

**Minutes for the
MKP Elder Court Zoom Call
Monday, November 2, 2015**

Men on the call: Bob Berger, Rod Clay, Jim Fannon (MKP USA Elder Chair), John Lindermuth, Norman Pearl, Allan Podbelsek, Ron Roesler

Not on call: David Bauerly, Scott Lederman, Simon Hinkly

Blessing

Check In by all on call.

Vibrancy Meeting with Lead Elders: Ron conducted a zoom call with the Lead Elders on Sunday, November 1. (The Court agreed to refer to the men who represent the elders for their centers, areas or communities as “Lead Elders.”) Topics discussed were: (1) The World Elder Gathering in Hawaii in October, (2) Opening for MKP USA Elder Council Vice Chair for 2016, (3) Location of the USAGE (USA Gathering of Elders) in 2016. There were no additional offerings to host the USAGE for 2016 other than the one offered by Upstate New York.

Ron reported that the men really like the scheduled phone calls. He will continue to facilitate these vibrancy meetings into 2016, after his term of Vice Chair ends, and continue doing so until another man steps forward to facilitate the calls. He will also continue to publish minutes giving an overview of the calls. He pointed out the need to gather elders together to support each other. He encouraged men on the Court to join the calls when possible.

Website Development: Ron has sent Norman a revised version of the proposed private website on MKPConnect. Norman is moving the minutes of the court to this website. Norman reported that the Public web site (Elders.MKP.org) is up to date. He mentioned that this file has the minutes but also includes a list of Lead Elders, elder gathering information and elder guidebooks. Jim Fannon wanted to know if these guidebooks are up to date. This was referred to John Lindermuth. John will work with Norman regarding all the documents related to Elder Development.

Young Warrior Connections with Elders: Bob Berger reported that he and Scott Lederman have talked since the World Elder Gathering where there were 7 Young Warriors in attendance. Four more Young Warriors became “elders in training” through a special ritual involving all WEG participants. The Young Warriors liked the idea of an “Elder Porch” on a Young Warrior Gateway weekend. This would require a well-organized Elder Team with a sufficient number of elders. Bob and Scott will be in continued conversations with the Young Warrior leadership following the Young Warrior gathering on November 12 and 13.

Ritual Elder Coordinator Report: Rod reported that in October there was one Ritual Elder in Training blessed, 11 Ritual Elders served on NWTAs and 3 Ritual Elders in Training were being mentored by Ritual Elders as they served in the Ritual Elder Capacity.

Rod reported on the Ritual Elder Council meeting held at the WEG 2015 in Hawaii. The Ritual Elder Council changed the term of the Ritual Elder Coordinator from one year to two years. The Council also passed a motion asking Rod to create a team to re-write the Ritual Elder Protocol. Rod has invited John Lindermuth, John de Strakosch and Allan Podbelsek to be on this team. He has also included Roger Dobitz on this team. Roger and Rod have gone through the protocol making suggested modifications for the writing team to consider. In this process they created a category for elders which they called "Commissioned Elder." They believe this would offer an early association for a mature elders with few staffings to focus on the Ritual Elder path as he acquires more experience. There were other suggestions that were voiced at the Ritual Elder Workshop preceding the World Elder Gathering. The writing team will consider all such suggestions and also seek further input from Ritual Elders as they work through the revisions. Rod invited Court members to submit their ideas to him.

Rod reported on two recent hot seats for Ritual Elder certification, one by a zoom call and one at the World Elder Gathering in Hawaii. In both cases the men received "not now" from their respective panels.

Elder Development: John Lindermuth is the coordinator for Elder Development. He is also one of the four elders who have created a Ritual Elder Workshop which was conducted preceding the WEG 2015 in Hawaii. Bob Berger, Rod Clay and Allan Podbelsek coordinated the workshop in Hawaii since none of the four elders could be there. There has already been a follow-up call with the four creators and the three presenters in Hawaii. The workshop was successful. John is going to send out a Monkey Survey evaluation form to those who attended the workshop.

Jim Fannon asked John (who was representing the four workshop creators) if they would like the MKP USA Curriculum Committee to approve this workshop as a MKP approved training. John Lindermuth spoke for the four creators indicating that they do not want it to go to the MKP USA Curriculum Committee. He pointed out that the advantages for such a move were outweighed by the disadvantages.

The creators of the workshop do not wish to make personal gain on this copyrighted workshop but do want to maintain control over its evolution as a Ritual Elder workshop. Charges to Ritual Elders taking the workshop will be kept minimal. At the USAGE 2014 in TX attendees were charged \$50 to cover expenses related to having the workshop. In Hawaii at WEG 2015 attendees were asked to make a donation to help defray the expenses for use of the facility and materials. At this point no set fee for taking the RE workshop has been set. He projects that the fee, when set, would likely fall in the \$75 to

\$125 range. Rather than have a budget for the RE workshop he prefers that costs be a part of the budget of the event with which the workshop is connected, e.g., the budget of the WEG 2015.

There are few costs associated with the workshop in its present format so the cost to attendees is mainly to cover the workshop site. Of course, additional costs to the attendees will involve food and lodging. The creators of the workshop are open to having the workshop be a part of other venues (such as how it has been done in conjunction with the USAGE in 2014 and the WEG in 2015).

John will communicate the availability of the RE workshop to elder groups sponsoring elder events.

John spoke about the multicultural requirement that Ritual Elders must satisfy as part of the protocol to become a Ritual Elder. He pointed out that any multicultural workshop approved by the MKP USA Curriculum Committee may be used to satisfy the requirement. John will disseminate a schedule of appropriate multicultural workshops from which elders may choose to satisfy the multicultural requirement.

From the Elder Chair: Jim Fannon has been working with Dan Baldwin (MKP Title??) and Julian Devereaux (incoming MKP USA Chair). Jim is hopeful that with the continued growth of revenues to MKP USA through membership there will be funds available to support Elder Constituency activities. Jim would like to see enough funds in the budget in 2016 to support his court in meeting face-to-face at least once. Jim believes that if MKP USA would get 6,000 or more members there would be sufficient money to provide adequate support for the Elder Constituency. He will be asking for \$20,000 for the Elder Constituency in the budget process.

Rod pointed out that the Ritual Elders were showing 48% membership. There was discussion related to requiring Ritual Elders to be members as part of their protocol. This will be discussed further and would need to be approved by the Ritual Elder Council. Rod will send an email to Ritual Elders strongly encouraging them to become members. Ron will do the same with the Lead Elders he connects with in his Vibrant Calls. Jim will also disseminate information encouraging elders to become members of MKP USA.

Jim pointed out that Upstate New York is ready to host the 2016 USAGE. Steve Aman is already doing some preliminary work in finding a location for the USAGE.

Next Meeting of Court: December 7, at 6 p.m. (EST), 5 p.m. (CST), 4 p.m. (MST), 3 p.m. (PST). Jim will send out the zoom conversation ID.

Those on the call checked out at 7:00 p.m. EST.

**Submitted by Allan Podbelsek
Court Secretary**

