

**Minutes for the
MKP USA Elder Court Zoom Call
Monday, April 4, 2016
6:00 p.m. EDT**

Men on the call: David Bauerly, Bob Berger, Rod Clay, Jim Fannon, Norman Perl, John Lindermuth, Noel McNaughton, Allan Podbelsek,

Not on Call: Scott Lederman

Blessing: Bob Berger

Check In by all on the call

Jim Fannon Comments: Jim attended the annual meeting of Area Stewards and Center Directors where he represented the Elder Council and Upstate NY. He reported that he got great ideas from this meeting. The Leader Body and LKS chairs, the MKP USA I-group Coordinator, and the Membership Coordinator were all there. Also, the past, present and future MKP USA chairs attended. This group is now called a circle; it was formerly called the council

Young Warrior: Bob Berger reported that he and Scott have been working to get a zoom call for 2 or 3 months. They want to get a perspective from those elders who have staffed a YW NWT. Scott and Bob have decided to go forward with a zoom call with those elders. The Young Warriors are seeking to get new men on the YW Council presumably to lighten the load especially for Chris and Eric. Bob asked if a YW from Upstate NY is involved in the planning of the USAGE 2016. Jim will get this information to Bob.

Website Situation: Norman said the public website is coming along nicely. He reported; however, that he is not getting articles. He wants articles for both websites and wants to see the private website become more dynamic. John Lindermuth suggested that Norman send a request through MKP Connect for ideas for items/articles to place on the website including suggestions for improvement.

Norman will connect soon with Dan Baldwin who has been unavailable in recent weeks.

Jim wants Bruce Handleman to contact Norman and will follow up to make that happen. Norman will provide Bruce a link to the appropriate website.

There was additional discussion about what type of material is being sought. David Bauerly suggested that there be a "gatekeeper" to handle quality/appropriateness of items to be placed on the website. David suggested identifying someone who would create a blog on the website (and possibly on Facebook). It would help to have someone put something fresh on the site frequently (3 or 4 times per week). Jim asked Norman to find someone to work with him. Allan Podbelsek suggested advertising through the Elder Talk and Ritual Elder MKP Connect groups for a man to help Norman. John Lindermuth, as elder vgroups administrator, offered to help Norman post to any elder list for which he is not subscribed.

Ritual Elder Coordinator Report: Rod Clay reported one new Ritual Elder and two Ritual Elders in Training this month. There were 5 re-certifications. He didn't have the number of elders who staffed this month. The full report is included at the end of these minutes.

Jim mentioned that there was concern that MKP USA does not have enough Ritual Elders. Rod reported that in 2015 there were 69 Ritual Elders staffing weekends. He added that recently Kansas City requested a Ritual Elder and their request was filled quickly. As far as Rod can tell the Ritual Elders were all legitimate (certified REs). Jim asked Rod to create a list of Ritual Elders by centers/areas so he could see how many REs were in each center and where there might be a need for more Ritual Elders.

John Lindermuth reported that recently a center close to San Diego had an urgent need for a Ritual Elder. He helped them get one. It was agreed that leaders need to know who the Ritual Elder Coordinator (REC) is so he can help them when they may have difficulty in getting one for a particular weekend or when they need to find a replacement Ritual Elder if the RE has to drop off staff. David reported that the Leader Covenant has a list of numbers to call in emergency. It was agreed that contact information for the Ritual Elder Coordinator should be included with these numbers. Allan suggested that Rod send information to the RE list informing members of the list how to reach him. Jim said he would contact Francis Borchers about how leaders can get help from the Ritual Elder Coordinator.

Rod expressed concern that there are a lot of Ritual Elder items on the MKP Connect which are very old. Discussion followed on how to update this list. Jim mentioned that Keith Jarvis and John Bacon are men Rod can work with to update this list. He suggested that Rod start with Keith Jarvis.

Elder Development: John Lindermuth reported that Gary Parker, John Frost, John deStrakosch and he are working on the Ritual Elder workshop. Their intention is that each workshop not be identical to past ones. They want different perspectives with different presenters. They are working with Steve Aman on the workshop to be presented prior to the USAGE in September. David Bauerly agreed to assist in the part of the workshop related to the Leader and the Ritual Elder on the NWTA.

John L. also reported on the process to revise the Ritual Elder Protocol of 2012. The team is looking at structural changes with the intention of making it easier for elders to begin the process and become Ritual Elders in Training earlier in the process. The team is looking at creating a step in the process called the Ritual Elder Candidate. The team is also seeking input from Ritual Elders and Ritual Elders in Training on these structural changes.

John L. mentioned an elder retreat that San Diego is having on June 12 at Sunrise Ranch. They hope to make this a yearly event and eventually open it up to elders from other centers.

There was discussion about trainings for elders. Would it be feasible to have a training for elders perhaps similar to the LT1 and LT2 available for leadership. Terry Jones would like to train elders to lead his Elder Reflection Series. However, he would want \$2500 to teach such a training.

John L. wondered about a training for elders who had declared which would be oriented towards the NWTA which might serve as a way to interest more elders in becoming Ritual Elders. Such a training might fit well with the Ritual Elder Path the RE Protocol is considering in its revision process of the RE Protocol. David B. reminded the court that LT3 is open to elders.

MKPI Elder Chair: Noel McNaughton, MKPI Elder Chair, reported that he has been working on the WEG 2017. It will be held at the University of Calgary. He requested information on how he might get funds to pay a substantial deposit on this venue which will be required at the time a contract is signed.

Leader News: David Bauerly reported that the Leader Body is narrowing its scope of influence. It is focusing on certification of leaders and assisting men in leading weekends. There is not a lot of energy being spent right now on how the Leader Body might change its structure for the future or finance the leader chair.

Jim F. inquired about the process for elders being included in the re-certifications of leaders. David B. assured this is being done. Jim's concern is that he has no record of it. It appears that the leaders are inviting elders but the Elder Chair is not included in the information loop. Rod offered that the Leader Body Certification Chair work through the Ritual Elder Coordinator who could then provide the documentation Jim is wanting.

USAGE (Sept. 29 – Oct. 2) update from Jim Fannon: The preliminary bare bones website is complete. There is a link on it for registration. By May 10 elders can start registering. The registration fee will be \$350 which will include meals, lodging and the program. If an elder goes to the RE workshop he will pay an extra \$65. Registration cost for YWs is \$200. Women will be having their own program. Some part of the programs will include both men and women. Allan reported that he had talked with Chris Arthur. When a session is "co-ed" the intention is to have both a man and women lead the session. All sessions will be on the camp site. There is enough meeting space for women to be on the site. Women and men will be housed in separate areas. RE workshop begins September 28.

Additional Discussion: Jim mentioned that Tom Reilly was at the Area Stewards' meeting in California. Tom brought forth the topic of waiving staff fees for Ritual Elders. The majority of the group present thought staff fees should be waived. Levitt spoke to the increased costs. He wants to see the membership increase so there can be sufficient funding to waive staff fees for Ritual Elders. \$50 per staff man goes to MKP USA. It was estimated that waiving staff fees would cost MKP USA approximately \$8000. This assumed there would be 2 Ritual Elders at each weekend which of course is not the case. Levitt stated that postponing the increase until fall when membership increases could make the increase feasible.

David Bauerly expressed concern on how this issue is being handled. He pointed out that representatives of constituencies are not on the Board. Currently the Board is not providing financial assistance to the constituencies—LB, LKS, Elders. Jim spoke strongly at this meeting on behalf of waiving staff fees for Ritual Elders. He felt that 80% of the area stewards agreed with him. He mentioned that it will be 90 days before this topic can be discussed again.

Next Meeting: May 2, 6 p.m. EDT

Those on the call checked out at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by Allan Podbelsek

Elder Court Secretary.

MARCH 2016

Summary: 5 RE re-cert, one RE Emeritus and one RE Certification AND 2 RET

1 Ritual Elders (MKPUSA, MKPI)
5 RE RE-CERT (6 MKPUSA, 1 MKPI)
0 RE RETIRED or INACTIVE (USA 1, MKPI)
0 RE SABBATICAL (USA, MKPI)

Year to date

2 Ritual Elders In Training – (USA) (MKPI) (NOT NOW)
13 Ritual Elders Re-Certification: 7(USA-), 1(MKPI)

Total

82 Ritual Elders – 65 (USAMKP) 17 (MKPI)
16 RE EMERITUS -14 USA, 2 MKPI