

MKP Southeast Area Council Meeting

January 13, 2019

Meeting opened 7:36

In Attendance: Ed Carter, Lucas Falor, Alan Davis, Joe Bryan, Jonathan Staton Michael Moore, Mark Kovacevich, Ralph Hilliard, John Musser, Allen Doyle, Paul Brown, Roy Hinshaw, Eric Devlin

Motion made to approve minutes for December by Michael Moore, Seconded by Ed Carter. Called for vote, passed as written.

Old Business

Minutes from November were left w/o approval at last council call with intent that a call for approval or edits would go out over e-mail to give men another opportunity to review. Alan moved to accept November minutes, Seconded by Michael Moore, called for vote, motion passed.

Lucas welcomed as new Area Finance, Council offered support as needed. He is well supported by Joe and is getting settled in the position.

Roy Hinshaw blessed and welcomed as IT Coordinator. Jonathan Staton to potentially co-coordinate with Roy to help with managing Social Media/FB, etc., Jonathan and Roy to have further discussion. Roy has been in touch with Scotty Krabler and has a good handle on what is needed moving forward.

Jermaine Johnson blessed as Multi-Cultural Coordinator, Paul will support as In-reach Coordinator as the roles overlap. Jermaine is building a diverse team as support in the community. He will also be looking at some training and getting a good feel of what has been done across the Project and what works vs doesn't work. He will utilize what he learns to help coalesce his vision for the position and Area.

Mark Kovacevich reported that the Sales Force project with MKPUSA is moving forward as an In-reach tool. The data from MKPUSA was culled to eliminate contacting men who have a "do not call" status. Mark will be looking to get with men to have access to the software and offer training as to how best to use the data for In-reach to the Area and men who have attended the NWTa but are not active. Can also be used to manage leads for new men coming into Open Circles.

Eric Devlin reported on the final cycle of the PIT as a three part training. Men reported that it was useful to them in not taking the entire weekend, less stress on staff to prepare. He feels that a geographically situated group would benefit from the 10-week format. There was more practice and less talk in the recent format. Allen and Michael Moore spoke of the importance and to ways of encouraging men who attend PIT to begin using the experience in their groups right away.

The material trailer was discussed, Mike Andrews has a potential home for the trailer. The man who owns the property would want some document as a means of indicating an in-kind donation for tax purposes. Context was given that Rusty has asked that a location other than his home be found to store the trailer. Ed has agreed that he will register the trailer for the tag. It was decided that more information was needed regarding insurance, access, location, towing options, etc. Motion made by Paul to allow the Steward/FC/Admin can continue gathering data in order to make a decision, seconded by Michael. Discussion includes a want for a long-term solution, donated space if possible in a place that the trailer would be safe and protected, explore renting space in a typical storage area for access centrally located. Called for vote, passed without opposition. Lucas will check in with MKPUSA regarding how the donation reporting could happen.

Merge discussion is effectively dead, conversations between Areas indicate that men from the Carolinas and Florida will not attend the proposed merge meeting. There is still some effort at the Area levels and TLC to attempt collaboration for trainings and schedules. There is discussion that the respective Councils could reach out to and seek ways to be in connection to collaborate.

Joe is to be sending out list of Trainings in our Area for the year. Roy will post these items once he feels ready to start posting to the website. He will update the website as well for any events happening in the next 90 days.

Roy spoke to social media, perhaps the possibility to have closed groups for each I-group and how to have privacy and the ways that men behave in closed discussion vs open. Do I-groups need those forums to have those pages as ways to communicate? Mark and Roy to speak and explore further.

Alan's vision for the Area spoken to as being focused on the Circle's and the Area activities being driven by Circle's and Communities vs from the Council. Athens has modeled that in a strong way as they have grown since Unification.

John Musser expanded and that there is a want and intention that the I-group reps and Community Coordinators meet regularly and he is to be the conduit for communication, providing information and sharing resources and what's available to I-groups. There is an ask that the I-group reps step up into the position as more than just a point of contact to be active on the IGC.

Ed spoke to council reports to be sent when time does not allow reporting during this meeting and want was expressed to have the minutes sent out sooner than later if possible.

Checkout and meeting adjourned 9:02PM

Accountability:

Joe Bryan to send out trainings schedule

Roy to update website for upcoming events

New Business

Materials trailer report

NWTA Report

I-group Zoom Call

Community and Council reports

Outreach February Report:

Actions: 1) Met with Tim Gianoni, Clinical director of Thriveworks and another therapist. This was follow-up to Tim attending AW, when he was very impressed. Interested in Kennesaw group. "You can do things in your groups I can't come close in private practice."

2) Met with 3 therapists with male client focus, & addiction backgrounds, w/ Kovacevich & Bucey. Warm reception. One referred a patient; another attended AW 3x and had extensive comments, enthusiasm and concerns, in an hour long call with Outreach and IGroup Coordinators (Doyle and Musser). Outreach reformulating in response to concerns.

3) Met with therapist to discuss an event this spring (on hold) relating Iron John, Maiden King, Fem/Masc rituals, and performance. Promoted performance, and linked to K2 play, below

4) Promoted and co-hosted discussion at K2 play. Enthused about further connections with art, performance, and modern masculinity.

5) 2 men referred from Metro area therapists; 1 attended AW and was fulfilled, will return. 1 pending 2/11

6) Creating "hosting" protocol for guests

7) Creating guest guidelines to avoid bad experiences and conscious of unscreened attendees with unpredictable facilitation.

Growing Pains: ISSUES with RECOMMENDATIONS

Awakened Warriors is successfully bringing new men almost every week, which is what will happen as we grow, and convert to the circles as a gateway to deep men's work. This brings up some issues with all these fresh faces. This is unlike the "old model" where men joined circles after their NWTA. With circles being the gateways to men's work, we need to adjust and consider what this means for persistent fulfillment of new and long-term brothers.

1. With guests coming to circles unscreened, and with unpredictable facilitator skills, we need to be mindful with men unfamiliar with MKP terminology, camaraderie, and most importantly, the emotional resilience that comes with the journey through NWTa. We have seen men turned off by participating in clearings or facilitation processes on their first visit, or visitors getting all the attention and others being overlooked for work.

Suggested Remedy: avoid having first time visitors participate in clearings or carpet work. Perhaps only after some number of visits -- 2 or 3?

- 2) I have heard that men turned off by the term “initiate” and the fraternity of men who have been through NWTa. Of course, this intimacy and shared camaraderie will always be there. How do we show enthusiasm, camaraderie and respect for the NWTa while being inclusive?

Strong Recommendation: we need to adopt the MKPUSA policy of using the term “graduate” immediately, and encourage all graduates to use that term. As well, we need to be inclusive and respectful of all men attending every event, and give new men attention. All of us have been initiated in many ways outside of MKP, and it can sound arrogant to not acknowledge that.

- 3) “Open Circle” sometimes sounds like the children’s event, not the most intense or grown-up way to participate. AW is having one 1-2 times per month, when attendance is greater than 15.

Suggested Remedy: Give it the respect and rigor and some strict guidelines so there isn’t waffling around it. Not sure what that would look like

- 4) Experienced MKP brothers may not be getting their work and connection:

Recommended Remedy: “traditional” or intensive circle. Also return to PIT manual annually for variety-- Mission Wheel, King’s Court, ...

- 5) “Healer” invitations to circles -- on hold for reassessment and realignment with long term relationship definition. (“Healers” include therapists, doctors, bodyworkers, clergy).