

Dispatches

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Officers of Avalon Newsletter

photo copyright 2009
Kimberley Long-Ewing

Avalon Cares Call To Action

Brushfires continue to rage in Australia. nearly 200 people have died, over 1700 homes have been lost, and over 7,000 people are estimated to be homeless. The fires have destroyed entire towns. Officers of Avalon would like to assist the communities of Victoria by collecting donations for the Central Fire Authority. They use donations to help communities with emergency management. Firefighters there are working overtime to prevent additional losses of lives and property. Please donate to Avalon Cares today.

http://www.officersofavalon.com/avalon_cares.html



New Website

Check it out at www.officersofavalon.com. You'll see we've kept the basic color scheme. The biggest change is in streamlining the content and rearranging the pages. What we're lacking is pictures so we're asking all of you to submit your photos of you in action or in uniform. You may email them to us at webmaster@officersofavalon.com.

Save The Date!

The First Officers of Avalon Conference

We're converging on Chicago November 27th through 29th. The theme will be The Warrior Path. It will include a Warrior Blessing Ritual to celebrate those who serve and those who have died in the line of duty. We will also have workshops introducing the Clown Society which advocates non-confrontational methods for resolving conflict in our communities. The conference fee will include a meetup on Friday night, a banquet on Saturday night and brunch on Sunday morning. Plus there's holiday shopping to be done and the Magnificent Mile Holiday Lights Festival to enjoy. Watch for more details soon.

Membership Renewals

It's that time of year again - please plan to renew your OOA membership. You should be receiving a letter in the mail over the next couple of weeks with your dues statement.

We're also starting a membership drive by offering a New Member Bounty. We'll credit you \$5 per new member who lists you as a referrer towards your next year's dues. There's a limit of 5 bounties a year. This bounty will also apply to Friends of Avalon, so you can recruit your Pagan friends who are interested in being associated with us and our charitable work.

Member of the Month

We'd love to start a Member of The Month section of the website where we spotlight one of you and the good work you do. If you're interested, send us a photo and a short biographical statement.



Message from the Preceptor General

Fall of 2008 has been a time of transition for the Officers of Avalon. Kerr Cuhulain stepped down as Preceptor General and nominated a new slate of officers. We thank him for his years of service and look forward to his continued participation as one of the rank and file. I and the other officers are honored to have been nominated then voted in by the membership. We will do our best to support you and continue building Officers of Avalon (OOA) and Avalon Cares (AC).

My vision is to see us continue to grow as a premiere Pagan charitable organization. To that end, I have created a new level of membership called Friends of Avalon. This is an idea that has been bantered around OOA since the inception of AC. The reality is, our members are the First Responders – we are the ones who hit the ground as soon as a disaster occurs. We are often not able to do additional volunteer relief work on top this. Friends of Avalon can be our hands - raising money for disaster relief, taking in supplies to communities in need and then helping in the rebuilding efforts. We have people willing and able to help us help others. I have now given them a method for doing so.

One of the other projects I've heard bantered about during my time here at OOA is to have a conference of our very own. We know each other on the list but we seldom have the opportunity to gather, share stories, and celebrate our religion as an organization. I intend to create the first annual OOA conference in 2009.

The Board of Directors are working out the logistics now and hope to announce the details in the Spring Equinox newsletter.

Finally, I have expanded our membership definitions to include all first responders. The most significant change is to invite military and national guard active duty personnel and veterans to join us. In recent years, the missions for these organizations have often been to aid in disaster relief and to act as security personnel in places where law and order are not clearly established. Soldiers build schools and hospitals in war torn cities, they patrol the streets to protect against crime. They work as medics in hospitals that are overwhelmed with civilian casualties. I believe they will benefit from the same support we provide to one another as police officers, correctional officers, fire fighters, paramedics, emergency room personnel, national forest rangers, district attorneys, and other first responders. Please welcome them to our organization. We will all be stronger with the addition of these new brothers and sisters.

Other changes you will see in 2009 include revamping the website, a new discussion list just for Avalon Cares charitable work, and new brochures describing our activities and our organization. I believe it will be an exciting year.

Sincerely,

Kimberley "Windwalker" Long-Ewing
Preceptor General
Officers of Avalon

2008 Annual Treasurer's Report

<i>Income</i>	<i>Expense</i>	Postal box rental 94.00	Net Ordinary Income -4.39
AvalonCares Donations 443 .25	refund -13 .00	Printing Costs 231 .46	Net Income -4.39
Membership Dues 610 .00	AvalonCares Activities 320 .00	Webhosting Service 129 .35	Balance of all accounts as of Dec 31,
interest earned 11 .43	Incorporation Fees 249 .00	checks/deposit slips 39 .45	2008 : \$4,363.58
Total Income 1,064 .68	bank fees 18 .81	Total Expense 1,069.07	

MEET THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers of Avalon elected a new Board of Directors in October, 2008.

Kimberley “Windwalker” Long-Ewing
Preceptor General

Kimberley lives in Baraboo, Wisconsin with her husband, two children, two dogs, a ball python, and a fish. She loves roaming the nearby hills where she does much of her photography work. She is an ordained minister at Circle Sanctuary, a photographer and writer, and occasional professor of psychology.



Warren Urbik
Chancellor General

Following a brief career in law enforcement, I had a much longer career in the US Army, which included serving in the the Special Forces. More currently, I trained as an EMT and am now employed as a pharmacist. After detours into Catholicism, Judaism, and Islam, I am currently exploring my Pagan path.

Betsy Urbik
Secretary General, Inspector General

A lifelong volunteer, I have served on boards of directors for theatre companies, Scout troops, and community activist groups. A lapsed Lutheran, I believe I’ve been Pagan since I’ve been old enough to think for myself. With my husband as my partner, I currently own and operate our own business – selling jewelry and goddess sized clothing at Science Fiction Conventions and New Age Festivals. I am also an online antiquarian bookseller – this grew out of a genetic love of both books and acquisitiveness.



Keith “Rhino” Veeder
Treasurer General

A happy heathen since the early eighties, Rhino has been involved in all aspects of the Occult both light and dark since 1983.

(Editor’s Note : He’s apparently quite the Blues singer too, as demonstrated in this photo.)

