

**Minutes for the
MKP ELDER COURT PHONE BRIDGE
Tuesday April 21, 2015**

Men on the call: David Bauerly, Robert Berger, Rod Clay, Julian Devereux (Guest--Chair Elect, MKP USA), Jerry England, Jim Fannon (MKP USA Elder Chair), Simon Hinkly (MKPI Elder Chair), Scott Lederman, John Lindermuth, Norman Pearl, Allan Podbelsek, Ron Roesler.

Blessing: John Lindermuth

Check In

Julian thanked the Court for a chance to sit in on the call and expressed his curiosity in being there.

Jim Fannon lead us through the agenda.

Ron Roesler moved and John Lindermuth seconded a motion to accept the minutes as written by Podbelsek.

John Lindermuth gave an update on the Ritual Elder Workshop planned for the World Elder Gathering in Hawaii (October 10-11). He is working with John DeStrackosh, Gary Parker and John Frost. He is not sure who will be attending the gathering. If none of those developing the workshop will be in Hawaii he will find others to take point on the presentation.

WEG Update: Robert Golden (WEG Chair) was not on the call. Currently there are over 100 men and women enrolled. Ron will send Robert's marketing materials to MKP USA marketing/publicity folks including Boysen Hodgson.

Future Meetings Using Zoom: It was determined that the next phone call will be Monday, May 11, at 6 p.m. EDT. Thereafter, phone calls will be on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. EDT. Ron will arrange for us to be using the Prime version of ZOOM.

Budget Discussion: Jerry England pointed out that in order for the Elder Council to operate in a robust manner in leading MKP USA Elders a budget of \$24,000 - \$34,000 is needed. This would include a Chair stipend, workshops, startup funds to help get MKP USA Elder Gatherings up and running (then such a gathering is self-funding), and possible face-to-face meetings of the Court.

Additional time was spent considering potential ways money can be raised to support the MKP USA Elder Council working on behalf of elders. Important here is establishing and publicizing that there is value in what we offer to elders. David Bauerly recalled that discussions about membership for MKP-USA included "getting" something for a membership. He also recalled that it took 10 years before there

was belief that it could be done in a good way. David mentioned that in 2009 or 2010 we (the Project) came to the conclusion it was about “giving” something, NOT “getting” something; it is a chance to support that which we value. Men want to be part of something bigger than themselves when given the opportunity.

David concluded that it is a big trap to think we need to “sell” supporting elders with a specific membership; rather it is about investing in what we believe in.

One suggestion was to ask for donations or set a fee with a drawing for a free registration to USA Gathering of Elders from the first 50 men who give.

USA Elder Chairs: Ron Roesler is communicating with elders across the USA. It’s an ongoing process. He will be sending out more inquiries in order to get the correct lead elder, elder chair, elder point man (titles vary across centers, regions, areas).

Concerns: Ron also expressed frustration in his role and the need for more communication with Jim. Allan raised concerns about infrequency of Court meetings (by Zoom) and the fact that Jim has not been able to attend USA Council Zoom meetings. Simon Hinkly commented that the lack of communication from Jim was disquieting and caused him to wonder if he still interested in the job. Jim responded that he does have "fire in his belly."

Julian said he wants to reach out to the Elder body, to support elders and to seek their participation on the Curriculum Development meetings. He wants an elder presence on the USA Council. David Bauerly encouraged Jim to delegate some responsibilities to others on the Court, particularly his vice chair. Jim will get a new MKP.org email address so he can separate personal and other aol emails from his MKP USA Council and this Court’s emails. Jim agreed to ask Ron to be on the USA Council calls if he cannot. He indicated that he is well-prepared to serve as Elder Chair. Jim thanked everyone for their input and truth. The Court voiced their support of Jim.

Ritual Elder Report: Rod Clay, Ritual Elder Coordinator, reports the following:

Ritual Elder Coordinator report
January thru March 2015

2 Were blessed as Ritual Elders (1 MKP USA – 1 MKPI)
13 Were blessed as Ritual Elders in Training (10 MKP USA – 3 MKPI)
12 Ritual Elders were Re-Certified (ALL MKP USA)
21 Ritual Elders served on a NWTa in USA.
1 Emeritus USA
2 Ritual Elders inactive (1 USA – 1 MKPI)

NWTA REPORTS
Participants that left NWTA early

January – 1 left (1 NC RE not notified)

February – 12 left (6 SCA no RE report)(1 HI no RE report)
(2 MNY RE gave a report) (3 SD no RE report)
March – 4 left (2 LA no RE report) (2 NE no RE report)

Norman, Rod and John checked out due to other commitments.

David Bauerly shared that presently Leader Body is reorganizing. The reorganization arises from the fact that the Leader Body has remained international and is now dealing with reconfiguring the structure. The Leader Body will meet in July. Scott Lederman wondered if there would be an elder presence at their meeting. David encouraged Jim to bring this up at the MKP USA council meeting—that is how to

Young Warrior Connection with Elders: Scott and Bob Berger are serving as coordinators for the plan to get things going with the relationship of the Elders and New Warriors. There is a lot of wisdom and creativity to be shared. There are several Young Warrior Gateway weekends planned for this year. Some were held last year. There were a few Young Warriors at the 2014 MKP USA Gathering of Elders at LOMG in October. Plans are being implemented to get all the Young Warrior constituency board members to attend the World Elder Gathering in Hawaii, in October 2015. Robert Golden is framing a letter to seek funds to help Young Warriors attend this meeting. Some elders have already committed funds. Roughly, \$3000 has been raised. Simon Hinkly, MKPI Elder Chair, will get with Scott offline to discuss further connections and possibilities to get Young Warriors to Hawaii.

The meeting time was nearly 2 hours. Ron suggested we look at shorter agendas. He asked that Jim set intentional time lengths of the meetings.

Simon reported that the Switzerland is a new member of MKPI. There are 10 elders there; however, there are no Ritual Elders. Simon checked out.

David Bauerly reported on the connection the Central Plains center has with the Pine Ridge Reservation. He sees a natural elder energy among their elders and invited elders to come staff weekends that involve men from the Pine Ridge Reservation. Perhaps other elders can “soak up” some of that in-bred elder wisdom that he sees as present in the Lakota elders.

Jim will deal with other items on the agenda through emails. Men remaining on the call checked out. The call lasted approximately 2 hours partly due in part to the Zoom time expirations which required men to sign off/on for additional time periods. This problem will be eliminated at the next call on May 11 at 6 p.m. EDT.

Submitted by Court Secretary
Allan Podbelsek
April 30, 2015

