- EMLC Travel Assistance: \$1080
- Funeral Expenses: \$1340

EMLC PayPal:

- We have a recurring support to The Wild Hunt: \$25/month
- We received donations totaling \$1,312.50
- I transferred \$1000 out PayPal to the PNC Secondary Account
- This leaves \$312.50 to cover recurring TWH donations.

Where we are now:

- Account access is now stable.
- Total Current Assets: \$14,271.10
- Total Assets excluding Merry Meet: \$6,731.81
- Merry Meet Assets: \$7539.29
- Merry Meet Liabilities: \$9,814.49 (est.)
- Difference (\$2,488.21)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**What EMLC'ers are doing:**

- Memorial for our beloved Lady Circe
- Coordinating attendance at Pagan Pride Days across Florida



- Assisting with and attending Mystic South in Atlanta (you should go next year!)
- Several EMLC members are part of The Wild Hunt team
- Cat is working on a mind/body/eating certification
- Qabal is looking into possibly expanding Mystic South offerings to include CEU's for individuals attending the academic tracks through possible coordination with Cherry Hill Seminary

Meeting Dates so far for the rest of 2018 (current board): Sat Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Location TBD – Coyote offered Coyote's Den. Annual Meeting Oct 6<sup>th</sup> PSL – Raven's Office

### Fundraising and Outreach:

**Psychic House Party:** Psychic House Party will be Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 7-10/11pm at Kasha's home in Palm Bay. Volunteers will be needed to help on site: setting up, breaking down, serving snacks, helping keep things on time. Alpandia will set up a submission form to send in applications for readers and also start to get interest from people looking to attend. So far we have readers: Bridget (tarot), Coyote (massage), Cat (crystal healing), Lady Bridget asked if anyone has an EZUp to let her know because we could potentially coordinate using the outdoors pace for either readings or socializing. If anyone needs crash space, Wickam Park is close by and can be used for camping. Kasha does have room for a few EMLC'ers available first come first serve. Keep in mind they do have a large dog and an adorable cat. Alpandia will go through her records to find the old TTT logo that has the psychic to use for flyers. Reading Rate will be \$45 for three – 20 minute readings. A 10 minute break built in between each.

**Movies with Witches:** O Cinema still interested in hosting us, and we still have a good contact there. This is something we can follow up with after Grand Council.

**Turning the Tide 2018:** Our dates are Dec 7, 8, 9<sup>th</sup>. Confirmed that the reservation has been made and deposit given to the campground. Flyers will be ready ahead of Grand Council. Find out more at: <https://emlc.net/tides2018>

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Witchvox:** Lady Rayna made a proposal that EMLC should become a sponsor of WitchVox again. Proposal was twinkled @ sponsor rate of \$25/year. Alpandia will attempt to help facilitate communication with Wren and Fritz to see if there's a way EMLC can help or lend any support to them for upkeep/maintenance/updates as WitchVox is such an important part of the Witchy community.

**MERRY MEET 2018:** Discussion of the layout of the hotel, where attendees will be for

most of the conference. Hospitality room will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor. It has a sofa and dining table and adjoining room. Can serve as a war room for the event. This is a wonderful space to hang out – plus it's got room outside and a great view of the ocean.

Signage will be needed for Vendors, Workshop area. Main meeting room is flanked with the workshop/vendor area.

Grand Council room is a large room with tables and chairs. Ancestor Altar can be in one of the alcoves that are on either side of the entrance. Various scenarios discussed for room setup.

Workshops: will need to follow-up to see if any presenters have any specific needs (eg: projectors, speakers, etc)

Discussion of the logistics of ritual set up, seating, circle placement, etc.

Registration: badges are printing now, as are signs. Please get all information that should go into the bags to Kasha asap. Cat has worked on the list of places to eat. Qabal is working on a FL-specific safety list.

GC/MM day-by-day break down of what is needed for each day, coordinating tasks and responsibilities, where EMLC'ers will be needed.

Reminder: We will have press coverage from The Wild Hunt. Sean McShee will connect with Qabal/Alpandia and Thea to be granted access to observe Grand Council per CoG ByLaws

Final discussion of costs and obligations for Grand Council/Merry Meet versus income from registrations.

Vendors: We have several vendors, plus EMLC will have a table coordinated by Amber. Please bring your donations for sale!

Discussion of how to serve the Covenant on the National level.

Meeting closed with thanks to Coventina @ 4:56pm



### September 1, 2018

Quorum having been reached, the meeting was called to order at 1:42 PM EDT. With hands and hearts circled up, and a candle alit, Coyote Morningstar led an innovation and blessing.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Canu, CoG First Officer, Beachfyre Coven
- Kasha, EMLC First Officer, AoS
- Lady Bridget, EMLC Membership Officer, Witch & Famous Coven
- Alpandia, EMLC Publications Officer, DragonWhisper Coven
- Aequitas, EMLC Co-Recorder, Beachfyre Coven



- Coyote Morningstar, AoS
- Raven, AoS

#### Via Zoom:

- Qabal, CoG National Pursewarden, EMLC Public Information Officer, AoS
- Amber, EMLC Second Officer, AoS
- Cat, Witch & Famous Coven

#### OFFICER REPORTS:

**First Officer (Kasha):** Since our last meeting, most of my First Officer time was spent on Grand Council/Merry Meet prep. Thank you to each LC member who planned, participated, vended, presented workshop, ritual, or hospitality event, facilitated LI, entertained, supported, and attended all or part of that weekend! I was proud to receive lots of positive feedback about our Local Council hosting a fun Merry Meet and a productive and effective Grand Council. I'm so proud to be a member of EMLC! We have received most of the documentation for attendance funds distributed and are in the process or processing reimbursement requests for Merry Meet. The process of scanning the old membership records continues, each week making a dent in the large box of files, and I anticipate that by year's end, all records will be in digital format. After that, I will be consulting the National Pursewarden to find out which, if not all, of the Local Council Pursewarden records should be preserved the same way, and will embark on that project. We received an inquiry from our NCO from someone in Florida asking about resources for homeless Pagans in Pinellas County. I was able to connect them with Hands of the Goddess, an outreach and advocacy program in that area, run by Kyrja Withers. One final note, in August Witchvox was not accepting sponsors. I will keep checking back and complete the sponsorship when the site allows and inform the membership.

**Second Officer (Amber):** Merry Meet was great. I am looking forward to all the Pagan Pride Days ahead. I have not given up on a retreat this year, still looking for a good place. The Savannas Preserve State Park in Ft. Pierce, FL, could be a fall back. I am just letting everyone know I will not be staying on as Second Officer or running for any board position in October.

**Membership Officer (Lady Bridget):** EMLC presently has 5 member covens and 12 solitary members. We have four members due to renew at Mabon, and those are: Alpandia, Minos Ceos, Dona Pantera Apolonaris, and Raven. Please contact me if you need any assistance with renewing. We have a couple of inquiries into membership, 3 ladies in particular, who recently attended MM/GC in Ft. Lauderdale. As for the position of Membership Officer, I am serving my first year, and am willing to serve a second term,

and/or help train someone else if they are interested in learning the job.

**Publications Officer (Alpandia):** I've been working to move the website into Psychic House Party and Tides mode. In that, I've reached out to Event Espresso as we are close to a renewal to make sure they have the proper information on file.

**Public Information Officer (Qabal):** I would like to re-start "Movies with Witches", however October is quite busy, so I'm considering other times of the year. I'm going to investigate theaters in the Palm Beach area, would be more central for others. Discussion ensued about reaching out to UU church in Ft. Lauderdale, and securing seating and a screen, and other ideas for locations.

**Pursewarden (Qabal):** Internal Transfer Account (PayPal transfer account for MM funds): \$1491.55. MM Account: \$1,985.41. EMLC Main Account: \$4,843.01. Issues: 1. Not everything is fully tallied, however it looks like we broke even (approximately \$94.46 in the black). 2. Lavender Dragons: Lord Verderious has offered to contribute a donation to cover the costs of hosting the reception. I will reach out to Lord Verderious.

Qabal made a motion to create a fund in Circe's honor to create materials to assist Pagans with planning end of life needs and care. The motion was seconded by Kasha. The motion was twinkled unanimously.

Amber made a motion to name the fund, "Circe's Veil" a fund in Circe's honor to create materials to assist Pagans with planning end of life needs and care. The motion was seconded by Kasha. The motion was twinkled unanimously.

**Recorder (Shaylee & Aequitas):** Alpandia filled in recorder duties for the 7/28/2018 meeting. Alpandia will shortly be sending the minutes to local and national.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

**2018 Merry Meet Grand Council Recap:** The Vision and Mission statements of CoG that were voted on by consensus was shared:

**Vision:** The Covenant of the Goddess envisions a world where all living beings are honored and cherished as manifestations of the Sacred.

**Mission:** We, the Covenant of the Goddess, through advocacy, education, interfaith action, and resource sharing, empower Witches and Wiccans to protect, strengthen, and enrich our religion, society, and the Earth.

Canu thanked everyone for all the support and assistance that everyone from EMLC contributed to make this a very successful MM/GC



event. Roughly \$120 was earned at the EMLC table in the vendor room. Discussion ensued about some of the motions that were voted on by consensus and how that impacts our public advocacy and membership categories available.

**Save these Dates!** 2019 MerryMeet & Grand Council Aug 15–18, 2018 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, hosted by Chamisa Local Council.

**What EMLC Members are doing?** Harvesting honey at the Beachfyre Covenstead!

A Faery Seership gathering is coming up and several members are planning to attend

Getting ready for Pagan Pride days

Lord Riekin is retiring!

**EMLC Annual Meeting 2018:** Saturday, October 6, 2018, Raven’s Office in Port Saint Lucie. Has great wifi and plentiful parking!

Address and directions will be sent to the list. This is the mandatory yearly meeting all covens and members should be present to participate. New officer positions will be open and available!

**Pagan Pride Day Coverage:** In chronological order:

- Ft. Lauderdale, FL
  - Saturday, September 15th, 2018
  - Lady Bridget coordinating at CUUPS Ft. Lauderdale
  - Any donations? Send to Lady Bridget
- Jacksonville, FL
  - Sunday, September 16, 2018
  - Kasha and Amber coordinating
- Bradenton, FL & Sublime Elms in Orlando, FL
  - September 22, 2018 (both are on the same date)
- Orlando, FL (Official PPD event)
  - September 29, 2018
  - UU Church in Orlando
- Treasure Coast, FL
  - October 13, 2018
  - Coyote and Amber coordinating
- Red Hills Pagan Council, Tallahassee, FL
  - October 7, 2018
  - Diana coordinating
- Atlanta, GA
  - October 20, 2018
  - Lady Arden coordinating

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Updates to the website regarding membership:** Website has fillable form that will be sent to current membership officer and cc: Alpania. We also are seeking donations of statements of practice to put samples on the site.

**Reaching for the Moon Podcast:** Lady Bridget reminds everyone to send podcast material for the upcoming Sabbat and any Sabbat ahead of time! I will save and use in the appropriate season.

Discussion ensued about utilizing Patreon to monetize the podcast.

**Fundraising and Outreach Ideas:** Movies with Witches - see Qabal’s report above, still seeking a venue and open date.

Psychic House Party - Saturday, October 20, 2018, from 7pm to 11pm. Location: Kasha’s home in Melbourne, FL. Discussion ensued about planning and preparations. Lady Bridget coordinating: We are moving ahead with our plans for the Psychic House Party but we still need readers!

**Guidelines for making EMLC Official Position Statements:** Kasha proposes a working group on developing this to propose at the next meeting. Several members are volunteering for this committee: Qabal, Amber, Alpania, and Bridget.

**TURNING THE TIDE 2018:** Save the Date! Friday–Sunday, December 7, 8 & 9, 2018. Park in Northern region of Miami-Dade County

Discussion ensued about Turning the Tide planning. We are on track for earlier start time on Friday and some light workshop activities on Friday afternoon.

Pandie is finalizing the online registration and is working diligently on this. Workshop submissions are available here: <https://emlc.net/turning-the-tide-2018-workshop-application/>

We need help getting the word out!

**NEXT MEETING IS ANNUAL MEETING & OFFICER ELECTIONS:** Saturday, October 6, 2018, Raven’s Office in Port Saint Lucie. Has great wifi and plentiful parking! Gathering: 12:30pm. Start time: 1:00pm.

Address and directions will be sent to the list. This is the mandatory yearly meeting all covens and members should be present to participate. New officer positions will be open and available!

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 EDT.



**HILLS AND RIVERS**

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Mabon 2017 edition.



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Beltane edition.





**ORANGE COUNTY**

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Litha 2018 edition.



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

~ June 10, 2018

Lammas edition.

Last published minutes in the



**TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL**

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Litha 2018 edition.



**TOUCHSTONE**

~ August 6, 2018

**In attendance:** Ecclasian Fellowship (Stachia, Jack & Val), Circle of the Emerald Forest (Joanne), Temple of the Amethyst Moon (Janeen & Theresa), Circle of the Obsidian Oak (Chad).

**Announcements:** Circle of the Emerald Forest announced that Chad, Lari, and Lugh are all High Priests in my coven.

Temple of the Amethyst Moon has 2 new dedicants; Danica and Ryan.

**Officer Reports:**

**First Officer (Theresa):** Verbal report was given.

**Second Officer (Chad):** Our 1st fundraiser (Bash for Cash) held at the Banning Sizzler on July 12th was a success, and our 2<sup>nd</sup> one will be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 which will be on a Wednesday.

**PurseWarden (Jack):** We have \$1049.23 in our bank account.

**PIO (Val):** No report.

**Membership Officer (Theresa):** No new applications.

**Recorder (Val):** The minutes for the previous TLC meetings were approved by all and will be sent to National.

**Old Business:**

**TLC Calendar:** Next Sizzler Fundraiser is set for October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 (Wednesday)

**Other Fundraising:** Tabled

**Outreach Classes at Bookstores:** Tabled  
**Brochures/Handouts for Outreach:** will be reviewed

**Sign-in/Directory Information Form:** Tabled

**Update of Facebook Page and Website:** Completed by Chad and Stachia.

**New Business:**

**Proxies for TLC meetings:** Tabled

**Renaming of Council:** Was discussed and everyone was encouraged to bring suggestions to the next council meeting.

**Yule Ritual:** It was unanimously agreed upon that we would hold this year's Yule Ritual at the Moose Lodge in Mentone, CA. Also, Val was charged with the task of contacting the Lodge and setting up a date when the Lodge would be available, and will have that information at the next meeting. Chad also expressed a desire to perform a Celtic themed ritual this year which was also unanimously agreed upon by the entire council.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**TRANSFORMING THE CULTURAL APPROPRIATION DEBATE [PART THE THIRD]**

By Gus diZerega

[Presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference on Current Pagan Studies, Claremont, CA, January 28, 2018]

**VI: A living world: language, memes, and thought forms**

As I came to a better understanding of memes, I was struck by their similarity to the occult idea of thought forms. The objection many have to treating memes as real is the claim they are simply subjective imaginings. But this claim depends on the traditional Christian and secular distinction between mind and matter a distinction reinforced by the structure of our language. Is awareness enclosed within our heads, presenting science with the so far unsolvable mysteries of how it can arise and how it can influence the material world around us? Or is awareness an illusion, whatever that means, as Daniel Dennett claims. Or is awareness in some sense distributed in throughout the world rather than being hermetically sealed within our heads?

I will not explore this issue here. First it takes us afield from this paper. Second, very good people have already made persuasive cases that mind and consciousness is not isolated and confined



within our bodies.<sup>1</sup> Finally, since this is a Pagan gathering, many of us will have had direct experiences with healing at a distance or magickal workings or encountering deities and other beings free from physical bodies. If this is a step too far for you, I recommend reading some of what I have listed in this footnote, or perhaps actually place yourself in situations where you can have these experiences. Your own encounter trumps someone else's account of their encounter. For now, I will assume that there may be at least some realm of overlap between what memes are as described from the outside and thought forms are as understood from the inside.

Think for a moment about how we talk about ideas when we are speaking informally. A new idea or insight is a creative act. Alternatively, we can encounter a new idea created by someone else. If the idea is meaningful enough to us, after its creation we often relate to it as if it were an independent entity, and *describe it accordingly*. All the commonly used examples below make as much sense when the word "idea" is replaced by "person."

- I am *entranced* by an idea.
- I am *captivated* by an idea.
- I am *obsessed* with an idea.
- I am *intrigued* by an idea.
- I am *grabbed* by an idea.
- I am *revolted* by an idea.
- I am *infatuated* with an idea.
- I am *intrigued* with an idea.
- I am *in love* with an idea.
- I am *inspired* by an idea.
- I am *loyal* to an idea.
- I am *interested in* an idea.
- I am *bothered* by an idea.
- I cannot get an idea *to leave me alone*.

An idea can be powerful, grand, subtle, boring, comforting, fascinating, repellant, tantalizing, upsetting, or difficult to get hold of. We also constantly use these terms when describing our relations with people.

We treat ideas as tools that empower us in our lives, but in return they shape and sometimes

even dominate our lives. Trouble arises when we identify too closely with an idea (or a person). The possibility arises of "losing ourselves" in them. We can become emotionally attached and invested in them to a dangerous degree. When we identify with them and experience them as part of us, we "fall under their spell." We become the idea's tool rather than it being ours. The same thing can happen with our relations with other people. *We refer to ideas as if they are alive and had an existence independent from us, because we experience them that way.*

But are they really?

I think it significant that even those who seek to reduce all explanations for behavior to genes or purely physical causes, are led by the fact they are communicating with other humans to write animistically.

Mark Pagel, another evolutionary biologist and strong advocate of genetic reductionism, also writes of memes *as if they were alive*, though he would vigorously deny they were. He observes that "...the feature of memes we have to bear in mind is that there is no necessary reason they have to help us: whatever form makes them likely to be transmitted, they are likely to adopt."<sup>2</sup> The idea that the arts and religion serve humankind "must confront the simpler idea that these cultural elements might exist for no other reason than that they have evolved to be good at manipulating, exploiting, or taking advantage of *us* to aid *their* transmission..."<sup>3</sup> Consequently, "what really seems to distinguish [the arts] is that they can lodge in our brains and exert a grip on us that is sometimes beyond our control."<sup>4</sup>

In fact, Pagel argues, "The nature of cultural evolution means that some memes evolve as parasites that live at our expense."<sup>5</sup> As an example, he later mentions how "The suicide bomber's religious belief is only too happy to commit suicide – along with the suicide bomber's genes – if it can kill copies of competing ideas in other people. Suicide can advance memes as well as genes."<sup>6</sup>

Memes can lodge in our brains in order to promote their own survival in some realm, even at our expense. They have interests separate from and sometimes even antagonistic to ours. They do not care about us, but only for their own flourishing. From their perspective, we are valuable

<sup>1</sup> Three of the best that are also very accessible to attentive readers are Emma Restall Orr, *The Wakeful World: Animism, Mind and the Self in Nature* (Moon Books 2012); Thomas Nagel, *Mind and Cosmos: Why the Materialist Neo-Darwinian Conception of Nature is Almost Certainly False*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012); and Christian de Quincey, *Radical Nautre: The Soul of Matter*, (Rochester, VT: Park Street Press 2010

<sup>2</sup> Mark Pagels, *Wired for Culture: Origins of the Human Social Mind* (NY: W. W. Norton 2012) 136.

<sup>3</sup> 135.

<sup>4</sup> 132.

<sup>5</sup> 136.

<sup>6</sup> Pagel, 252.



only insofar as we serve them. I am not importing this way of speaking into scientific discussions, this is how the discussions are framed by scientists themselves.

There is one way we talk about concepts and ideas that we do not use with regard to human beings: An idea can be "in the air," meaning that it is in some sense around, but not quite yet acknowledged or recognized. This description suggests not only do we treat memes as if they were alive, we also speak of them as if they existed in some realm other than the purely physical.

### VII. Thought Forms

We know from some of our more successful magickal practices that they have very real impact on our most tangible actions. The successful use of magick is frequently linked to intensity and focus of will. Those of us who have done healing work with energy know that intention and focus can influence not only our actions, they can influence what takes place in others' bodies. Mind plus energy plus will can influence others considered physically separate from us. Mind plus energy plus focused will can create thought forms.

In magickal terms, thought forms, (also known as Tulpas in Tibetan traditions), are usually deliberately created centers of focused mental energy possessing a semi-conscious existence independent from any particular person. Thought forms are created to carry out some task, often one of protection. Thought forms are commonly thought to have access to the contents of the minds that sustain them, at least insofar as they relate to their reason for existence. When not 'fed' with mental energy focused on them and their task, thought forms weaken and dissipate.

One fascinating account of creating a thought form is described in *Conjuring Up Philip: An Adventure in Psychokinesis*.<sup>7</sup> A group of Canadian researchers created a fictional character, Philip, and over time sought to contact him through classical séance methods. The idea was that their efforts would gradually give Philip some psychic reality. They succeeded. While created by the group, once in existence, Philip was independent of individual members. If thought forms are to last, they must be able to renew the energy that gives them power and often, as in Philip's case, this is through being 'fed' by those who created them.

But not all such phenomena are deliberate creations, and this is where another dimension of memes should be considered.

A meme is described as having independent existence from any particular person, and exists so long as it is fed mental energy, like a thought form. But memes are rarely deliberate creations, and once in existence are open to use and influence by an open-ended number of people for many different purposes. They arise through a selective process that incorporates many minds in their maintenance, many more, as a rule, than are involved in creating thought forms. There is usually far less focus, but many more people are giving the meme energy. If this is true, memes are a kind of 'wild' thought form.

In occult terminology an *egregore* is a mental field that arises from the more diffused focus of many people in a common context. It was apparently developed to describe the group mind, a kind of personality a group takes on independently of its members. Egregores are not so much deliberate creations as the result of many minds sharing a common focus. As I understand the term, an egregore is created by events such as a football game, a Nazi Party rally, or the energetic 'feel' of a city or neighborhood. Like a meme it exists independently of particular people and can influence them.

If we take memes, thought forms, and egregores seriously, and I do, one more step seems to emerge from this line of thought. Consciousness is different from ideas and other memes. They are created by consciousness, and once part of our mental ecosystem give it shape, but the underlying ground is awareness as such. For example, as I was developing some early insights in what led to this paper I asked a former Zen abbot, who is a friend of mine, whether the usual popular understanding of mindfulness meditation might be mistaken. Rather than our minds creating these thoughts we are taught to passively observe these thoughts enter our mind and we give them energy by attending to them. But the thoughts are not 'in' us. He told me that was actually how they saw the matter, but rarely spoke in those terms to Westerners. It was too far removed from Western patterns of understanding the world. Better just to meditate.

*[To be continued in the next newsletter]*

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

### UNTITLED

*From Vol 7 Issue 7*

**Mabon 1982**

By Lady Phoenix

Sun streaks blood-red across a night-silvered sky  
Heart of the day pumping life through the world  
Glittering god-shards pierce opening eye  
Lugh Longspear's first golden shaft has been hurled

<sup>7</sup> Iris M. Owen and Margaret Sparrow, *Conjuring Up Philip: An Adventure in Psychokinesis* (NY: Harper and Row 1976).

Fire warming air – the first notes of lifesong  
Earth yearning upward, the green to the gold  
Quickens the Goddess' rhythm and prolongs  
Her Consort's fulfillment as morning unfolds

Sun glaring down in commanding fire  
Horus-hawk circling the apex of the day  
Plunging to strike life-force mounting yet higher  
Completing the cycle of passionate play

Life's shining steward now ceases to strengthen  
Torpor sets in as the scorching subsides  
Shadows' soft solace beginning to lengthen  
Muting the song of the ebbing life-tides

Sun flowers sadly on the threshold of night  
The brilliant quintessence begins to decline  
The god, sacrificed in the dying of the light,  
Wakes promised renewal a dream-brightened  
shrine

**I AM COG**

**LADY BRIDGET**

This is Lady Bridget in her kayak on the Atlantic Ocean in Key Largo, FL. "This is one of my favorite things to do to rejuvenate my soul. To me, camping and kayaking are restorative, and I do them as often as possible."



**LADY CIRCE'S MEMORIAL**

This was the Memorial for Lady Circe En Aset that was held in Palm Bay, FL on June 2, 2018. Lady Bridget, Sidhe-Lyric and Lord Coyote Morningstar officiated.



**SOEC/JACK**

Jack runs the St. Cuthbert's Leather Booth at the Southern California Renaissance Faire where he teaches children to make leather crafts.



Want to see more stuff like this?  
What are you up to? Providing community service? Doing something fun? Public rituals?  
Send in a photo and a quick statement to [newsletter@cog.org](mailto:newsletter@cog.org).