



Shiny Late Newts

Not A Newsletter for Shining Lakes Grove, A.D.F.



Belt-chain 2009

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New ADF Clergy Requirements Spark Controversy

Flight, Concrete, Counterfeiting On List

Earlier this year, the ADF Clergy Council created a committee of non-clergy members to determine exactly what the average ADF member would want from an ADF clergyperson. The Compulsive Clergy Credential Coordinating Committee (CCCCC) has submitted its findings to the Council, and caused a bit of a stir in the process. CCCCC Chair Colin Clingy (CCCCC CC) sat down with Newts editor Chris Oglethorpe to answer a few questions about the findings.

Newts: Tell us how your committee came up with this list?

CCCCC CC: We collected ideas on our e-mail list, then we selected nine of them at random, because nine is a Druid number. We did think about just using all 423 ideas that were submitted, but... Wait, four plus two plus three, that's nine, right? Darn, maybe we should have used all of them.

Newts: Well, many of our clergypersons and other members are confused by some of the new requirements. For instance, "Fly under their own power"? You mean actually fly by themselves, like Superman?

CCCCC CC: Yes, we think that this will save money on travel to festivals, and also make it easier for them to visit solitaries in remote areas.

Newts: Some of the Clergy members say they can't fly, no matter how much you want them to. Your response?

CCCCC CC: My response is, "Why Not Excellence?"

Newts: I see. Some Clergy Council members are also concerned that writing doctoral theses would take up a lot of the time that they currently spend performing clergy services for their Groves.

CCCCC CC: There's some truth to that, but our concern is that if our Clergy don't publish, they will perish, because we heard that that might happen, and we certainly don't want our trained Clergy dying on us.

Newts: I'm not sure that that saying applies, but moving on. The most controversial requirement you've submitted is the last one. Counterfeiting is illegal in every country on Earth, and ADF has so far maintained that its member should abide by local laws. Why encourage our priests to break this particular law?

CCCCC CC: That's a valid point, and we did have some discussion of that on the list. But ultimately we decided that our Clergy do need to have some form of income to support themselves and their families. While violating counterfeiting laws would be bad, it would be far worse if we actually paid them to be Clergy. We all know that having paid Clergy in any religious organization leads to abuse of power, always, no matter what. Our ADF priests and priestesses are good people, who have devoted themselves to the calling of their gods, and we don't want to corrupt them.

Newts: But making them counterfeiters wouldn't be a form of corruption?

CCCCC CC: Not as much as paying them would.

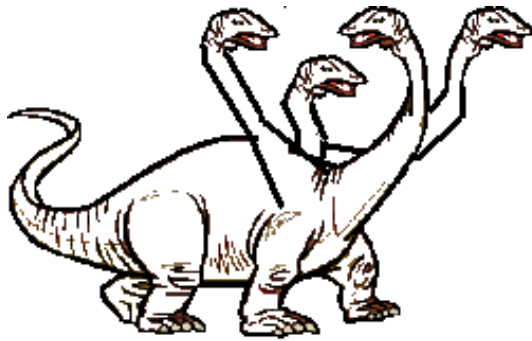
Newts: I see. Thank you for your time.

CCCCC CC: Thank you! And "Why Not Excellence?" [*Because it's too hard.* - Ed.]

If approved by the Mother Grove, as of Samhain 2009, all ADF Clergy will be required to do the following:

- * Perform ritual blindfolded and/or in the dark
- * Speak all known Indo-European languages (at least conversationally, if not fluently)
- * Write a doctoral thesis on any Pagan topic (at least one per year)
- * Leap tall bilés in a single bound
- * Mix concrete while filling out complicated insurance forms
- * Use telepathy to perform pastoral counseling without being asked
- * Fly under their own power
- * Maintain accounts on MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, Live Journal, Tagged, (*35 other social networking sites omitted for space - Ed.*), and update all of them daily.
- * Counterfeiting

SLG Señor Druid Ron Henson-Cox could not be reached for comment.



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Are you as frustrated as we are by the lack of networking groups in southeastern Michigan? Have you tried to search online for a local pan-Pagan unity group, but none of the ten or eleven groups you find seems just right for you? Then it's time for you to join:

**H.Y.D.R.A.
(Haven't Yet Developed Reciprocating Alliances)**

H.Y.D.R.A. is an exciting new group dedicated to organizing a network of all the Pagan networking groups in the area. Whenever one of these networking groups fails due to lack of interest or participation, we make sure that two more start up to take its place! If we work together, we can ensure an ever-growing supply of unity groups for ourselves and future generations of Pagans.

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Had it up to here with all of the different Pagan networking groups in the area? Consider joining us instead!

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(Helping Everyone Realize Autonomous Kinship, Letting Everyone Succeed)**

We are a new group dedicated to ending the divisiveness and arguments, and focusing on achievable goals that the area's pagan groups can actually do together. Joint charity work, one or two large events per year, and other realistic ideas. All welcome! To join our efforts, send e-mail to: optimist@herculeantasks.org

Editor's Note: H.E.R.A.K.L.E.S. has already folded due to lack of interest, but the ad was already paid for, so we're including it anyway. Those looking for a pan-Pagan group to work with should contact any of: H.Y.D.R.A. Detroit, H.Y.D.R.A. Lansing, H.Y.D.R.A. Troy, H.Y.D.R.A. Chelsea, or H.Y.D.R.A. Brownstone Township.



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No e-mail access? Get a damn computer! They ain't that expensive these days, y'know! Or just go to the library! What are you, a Luddite or something?

Shiny Late Newts (©2009) is published by Shining Lakes Grove, A.D.F., P.O. Box 3901, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106, (734) 262-1052. For information about *SLN*, contact the Chronicler at gstoyak@hotmail.com or (734) 262-1462. For information about Shining Lakes Grove, please contact the Senior Druid at (734) 262-1052 or by e-mail at robh@shininglakes.org, or visit www.shininglakes.org. And if you haven't figured out that this is a parody newsletter, maybe you need to take a long hard look at your reality-testing skills. Take a deep breath. Then another. Count backwards from twenty, in Greek if you can. It's all good. Really.

These articles written by Rob Henderson. Really.