

**Minutes for the
MKP Elder Court Zoom Call
Monday, January 4, 2016
6:00 p.m. EST**

Men on the call: Bob Berger, Rod Clay, Jim Fannon (MKP USA Elder Chair), Scott Lederman, Norman Pearl, Allan Podbelsek

Not on call: David Bauerly, John Lindermuth, Noel McNaughton

Blessing: Rod Clay

Check In by all on call.

Opening Comments by Jim Fannon:

1. Jim has invited Noel McNaughton, MKPI Elder Chair, to join MKP USA Court calls when he is available
2. Jim has had no luck in finding someone to take point on Elder Council finances
3. Jim has invited John Lindermuth to serve as Vice Chair of the MKP USA Elder Council
4. Ron Roesler is continuing to hold vibrancy phone calls with Lead Elders; see attached copy of Ron's report on his call on Sunday, January 4.

Young Warrior Connections with Elders: Scott Lederman reported that he and Bob Berger will schedule a phone call in the next two weeks with the Young Warriors. They will be sharing feedback from Ritual Elders who have staffed Young Warrior Gateway weekends. The Young Warriors will be sending Scott and Bob a resource packet regarding YW Gateway weekends. Jim inquired if the Elder Court would have a liaison from the Young Warriors. Scott indicated that he and Bob would work with Eric Thomas and Chris Geier on this issue.

Leader Body News: None reported.

Website Information: Norman Pearl has received information from Rick Broniec regarding multicultural trainings. Norman is seeking more detailed information about trainings--when/where/how register/suitability for Ritual Elders and Ritual Elders in Training. John Lindermuth and Rick Broniec indicated that it was okay to post information on the Ritual Elder public website. Rod volunteered to help Norman get the information he seeks. Scott pointed out that there is confusion about which trainings are sanctioned and there are trainings offered by a variety of organizations on multiculturalism. Norman will continue conversations with Dan Baldwin and talk with Boysen Hodgson about multicultural trainings. Norman will also work with Dan Baldwin to get something up on MKP Connect (the Elders private website). Norman has posted the date and location of the 2016 USAGE. He wants more details.

Jim Fannon indicated that the USAGE Planning Team will be meeting in two weeks. See his report under Elder Chair Comments.

Ritual Elder Coordinator Report: Rod Clay's report for the month of December and his annual report are included at the end of the minutes. He shared some of the information with the Court and indicated that he will send pertinent information from his report to the Ritual Elder email list.

Rod pointed out that as of January 1, 2016, it is a requirement for Ritual Elders in Training to have a multicultural training approved by MKP USA. By January 2017 all Ritual Elders are required to have an approved multicultural training. Rod suggested the possibility of a multicultural training either precede or follow the USAGE scheduled for September 29 – October 2, 2016. Jim Fannon will take this suggestion to the USAGE Planning Team. Jim will also check with the Curriculum Committee to see if anyone has sought approval for a multicultural training.

Rod is keeping data on which weekends have two Ritual Elders serving. This really lightens the load for the RE allowing him to better serve staff and initiates. Rod gives each man credit for serving as a Ritual Elder. Some centers don't have enough weekends so that each certified Ritual Elder can get in his required, once-a-year staffing. Rod also pointed out that some centers don't have two Ritual Elders available. He has no plans to require two Ritual Elders for a weekend; however, he will encourage them to have two when possible.

The Court discussed the possibility of requiring Ritual Elders and Ritual Elders in Training be members of MKP USA. To date, Rod has strongly encouraged RETs and REs to become members. He agreed to take the idea of requiring MKP USA membership of these two groups to his Ritual Elder Court for further discussion and a recommendation back to the Elder Court.

Elder Development: No new information presented.

From the Elder Chair: Jim Fannon gave an update on the progress of USAGE 2016. There will be two co-chairs, Steve Aman and Chris Arthur. The Planning Meeting will meet on January 14. Their goal is to fill all open positions and complete the Planning Team membership. Jim will send Allan the minutes from the January 14 meeting for inclusion in the Elder Court minutes. Allan will be in touch with Steve for more details if necessary.

Jim will present some new ideas for 2016 at the next Court Meeting.

Next Meeting of Court: February 1, 2016, 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 6:50 p.m., EST.

Submitted by Allan Podbelsek
Court Secretary

Ritual Elder Coordinator Report for December 2015

Activities in December

Certified

5 Ritual Elders (2 MKPUSA, 3 MKPI)

5 RE RE-CERT (2 MKPUSA, 3 MKPI)

0 RET

3 NWTUSA RE Staffings

1 RE RETIRED (1 USA, 1 MKPI)

1 RE SABBATICAL MKPI

Activities in 2015

Certified

12 Ritual Elders - 5 (USA) 7 (MKPI)

15 Ritual Elders In Training – 12(USA) 3 (MKPI) 3 (NOT NOW)

26 Ritual Elders Re-Certification: 23(USA-), 3(MKPI)

14 RE EMERITUS 12(USA)-2(MKPI)

1 RE SABBATICAL –MKPI

9 RE INACTIVE- 8(USA), 1(MKPI)

81 RE NWTUSA staffings 2015 USA

Year to date Totals

83 Ritual Elders – 66 (USAMKP) 17 (MKPI)

25 RET – 23 (USAMKP) 2 (MKPI)

14 RE EMERITUS -12 USA, 2 MKPI

RITUAL ELDER COORDINATOR
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

At the 2015 WEG the Ritual Elder Coordinator term of office was voted in as a two year term where it was a one year term. In 2016 I will begin my third year as REC. I have really enjoyed my first two years getting know many of you and look forward to serving another two years.

I started just as the RE re-certification was just coming into full effect and two new Addendums were added to the Ritual Elder Protocol. (Multicultural & Emertius)
Keeping of files and stats on every one has been a challenge for me and so I think that after two years I may have it somewhat accurate.

For 2015 we have 83 Ritual Elders (66-USA, 17-MKPI) VS 84 RE (70 USA, 14 MKPI) in 2014 and 25 Ritual Elder in Training (23-USA, 2-MKPI) VS 18 RET (16-USA,2-MKPI) in 2014. There are 14 RE EMERITUS -12 USA, 2 MKPI.

This year there were 81 RE Staffings for USA NWTAS. If the registered Ritual Elder puts in his report that he was assisted by another Ritual Elder I give credit for both as serving as RE. 26 Ritual Elders Re-Certification: 23(USA-), 3(MKPI)

I have been instructed to rewrite the Ritual Elder Protocol. A team is working on the basic rewrite and will ask others to review before making a final draft for approval by the Elder Council,

I am looking forward to the USAGE 2016 in New York and the WEG 2017 in Canada. I hope to see many of you there.

Submitted by Rod Clay
MKP USA Ritual Elder Coordinator

Notes from Lead Elder Phone Bridge on January 3, 2016

Facilitated by Ron Roesler:

The meeting started promptly at noon Pacific. After a quick check-in, Michael Sherlock blessed the meeting. Ron spoke to the general collective qualities of elders...experience, expertise, wisdom, time, and wealth. He then shared a rhetorical question to ponder as we each consider our many gifts. It is an extract from a poem by Antonio Machado:

"What have you done with the garden that was entrusted with you?"

It was noted that there is no known method to honor brothers who pass away during the year. (The Northwest does so with a memorial blanket with the names and talisman of each Northwest man who passes during the year.) Ron noted MKPUSA's work with the elder website and would recommend to the MKPUSA Elder Court and Norman Pearle that such a memorial be added to the website.

Communication is key to reducing the isolation and increasing vibrancy. Lead elders attend the vibrancy meeting to exchange ideas what is working and keep each man seeing the relationship.

Second Check-in...sharing with no specific time limit

From BC in Canada: The Vision and Mission statement for BC is being formulated. Michael Sherlock sees it to be a relationship piece. How are elders showing up at all the events? Michael will send a copy to Ron for distribution.

Ron will include the Northwest's Strategic Planning document in these notes. Any or all of it can be used to bolster another Area.

From Santa Barbara: Thomas Biesanz reported the involvement of the Woman Within. At their monthly meetings they ask, "What do we do and what do we bring.?" They had a FUNd raiser and award ceremony. Vetting men for the awards is very rewarding to elders. Elders making the calls for membership provide opportunity to listen to men as they talk. Being there to listen to me is key. Beach walk weekly - sit with the ocean. Younger are men coming to the elder meetings. Are having co-gender elder meeting; twenty five showed up. Like to do an elder retreat. There is a desire for elderhood. Hold annual elder meetings.

From Central Plains: Bob Berger noted that combining with Minnesota has caused those men to feel not included. Central Plains contains a huge geographic area. Growing pains have caused a lack of energy. Bob wants to use the elders to mentor younger men because there is a lot of burn out.

Ron R. Noted that these monthly Vibrancy calls are open to all men.

From New York State: Steve Schauer from the three state region in NY area states that elders are happy with their I-groups. Not a lot of involvement with elders. Healing ceremony important for those men there. Listening to these men to get their buy-in and hearing their passion. Eighty elder mailing list, but when he puts out an elder email he gets only one or two responses. Hoping to reintroduce the elder into the NWTA.

For future meetings, Ron will include Q&A after each man speaks during the second check-in.

The opportunity to grow from where every we are today provides the context of opportunities for tomorrow.

Check out.

Following these minutes are the Northwest Strategic Guiding Statements and an Elder Vision Poem shared by Michael Sherlock from BC.

Northwest Strategic Guiding Statements:

As the lead Elder team in the Northwest, the Elder Council is entrusted to set the example of compassionate and caring eldership, drawing strength from collective wisdom, serving to fortify the MKP community, the role of elders, and making meaningful contributions.

Our Vision as lead elders is:

To stand strong for, and contribute to MKPUSA's vision of "Changing the World, One Man at a Time"

Our Mission as lead elders is to create the space:

To provide collective experience and wisdom to build upon the many contributions and successful accomplishments of the men who preceded us, and constantly strive to strengthen this work in the world today and for all those who follow in in the future.

To create the space for us as the elder constituency of MKP to continually redefine, evolve and update our social and spiritual structures while purposefully and wholeheartedly contributing to MKP and its vision of "Changing the world".

To create the space to move into the future with an openness to discovering new ways for us to be, and to achieve new levels of being-ness that include, and yet transcend, our current paradigms and world views.

To create the space to help develop new ways to accelerate our constituency to its next stage of spiritual and emotional development and to become more and more "integral" in how we relate to each other and the world.

To create the space to fuel greater connectedness and vibrancy.

To create the space for a culture of awakening to higher states and stages of consciousness without preconceptions of what that may look like.

To create the space to honor and respect the wisdom, contributions and value of each man, recognizing our oneness and common interest in contributing to MKP's vision and rise above ego and judgements.

Key Objectives are, to:

1. Operate with the highest standards of accountability, ethics, teamwork, intention, and integrity.
2. Speak the truth, to stand for higher values and strong standards of behavior, and to draw the line against counterproductive behavior. (extracted from the MKPUSA Elder Manual)
3. Set the example of elder wisdom, high values, and structural integrity.
4. Reinforce the importance and sacredness of heart-centered eldership.
5. Identify and take actions that will contribute to, and strengthen the role of the elder.
6. Establish policies, procedures, and protocols to strengthen and guide all elder activities.
7. Encourage and support the role of elders in making contributions in local communities.
8. Exemplify and stand strong for MKP membership.
9. Identify, acknowledge, and honor the men who have, and are contributing above and beyond.

Michael Sherlock, Vancouver Island, BC

ELDER VISION POEM (NW WINTER ELDER RETREAT 2014)

We are the air
Of conscious beings
Around us
An emerging, shifting blanket
That strengthens spiritual muscles,
Energetically nurtures growth
And creates meaningful community
Through support, mentorship and ritual.

We are the natural grandfathers
A deeply maturing dimension
Who council men in their journey
On a trail of skill and process
To their shining gold
Where they are awake to their presence
And to their edgy growth.

We are the honouring remembrance
Teaching of our beautiful culture
A memorial to the talisman
Of sharing and of seeing others
A resource of words and teachings
A community of Elders
Who are here for you.