

Council Of Magickal Arts
Samhain Great Works Minutes
October 16, 2011
La Cabana

IN ATTENDANCE:

The following members of the Board of Directors were present.

Merideth, Executive Director (ED)
Mary Ellen, Assistant Director (AD)
Blaze, Director of Finance (DoF)
Pamela, Director of Records (DoR)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary, Corporate Officer
Membership of CMA

MINUTES RECORDER: Pamela Allen, DoR

REASON FOR MEETING:

- ✓ This meeting was held in order to provide updates reports for Gray
- ✓ Provide an update by the Bylaw Committee on the electronic voting process
- ✓ Provide an update by the Bylaw Committee regarding the rewriting of the Bylaws
- ✓ Ask membership to extend proposal allowing the Board of Directors to sign leases and accept donations over 5K
- ✓ Share election results for the board positions

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda was approved by the board and made available to the membership prior to the meeting.
(Attachment A)

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by Mary Ellen, Executive Director. She welcomed everyone to the Great Works meeting and asked past Director, Valna to provide the blessing for the group. Afterwards Mary Ellen did a check to make sure that everyone who was listening to the Great Works Meeting via internet broadcast, could hear. Ken gave the thumbs up there are several people who are listening and they will be able to ask questions.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Currently there are 114 active members. Quorum would be 12. In attendance at the Great Works Meeting there were 39 members and 13 proxies creating a total of 52 voting members. A quorum was declared and the meeting proceeded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM GREAT WORKS SAMHAIN

The minutes of the Beltaine Great Works Meeting held on April 17th, 2011 as posted on the website were unanimously approved.

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BOARD REPORTS:

Executive Director: Opened her report with an overview of the year. We have had a difficult year in some respects but we have had positives as well. We have the ability to direct our purpose – our family is our life. Ken mentioned that we have a person listening to us from Maryland. Mary Ellen stated that we are moving forward with the ability to broadcast our meetings to our elections, doing away with paper - we will discuss the electronic vote later.

Assistant Executive Director: Announced to the membership that she had cake balls and Troll tags for sale from Megan. I can also say that no one died. It's been a really awesome 5 years. Thank you all for electing a 25 year old to the board.

Mary Ellen stated, "You did a phenomenal job." Merideth thanked everyone again.

At this time we had a commercial break since we are broadcasting.

Director of Finance: reported that we don't have any money, 'what's new'. Blaze stated that she directed Gary to pay the mortgage as soon as we had the money. In order to do this we spent the Gray Water money. This was done because even though a lot of people said that they would put their money in for Samhain even though we were not having the festival, only a handful did as they said they would. Which directly affected our finances.

Currently we have \$1600 in the bank until we decide that we cut off the monthly expenses that we can.

Our monthly expenses are almost a \$1000 a month. We have:

Our insurance

Our taxes

Electricity = \$200 (this is all the electricity)

Home Depot = \$200

Computer = \$75

Website = \$20

Postage = \$16

Telephone = \$30

Café Press & Amazon = \$17

Quickbooks = \$35

We need, aside from the Gray Water, between \$10K and \$12K to operate this organization. We need \$5K to get us to Beltain. Fundraising will need to be a huge part. There are many of us who donate on a regular basis. I feel we shouldn't expect our volunteers to be the only ones who contribute. Currently we have the cookbook fundraiser; Gary has it set up so that it can be a global. Additionally Festivals count but we need to realize that is small revenue. We need to be mindful of that. And this does not address the Gray Water which will cost us less but it will still cost us.

Commercial for the broadcast

Director of Communications: Mary Ellen provided Lisl's, report because she is out of pocket. Lisl has been cleaning up the yahoo lists and is almost finished. If you are supposed to be on the lists and are not please let her know. If there are people who do not have info on their profiles they will be deleted. If you get deleted and should not be please contact Lisl. We should be on the new server come December. Gary added that this is according to what Lightening is telling him.

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Director of Records: As stated before we have 114 members. There has been work on the ByLaws which will be covered later in the meeting as well as a Fundraiser.

STAFF REPORTS:

Since we did not hold Samhain Festival this year there were limited reports.

Land Manager: Announced he would be going out to the land after the meeting if anyone had items that they wanted to pick up. The land is extremely dry so please be careful. Please make sure to park on the road, if a catalytic converter starts a fire it is a horrible thing. If you are going to the land give a donation to the Troll Bridge.

CMA 1: No report

Registrar: No report

Setup Crew: No report

Trolls: No report

Front Gate: No report

Fire Crew: No report

Safety Staff: No one died. Friday night of Beltain the safety staff had done a ritual for safety. This was for SpiritHaven as well as our community. There are still some beads that were blessed at that ritual if anyone would like to have one.

Recycling: No report

Tea Room: No report

Youth Services: No report

Entertainment: No report

Marketing: No report

Community Services: No Report

Photography Team: No Report

Venders: No report

Mary Ellen stated that our Beltain theme will be 'A Magickal Homecoming'

OLD BUSINESS:

- Bylaw Committee: we are happy to announce that we have completed the ByLaws they are up on the website for the membership to review. We are currently working on collecting the policies and putting them all in the same format. There was concern that items were not in the ByLaws that had been previously. Pamela assured the membership that the items were either in the ByLaws or the policies depending on where they needed to be placed for legality.

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- Voting Method: Last festival the membership tasked us to test the online voting site. As you recall we did a mock voting on the site to test it. This festival we did another test using the real list of candidates and ask our membership to participate in the test vote. I am pleased to announce that the test went well. We had 108 eligible voters and 44 who actually voted. A little less than half which was great for such a short time frame. It is a secure site and the flexibility is great. We can pay for each election or we can pay by the year. Currently due to the number of members that we have who currently vote it would only cost us \$90 a year with tech support. We will discuss this more with the membership.

- Gray Water: Blaze stated that our engineer discovered that we do not fall under the county but rather that we fall under the state. This is great information because the county wants us to abide by the black water laws whereas the state says that we need to follow the grey water laws so all we need to do is upgrade our water system.

Blaze stated that she had a meeting with the county judge and that previously they were not fully aware of us as an organization, but they are aware of us now and that they were concerned about our children and our communal showers. They had all the pages from our website. They stated that we did not have members in their county and I told them that we did and that we paid taxes into the county. The judge was very happy not to deal with us. We told them that we were having our event but we would not have showers. The safety person said that they were concerned about the fire and I stated that we were too. She gave us her personal phone number. After the meeting the grey water person took me into his office where he reiterated that they were concerned about the children and I responded so were we. Our grey water will be permitted through the state. Once that is done we will present it to the county.

A member asked what they want us to do. Blaze responded that we are not able to answer that completely. One thing that we know is that we will need to treat the water with chlorine. Gary mentioned that we will also need a redundant system and to test the water monthly. Currently we have a letter from the TECQ and we fall under their 24/60 rule. What we are going to do is ask TECQ to update the 10 year old letter. This is the easiest way to go.

A member asked does a new issue mean a new well? Gary replied that it would depend on what the state says. Blaze mentioned that we have to get the water fixed and it is worth the risk to get TCEQ to reissue the letter.

Gary mentioned that there is a third part of this which is called the FEMA Flood Plain. For every structure we have to permit and make sure they all meet the requirements. Fees can be \$10 to \$100 depending. This is not something new. They do not look at code but the BFE which is the amount above the flood level. This is not a huge thing but something that we do need to do. This will protect us based on the FEMA laws.

There was a question from the web from a listener of the broadcast: Who do we talk to if we want to build on our leased land? You would need to talk to the land manager who will contact Gary and then if we can we will let you move forward.

- Emergency Management Team: We have worked hard so that we can get everyone off the site safely in case of an emergency. Gary is the Emergency Coordinator since he is a constant where as other people from the staff and board rotate out. There is still more that we need to do but the Emergency Management Team will answer to Gary.

NEW BUSINESS:

The votes were still being tallied so the next new business covered was fundraising instead of Election results and Blanket permission.

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⇒ Fund Raisers:

- As mentioned before we will be in need of several fundraisers in the upcoming months. If you want to have a fund raiser please let us know. Austin Area did a mini fundraiser at their PNO. Blaze stated that if anyone needs assistance or has concerns with handling the money to give her a call and she would be happy to help. Mary Ellen announced that no one needs permission to have fundraisers for CMA just that we want to know so that we can offer our support. PNO's are a great place to have fundraisers.
 - Judy mentioned that South East Texas area did a fundraiser and raised \$1K
 - The Cookbook will be on Amazon.com soon and we are looking at other ways to increase our funds. A member asked if we can sell it other places. This is a slow process so we are starting out small. Another member mentioned that she is familiar with nook and also thinks that we could do an alternate cookbook for Gluten Free. Another member announced that she is also comfortable converting to Kindle.
 - Entertainment Books - Pamela then introduced her fundraiser the Entertainment Books. These are a great source of revenue for us if everyone will get behind this we can easily raise \$7K. If all our membership were to buy one book themselves and sell four others we can make this happen. The internet links have already been posted on our website and on Facebook.
 - San Antonio is also doing another fundraiser in November it is a Hafla 'Dance the Magick'

Mary Ellen stated that it is vitally important that we make our bills and raise the money for our grey water funds. Right now we have a \$100 pledged. Pledges are where we will need to get some help. For those who have the ability to help us get through. If 10 people would give up \$100 a month we will make it through. We also have eight 18 wheelers full of siding material. This is made from fly ash it is fire retardant. This is available for our membership's use. We have multiple lengths available for love donations. Chopper added that we do have 3 other projects, med station, guardian station and shower house. These will only be done as funds allow.

A member asked if we wanted supplies donated or would we prefer gift cards. Either would be great, if gift cards we prefer Home Depot.

At this time there was a break out for area meetings. This was a 30 minute break.

Mary Ellen called the meeting back to order. A member had questions about the candidates and their qualifications. There was a concern regarding the ByLaw requirements and they wanted to be sure that they have the qualifications to hold the position. Mary Ellen assured the membership that everyone who was on the ballot was qualified to hold the office. Robert Webb has been a staff and a rep for San Antonio in the past.

A member wanted to have an introduction to the candidates. Mary Ellen explained that due to the circumstances it was not possible to do a 'Meet the Candidates'. She also stated that she would like to see people who are senior staff to step forward. She assured the membership that the bylaw requirements were adhered to for all candidates. It states in the ByLaws that to serve on the Board of Directors, a member could have service or experience commensurate with the position for which they are seeking election (i.e. CPA) that includes 'or' commutative experience.

A member mentioned that previously we had a larger group of members and that one of the reasons this was set in place was for the safety of our membership and the organization.

Blaze announced that we had two people declare for AED and for DoF and one for Doc.

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Mary Ellen stated that it was determined that one of the candidates for AED did not qualify but that the candidate for DoF did.

Blaze stated that in her opinion we should have eliminated both of them. At that time Philip, who has submitted his name for AED spoke up and stated that he did not follow through with an email of his own when he was asked to do so showing his qualifications.

Mary Ellen advised that both individuals were sent the same email asking for their qualifications.

There was concern that the ByLaw change would eliminate people needing to meet the qualifications to run for any board position. Gary informed the membership that instead of being part of the ByLaws that it needed to be included in the membership policies, and that it would also need to have the verbiage clarified so as not to be so confusing.

At this time Mary Ellen had each of the candidates introduce themselves to the membership. After they were done Pamela asked Mary to please announce the election results.

⇒ Election results:

- Mary Wolf stated that the election committee had consisted of Carol Green, Valna Asterman and herself. There were 60 ballots casts.
 - ★ Executive Director
 - Mary Ellen 54
 - Bran – write in - 2
 - Abstained 4
 - ★ Assistant Director
 - Carolyn Zoll 53
 - Jennifer (name was not complete) – Write in – 1
 - Benjamin – Write in – 1
 - Abstained 5
 - ★ Director of Finance
 - Robert Webb 43
 - Donna Johnson 7
 - Abstained 4
 - ★ Director of Records
 - Pamela Allen – 55
 - Abstained - 5
 - ★ Director of Communication
 - Ken Hall 51
 - Non CMA Member – Write in – 1
 - Karen Rogers – Write in – 1
 - Abstained - 7

The DoR announced that since there were only 60 ballots cast to win each candidate would need to have at least 31 votes. Each position had a confirmed winner. The new 2012 Board of Directors for CMA are.

Mary Ellen Rainwater ED
Carolyn Zoll AED
Robert Webb DoF
Pamela Allen DoR
Ken Hall DoC

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⇒ Running CMA as a Corporation:

- Pamela asked the membership on behalf of the new board to extend the Proposal approved last year through December 31st, 2012.
 - Proposal: We the membership issue blanket permission through December 31, 2012 to the elected Board of Directors to enter into lease, contracts and/or accept any donations on behalf of the corporation of CMA, provided there is unanimous approval by the elected board of directors of CMA. The board shall inform the membership in a timely manner of any such contracts or donations.

There was a motion to extend the proposal and it was seconded. There was a motion to amend the proposal to only last through June 1, 2012. Discussion followed. The resolution was amended.

- Amended Proposal: We the membership issue blanket permission through June 1, 2012 to the elected Board of Directors to enter into lease, contracts and/or accept any donations on behalf of the corporation of CMA, provided there is unanimous approval by the elected board of directors of CMA. The board shall inform the membership in a timely manner of any such contracts or donations.

A vote was called all agreed and none opposed. The resolution passed.

⇒ Area Reps:

Mary Ellen announced the area rep for the upcoming year.

- Coastal Bend – Jen Morien
- San Antonio – Joe Rose – Lead, Alan MoonDragon & Carol Green
- Houston, SE Texas – Goo – Lead, Bran, Judy, David & Jennifer
- Austin – Candyce - Lead, Janice ‘Caliope’
- Central Texas – Natalie Doll – Lead, Karen Strong ‘Nai’
- North Texas – Lisl Krieger, Pam Balzen ‘Luna’
- Outlands – no report

Congrats to all the new reps we will be looking for fundraisers from you. If you are not on the announce list please go to the CMA Website and sign up to be on that list.

⇒ Awards:

- Judy Craft – This certificate is just a small thank you for putting on the fundraiser and helping out CMA we appreciate your efforts.
- Merideth Chaffin – who has served as the AED, ED and AED over the past 5 years, she definitely knows how to put on a party
- Blaze Johnson – she has seen us through some of the most difficult times.
- Lisl Krieger – who has done a wonderful job as DoC and has also been a chief guardian will continue to be active in the community and in North Texas.
- Rachel Allen – has done so much with the Youth Services, she will be stepping down from her role in Youth Services and we want to thank her very much for all she has done. Candyce has volunteered to step up and take over Youth Services.

KEY DECISIONS:

These key decisions were made at today’s meeting:

- Articles of the Bylaws are posted on line for the memberships review.
- Membership agreed to allow the elected board to accept donations over 5K and enter into contracts.

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- Election for 2012 CMA Board of Directors

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

The following items need to be discussed at the next Great Works meeting on April 15th, 2012.

Based on today's meeting we hope to reach a decision concerning:

- Moving the ballot process to an electronic means.
- Have a working draft of Bylaws and Policies in hand to provide membership for review.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

It has been unanimously decided to take the following actions.

ITEM	CHAMPION	DUE DATE
Fundraisers	Area Reps & Members	Ongoing

A motion to close the meeting was passed unanimously. Meeting closed at 4:15pm October 16th, 2011.