

**Minutes for the
MKP Elder Court Zoom Call
Monday, July 6, 2015**

Men on the call: David Bauerly (Leader Body Rep.), Robert Berger, Rod Clay, Jim Fannon (MKP USA Elder Chair), Norman Pearl, Allan Podbelsek, Ron Roesler

Not on call and accounted for: Simon Hinkly, John Lindermuth. Robert Golden (WEG 2015 Chair) was invited but could not be on the call due to a work commitment.

Blessing: Ron Roesler

Check in by all present.

Website Development: Ron R. and Norman P. discussed progress on the new website they are working on with the MKP USA IT man. There will be a private (internal) site for the MKP USA Elder Court within the larger public website. On the private site content will relate to work of the Elder Court. The public part of the website will include information the Court wants elders to know about elders and what it wants others to know about elders. This may include what it means to be an elder, perspectives about elders in our culture and programs available for elders including regional gatherings throughout the MKP USA network.

Ron R. is writing several articles/information pieces and wants feedback from court members so we can build the broadest, most robust perspective possible. Ron will be sending some of what he writes to the Elder Contact list for additional feedback. **Finished products will be posted on the new website.**

Ritual Elder Coordinator Report: (See report at end of the minutes.)

During the call there was discussion about the growing practice of having 2 Ritual Elders on an NWTA. This practice is catching on in several regions. At this time there is no policy. By having a second Ritual Elder the designated one can be free to spend more time connecting and being a part of the Leader Team for the weekend. The second Ritual Elder can “oversee” some of the typical elder pieces and work with the Elder Team for the weekend. The big idea is to allow the designated weekend Ritual Elder to focus on the “being” while the second Ritual Elder would focus on the “doing.” While some centers have too few Ritual Elders to easily implement this plan, getting a Ritual Elder from a nearby community might be possible and would enrich the experiences of Ritual Elders. There is also a growing process of offering financial support to Ritual Elders by waiving Staffing Fees and providing travel stipends when Ritual Elders travel out of their communities. Rod will be working on getting information out to communities encouraging them to engage in this practice with some general guidelines for implementing this plan in a broader way.

Ritual Elder Workshop Progress: John L. submitted a report which Jim summarized. John reported that there are six elders volunteering to lead the Ritual Elder Workshop to be presented at the WEG 2015. Also, one man has agreed to take point on the workshop. There was some confusion about the times of the Ritual Elder Workshop on October 10 and 11. It appears that the workshop begins on Saturday, October 10, at 3 p.m. Allan P. has contacted Robert Golden for clarification. Robert advises that this should be worked out with the Program Chair, Jerry Deutsch.

WEG Attendance: No one on the Court call had the exact number attending. It is known that there are 150 or more folks signed up. The WEG team is working on finding out how many and who is cancelling. The Home Stay Program is having difficulty in finding enough volunteers to accommodate every home stay request.

Fundraising for Young Warriors to Attend WEG 2015: Scott L. reported that there are 8 Young Warrior Council members able to attend if they have the necessary financial support. So far, \$3000 has been raised with at least another \$5000 required. Scott L. also asked for help in clarifying how one might donate frequent flyer miles to Young Warriors. He will call John Levitt regarding how to transfer frequent flyer miles to a third party.

Leader Body Liaison Report: David B. reported that the Leader Body will meet in Wisconsin on July 17. David offered to take questions/concerns from elders. There was discussion about how elders could continue to be involved in the Certification and Re-certification panels at the Leader Body meeting. After discussion about what has been done in the past and where we are now, David agreed to check out with the Leader Body Chair to see if a plan has been made.

Budget and Fundraising: Jim F. reported that the Elder Council is short on funds. He is looking for fund raising opportunities. MKP USA Elder budget is in need of \$8000 to complete 2015. Since Jerry England resigned from the Court no one has stepped forward to work with Jim on the budget.

Discussion followed where Ron R. described how the NW raises funds for its budget. Jim will review budget he worked on with Jerry E.

Discussions on finances lead to a discussion on membership. Ron R. suggested that the concept of membership be redefined, broadened. David B. suggested the title of "Sustaining Members." He also pointed out that elders played an instrumental role in keeping MKP USA from going bankrupt during a difficult financial period. Elders stepped up to make significant financial contributions. Now that MKP USA is on solid financial ground it might they may be able to offer financial support to elders. Julian Devereaux is the MKP USA Chair Elect. It was suggested that Jim talk with Julian regarding financial matters for the elders especially looking at how the elders might obtain more funding for their own programs.

New Business: Jim F. brought up his desire to get a monthly newsletter. He mentioned that he would like someone to take point on this. Allan P. offered that it would be best to come from Jim. It was

agreed that Jim would make a list of topics he wants in the newsletter and Ron would work with him to attain a finished product. **(NOTE: There have been requests by some elders for information about what is being accomplished for elders in MKP USA.)**

USAGE for 2016: Rod C. asked if plans were in progress for a USAGE for 2016. Jim reported that the plan was for the Greater Carolinas Community (GCC) to host a USAGE. This plan has been put on the “back burner” as the GCC copes with regionalization and the forming of a new area.

Next Meeting: August 3, 2015; same times as before—6 p.m. EDT, 5 p.m. CDT, 4 p.m. MDT, 3 p.m. PDT. (11 p.m. UK time).

Check Out: Men on call checked out at 7:30 p.m. EDT. Norman P. had checked out earlier due to another commitment.

Ritual Elder Coordinator Report

JUNE 2015

Certified

2 Ritual Elders (MKPI)

3 NWT A RE staffings

YEAR TO DATE

Certified

5 Ritual Elders - 2 (USAMKP) 3 (MKPI)

13 Ritual Elders In Training – 9 (USAMKP) 4 (MKPI)

Re-Certification

14 Ritual Elders (USAMKP)

Total YTD

82 Ritual Elders – 66 (USAMKP) 16 (MKPI)

32 RET – 26 (USAMKP) 6 (MKPI)

41 RE NWT A staffings