

**Council of the Magickal Arts
Member Forum Minutes
May 18, 2003**

Meeting notes taken by Elayne “Layni” Cook

Invocation and candle lighting: Davida Moonsong

Forum Opened at 3:10 p.m., May 18, 2003, Pease Park, Austin, Texas

Members present:

Member sign-in: 110

Proxies: 146

Total: 256

All proxies certified by Co-Director of Records, Elayne “Layni” Cook.

Proxy sheets and member sign-in sheets counted and witnessed by Marina Wolfstar and Mary “Wolf” Gray.

Introduction of IMB members, no Co-Directors as of May 17, 2003, at Council of Magickal Arts Meeting by a majority vote of members present at said meeting.

The copy of the meeting minutes, as provided by Dana Abernathy to Tony B. was passed through the general members at the forum. Layni received the minutes once everyone had a chance to look them over, and filed them for her portion of the record.

Gary Park – Co-Executive Director: Gary thanked everyone for coming out on this hot day, and making their way through the park. Layni and Skelter then stood up and said that they would never again post directions to the Park from the City of Austin site, as many people got lost and were late.

Gary also wanted to thank all the members and the 2003 Board members for sitting through a grueling 9 ½ hour meeting on the 17th. Gary stated that there was apparently a vote to merge the two boards, but at that moment he did not have the full details. The minutes from that meeting were still being passed around. Gary would get a copy at the end of the meeting.

Murlyn – Murlyn spoke to give an idea of the happenings at the May 17, 2003 meeting. He said that the first motion called, or action called, was an immediate lifting of the bans. Apparently two members would need a review, so only 20 members were reinstated in good standing. The other two members would have an opportunity to speak with the combined Board and that Board would then make a decision regarding their individual status.

Murlyn also stated that the membership wanted to have a specific policy regarding revocation of membership privileges for “safety reasons” only. Mary Wolf Gray was then named Head of the Arbitration Committee, and would investigate and determine what was a safety concern. She, and the committee, would then investigate all complaints and make recommendations to the combined Board regarding safety issues and membership revocation.

Davida and Dave R. were then named “Proctors” for the remainder of the meeting.

Gary - Gary stated that from his understanding of the new agreement, both Boards were combined for a total of 12 Board members, to serve until December 31, 2003, and the new Board, elected at Samhain 2003, could take over. Also, per his understanding, a full quorum of the Board had to be present for any business to take place. His understanding was the the members voted that a quorum of the Combined Board (hereafter to be known in this document as the COMBOT) was 2/3 of the COMBOT, which was 8 members. At that time, no member from the 2003 Board was present, so we could not conduct any voting business at this meeting. It would not be proper for the IMB to act as if this were a legal meeting, as it would be against the wishes of the membership, which voted on Saturday to combine the boards.

Deborah Kai - Deborah stated that at this gathering, members could ask to have issues put before the entire board. As minutes were being taken, those minutes would reflect any concerns or questions that could be put before the COMBOT for later consideration.

Point of Order – Judy stated that due to vote by the membership yesterday (May 17, 2003) to combine the boards, the agenda for this meeting as called is invalid. The IMB members concurred. If we did anything regarding the “agenda” for this meeting, it would undo all the work that the members and the 2003 Board did on the 17th. The IMB concurred with this as well.

The following is general member discussion. Points that are to be put before the COMBOT are noted with “” for later discussion.**

Murlyn – He sees a lot of faces today that were at the meeting yesterday. Many support the IMB and many support the 2003 Board. The members decided, by an overwhelming majority, to merge the two boards so that healing can begin. It is time to put this behind us and move forward.

Tony – He is a newbie and has been a thorn in the side of the 2003 Board since the first day of the Beltane festival. He stayed on the land overnight, and said that the 2003 Board was very relaxed and friendly after the meeting yesterday. He wishes that everyone give the two boards the chance to get to work and begin communications.

Charlie D. – She was not at the beginning of the meeting, but thanks all the members that were there for their hard work. Again reiterated that the 2003 Board and the IMB should be given a chance to work together, as the membership voted for them to do on Saturday.

John H. – All of the bans/revocations were lifted but two. He wishes for there to be due process for both of those members, and will personally remain on “banned” status until they are reinstated.

Point of Information: Because they didn’t have proxies for the 22 members that were banned, they were unable to gain the 2/3 majority to stop debate on this or other issues.

Gary Park – The COMBOT will make sure that both remaining members have an opportunity to address the COMBOT, and that their status will be reviewed as soon as possible. Also, Gary stated that since the other COMBOT members, or their delegates, were not here, this could not be a legal meeting. A full quorum of the elected COMBOT was not present. We could not speak for any of the absent members, and it would be wrong of us to make any assumptions regarding them. Assumptions have tended, in the past, to blow up into full arguments and incorrect assumptions can hurt the entire organization. There have been mistakes made on both sides of this issue. The entire COMBOT needs to have the chance to act on the Will of the membership, as voted on May 17, 2003.

****Stephanie C.** - She asks for a full member meeting on June 7, 2003. However, this is after the land payment is due. Is there enough money, currently, in the bank to make the land payment. If not, what can we do to make sure that payment gets made? Can the members make direct payments to the bank holding the mortgage?

Gary – Stated that there is a way to set up a short-term account for the strict purpose of making the land payment. But this issue will have to be dealt with by the COMBOT. Once that account has been opened, the COMBOT will make sure the membership knows how to make donations specifically for that purpose.

Gary then receives information that Sara is on with another member via cellphone. Gary begins to speak with her.

Gary returns from speaking with Sara via phone. Sara is just now (4:30) leaving the land, and is very tired. The other 2003 Board members are just leaving as well, after cleanup and other work necessary. Gary reported that Sara is fine with the vote to merge the boards, and Gary and Sara will start the process of their merging.

*At this point, there was some general membership discussion. Many members needed to vent frustration at entire situation. The merging of the two boards is a compromise that all members present at that meeting agreed with. Everyone needs to realize that everyone who was able to attend that meeting yesterday (May 17) was doing everything the best way they could. Not everything everyone wanted to get done got done, but can live with what was completed.

****Kimberly** – Wants clarification regarding the land payment. Is there enough money in the bank, right now, to make that payment? Has not been able to receive any answer from the 2003 Board regarding this and wants an answer as soon as possible. **Kimberly requests that an answer be given in five to ten business days.**

****Gary** -- There is a checking account and a general accrual account. The accrual account is where money is held for land payment and other immediate bills. There are general ongoing expenses, and the members need to realize that. Some of those are monthly bank drafts from the checking account. The COMBOT will answer questions once they all are able to look at the bank account. But, currently, there is not enough money in either account to make land payment.

****Charlie** – Three current Area Reps, Joe Rose, Liz Patton and Rain Riversong, will pass hats for those members present at this forum to make donations. Two hats were passed. Joe Rose will hold all monies separately until a specific account can be opened. A tentative amount of monies donated at the forum was \$300. Gary and/or Sara will contact Joe Rose when bank account is set up.

Thorsark – There have been questions raised as to how we make sure the two Boards actually do work together. Wants to have a petition for a member-called meeting in approximately a month to get feedback from COMBOT. Members can put specific agenda items on a petition if they wish to call a member-called meeting.

Layni – There will need to be specific agenda items for the member-called meeting. Original petitions should be sent to one of the Co-Directors of Records, with certified copies to the other (it doesn't matter which). Cannot put a specific meeting date on the petition, because the COMBOT has the right to schedule it when they wish, within a certain time frame. Must request that meeting be held no earlier than 10 days from date of postmark, and no later than 60 days from date of postmark.

Gary – We all want to do things right. If members want another meeting, then get a petition and call one. That is the right of the members to do so. But do it the right way.

****Bruce D.** - Question about money donated to the IMB for their legal fund. Can we put it toward the land payment? If so, Bruce and Charlie want theirs to be donated to the land payment.

****Gary** – All members who donated money to the IMB fund will be asked what they want done with their money. If they wish to have a complete refund, they will be given that. If they wish for the money to go toward the land payment, that is possible as well. Have 99% of the money donated accounted for, know who gave how much. Some were from sales of items at fundraisers, and that money will go directly toward the land payment fund. The exact amount available is not yet known.

****Debbie** - Has a request to put before the COMBOT for consideration from David Huffman. David asks that membership dues be raised an additional \$5, and that the entire \$5 go into a special account specified for the land payment.

The bells are not the property of CMA, but are the property of the UU Church in Houston. One bell is unaccounted for, but the rest have been returned. Tiny is helping to find the remaining bell.

****Lorna** – Specifically asked the members of the IMB if they would work with the 2003 Board as a combined board. Gary – yes. Bran – yes. Layni – yes. Susan – yes. Bill – yes. Skelter – yes. All six IMB members stated that they were willing to do this.

There was then some discussion and heated debate. The issue of a petition was brought up again, requiring that they all work together.

Point of Order: Don't need a petition for this, as have already had a membership vote on it. Do not undercut either the IMB or the 2003 Board. Putting out a petition would effectively do that, and make it more difficult for them to work together.

There was then some discussion regarding rumors that "all of CMA's money" has been spent on attorneys. Gary stated that that was not true. No CMA funds have currently been spent on any attorney fees at this time.

*At this time, Eric Stearns got up and apologized publicly for what he posted to all the lists regarding Alfred and Laura. It was a misunderstanding and he flew off the handle. Asks that he be forgiven. Laura shakes hands with Eric, and apology is accepted. Alfred and Eric hug, apology accepted.

****Mary Wolf** - As per meeting yesterday, she was named Arbiter of Safety regarding revocation and restriction. She is not here to legislate morality, but is here to ensure the safety of all members. Skelter is setting up a separate email account for her. Please send any and all requests or safety concerns to arbiterwolf@urbanpagan.org.

There was some other member discussion about the vote yesterday, and membership concerns. Ron stated that part of the compromise for the COMBOT was that a quorum was 8 members of the COMBOT, and that a majority of that (six) would be required to pass any vote. He felt that this was a legitimate compromise. Marie then stated that she will help drive any COMBOT member to any meeting in order to help facilitate this agreement.

There was then talk about a fundraiser involving the throwing of tomatoes at both IMB and 2003 Board members. This was done in humor.

At this time (5:15) the forum began leaving the area as a Frisbee Golf Tournament was playing through, and there was to be some press agencies present at 5:30 to video footage for local news. Many hugs were given.

All original proxy forms were returned to Layni for filing purposes. Copies of all proxies, proxy certifications and sign-in sheets, as well as these minutes, will be made available to Dana Abernathy, Co-Director of Records. As this was not a business meeting, these will be held just for recording purposes.

Minutes taken by Elayne "Layni" Cook, May 18, 2003.