

## **Elder Court Minutes**

### **Bridge Call: August 5, 2009**

#### **In attendance:**

Steve Cooper, Gene McMahon, Ken Plattner, Norman Pearl, Allan Podbelsek and Kent Schnurbusch.

Check In

#### **World Elder Gathering:**

- It's 8 weeks away!
- 76 men have already signed up. 90 men is the break even point. Methods to increase registrations were discussed. They included:
  - Reduced fee – this was rejected as it would be unfair to the early bird registrants.
  - Gene volunteered to send a book, “The Sages Tao Ching”, to registrants # 77-90.
  - Simon and Kent might work out a plan to broadcast the event.
  - Oh Boy! It's coming soon.
- The web site for payments for the women's retreat has filled up: action is required for additional payments. (Gene believes the registration for the women's retreat had filled up).
- In support of the attendees, e-mails are to be sent with:
  - Passport reminders
  - Weather conditions (e.g. a weather link)
  - Transportation information and contacts.
  - Suggestion to encourage others to join.
- Kent asked Steve : how can we be of support. Steve had enthusiasm for the current status and did not ask for additional support at this time.
- All issues for decision, including the Elder Journey Workshop proposal (see below) is to be sent to the Council in plenty of time for review by each community.

#### **Elder Journey Workshop:**

- There's a proposal to standardize this workshop within MKPI that was developed by Terry Jones.
- Project level questions are to be resolved:
  - What do we need to know/do to bring it to the project level?
  - What would the amount that would be sent to MKPI for an individual at a training.
- The proposal has the statement “Elder Reflection Series is *the* standard for...”. Terry prefers the use of “the”. Gene believes that “a” is more appropriate as there may be many workshops and they could be optional. When the proposal is discussed at Council at the WEG, it is thought that the issue would be brought up and a decision would be made there.

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- The copy right for the material is in Terry's name. Legally, he would need to sign over the appropriate usage rights to MKPI.

#### **Leader Retreat:**

- Gene attended the Leader Retreat. He was honored by being asked.
- He brought to the retreat a question about Ritual Elder feedback. Ideas included:
  - The Head Elder in each community would give annual feedback about the Ritual Elders that staffed to the Ritual Elder coordinators.
  - On the leader's feedback form, encourage feedback to the Elder Chair and provide the Elder Chair's e-mail. This will alleviate the requirement of having more paperwork at the end of the weekend and provide an avenue for feedback.
- This short topic was a catalyst for the leader body to review the trainings:
  - Processes are not always run by qualified staff men and the leader of the NWTa needs to ensure that men are ready to deliver their assigned processes with excellence.
  - Tighten up the weekends

#### **Recertification:**

- Jack Graff and Gene have discussed Ritual Elder accountability. Jack is taking the results of these conversations back to the Ritual Elder Court where the subcommittee will work further on the document) Allan proposes the phrase in red be added and the following in phrase in black be eliminated: Allan is working on recertification:
  - Recerification has raised issues with Ritual Elders that adamantly do not wish to go through the process.
  - Some method of RE Accountability is recognized as important to maintain a high level of Ritual Elder.

#### **Elder Chair View:**

- We've breathed in: For our first 25 years we've asked men to come to us.
- Now we breathe out: We spread our teachings teachings to others without an intention that they need to come into MKP to make a difference in their communities, families and the world. We have (the elders and MKP) have many gifts that could be shared with the world. It is time to do this.

#### **Other:**

- There is not Elder Council in the U.K. yet.
- Gene and Steve are planning a visit to South Africa.

Check Out

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In Service,  
Norman Pearl