

# **MKP USA ELDER COUNCIL MEETING**

## **October 14, 2015**

**Kalani Retreat Center**  
**Pahoa, HI**

Jim Fannon, MKP USA Elder Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. The meeting was delayed to allow the Ritual Elder Council meeting to take place first. Meeting was also delayed as the MKPI Elder Council meeting took an additional 45 minutes. This placed a severe meeting time constraint upon both the MKP USA Ritual Elder Council and the MKP USA Elder Council.

Court Members Present: Jim Fannon, David Bauerly, Rod Clay, Bob Berger, Ron Roesler, Norman Pearl, Simon Hinkly (MKPI Elder Chair), Allan Podbelsek

There was not a quorum of delegates from the MKP USA region to constitute a meeting of the Council. Rod Clay moved and David Bauerly seconded that those present move into a Committee of the Whole. The motion carried.

Once the minutes of the Working committee of the Whole are approved by a majority of the Elder Council they will become the official report for the MKP USA Elder Council. The minutes will be sent to the 28 delegates constituting the MKP USA Elder Council for their approval.

### **Report by members of court**

Jim Fannon introduced the members of his court and asked them to briefly report about their area of work.

Ron Roesler (Vice Chair) reported on his efforts to get all the USA Lead Elders (sometimes called Elder Chairs) on phone calls to share and discuss what action is going on in their communities. He has had some success and will have another call in November.

Rod Clay, Ritual Elder Coordinator, indicated that his report will be in the minutes of the RE Council's meeting held immediately before this meeting of the MKP USA Elder Council.

Norm Pearl described the web page that he and Ron Roesler are working on. The existing Elder Web Page is public. This page would be for MKP Elders. This would be a site where announcements about MKP Elder activities and programs can be made. Minutes for the Elder Court meetings will be posted there. This led to a brief discussion about transparency. Jim Fannon wants the Court to be transparent in its operations. Because of changes within the IT programs of MKP USA none of this year's Elder Court minutes have been posted. This will be resolved as soon as possible.

Bob Berger reported on the work he and Scott Lederman are doing with the Young Warrior Council. They have been in conversation by zoom and will continue to offer support on behalf of the MKP USA Elder Council.

### **Length of Term of Vice Chair**

Currently the term of office for the Vice Chair of the MKP USA Elder Council is for one year. Rod Clay moved that the Vice Chair's length of term be changed from one year to two years with

the newly elected Vice Chair beginning a two-year term January 1, 2016. Bob Berger seconded the motion.

**Discussion of Motion.** The intent is to set up the election of Vice Chair for two years on alternate years from the election of the Chair. Beginning January 1, 2016, the vice chair will start a two-year term. Beginning January 1, 2017, the Chair will start a new two-year term.

If after one year of his term the Vice Chair is elected as the Chair, the Elder Council will elect a replacement for the Vice Chair for one year so the sequence of electing Vice Chair and Chair on alternating years will continue. The members present believed this would establish a better continuity of service through the elected officials.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Stipend for Elder Chair.** Bryan Siegel made a motion to raise the Chair's stipend to \$400 per month from \$250 per month. The motion was seconded by Fred Saldutti.

Jim Fannon (the Chair) spoke how the current \$250 stipend each month as limiting him from carrying out his duties as chair—calls, zoom fees, travel including lodging.

Because of financial limitations and the fact that Jim's court member for finance resigned, a budget for 2015 was never submitted.

One man voiced disagreement with the motion. He sees this as give away.

Jim argued that not all men can afford to serve without some form of compensation and thus we miss talent.

Ed Barton moved and Allan Podbelsek seconded that the motion be referred to council (court) to be part of next year's budget with the understanding that it will be a function of the budget process.

Motion passed.

Jim announced that Ron Roesler is stepping down as Vice Chair so council needs to elect someone to replace Ron as of Jan. 1, 2016. Rod Clay nominated Bob Berger. Bob declined.

Ron Roesler will circulate the need for a new vice chair to lead elders in the USA. So election will be delayed until after the lead elders have made their input. Voting will take place by "monkey survey."

**USAGE 2016 Planning.** Jim Fannon asked Steve Aman to speak. Steve reported that the Upstate NY Community is offering to host the 2016 USA Gathering of Elders.

**Discussion:** The Council decided to send information to all communities asking for volunteers to host the 2016 USAGE. Information sent will indicate to them that the MKP USA Elder Council already has an offer from Upstate NY. Jim Fannon asked Ron if he would send out this information to all the communities. Ron responded in the affirmative. All offers are due by November 15. If no other community offers to host the 2016 USAGE Upstate NY will be chosen to do so. If one or more other communities make an offer then the Elder Court will make a decision.

Fred moved that information as described above be sent to all communities. Norm Pearl seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

When the community is selected to host the USAGE 2016 the Elder Court will discuss the financial plan particularly the issue of what seed money the hosting community might need up front to get things started such as money to secure the site.

There was not time in the meeting schedule for each community present to speak about what was happening in their community. Lead elders may participate through the zoom calls set up by Ron Roesler.

David Bauerly moved to close the meeting; seconded by Rod Clay. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned shortly after 4 p.m.

Submitted by  
Allan Podbelsek  
MKP Elder Court Secretary