

# MKP Southeast Area Council Meeting

February 10, 2019

Meeting opened 7:27

In Attendance: Ed Carter, Lucas Falor, Alan Davis, Joe Bryan, Michael Moore, Mark Kovacevich, Ralph Hilliard, Allen Doyle, Paul Brown, Jermaine Johnson, John Musser, Ryan Gatlin, Eric Devlin

Motion made to approve minutes for January by Alan Davis, Seconded Mark K. Accepted unanimously

## Old Business (minutes):

Materials trailer insurance is being explored through MKPUSA policy. There is an offer to have it moved and stored at Robert Fleitz home. The alternate option for another facility that was offered requires that registration and insurance be current to be onsite. The title must be signed over before that can happen. No response from Rusty has been received yet to arrange for receipt of the title or the trailer.

Council understands that there is much to work around insuring through MKPUSA. Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Mark to move forward with obtaining insurance/titling/registration done by Ed Carter for the foreseeable future and the trailer to be stored at Robert's. Motion carried unanimously

Motion by Alan to reimburse Ed any expense incurred with procurement, registration and insuring the trailer, Paul seconded. Carried unanimously.

NWTA - 14 men registered. Jim Miller given "not now" for recertification. Alan and Robert to get together to find a second C-lead for the NWTA. All other roles are handled. Momentum is strong. Jermaine reports that he and Paul are coordinating with John Musser. He is doing a intro to mens work via Zoom/V-group and there are men interested in the NWTA that will be leads at the end of the 3 week program. Jermaine has a vision to have more men waiting and in the pipeline for the upcoming trainings.

There were some discrepancies of men registered that are being handled. Allen Doyle has created a spreadsheet to help track visitors to I-groups and open circles. Jermaine continues to work on tracking and contacting those men as they visit to follow up.

## **Accountability:**

Website updates carried over – Mark to check in with Roy

## **New Business (March agenda):**

NWTA Update  
Materials trailer repairs

## **Council Reports:**

### **Elder Council:**

The Elders continue to meet on 3rd Saturday of the month and energy is strong. Paul Brown stepped back from being the in-coming Elder Council Coordinator. Eric Devlin has stepped in to replace him. The survey results are complete regarding the Awards event and will be published to the Elder council soon. Our single largest problem to solve is finding the ideal place to have our Elder breakfast in the future.

### **In-Reach:**

Efforts have begun to have 15 min facetime calls with each circle in our area to discuss financial history of mkp and encourage financial giving. I have conducted this with Circle of Kings and will be calling contacts from other circles to see when this fits for them.

As mentorship in this role, I have had and will continue to have calls with Dan Baldwin to discuss best practices and learn more about how we work financially as a non-profit. As a byproduct of a call with Dan, he stated he would escalate a plan to create a video of how the finances of mkp work in hopes to help with the varied concerns men have around how mkp handles money.

## Multi-Cultural:

As of 2/1/2019, MKP Southeast formed the 1st Multicultural Council Consisting of 8 Initiated Men From Our Area. Here, Men will exchange ideas & co-create initiatives that bring awareness around Multicultural issues in our Area. These 8 Men are from different Cultures and backgrounds and will address the issues and ism's facing us today. We will educate ourselves and offer support to our Area & Communities around understanding Stereotypes, Hate, Power, Privilege, & Difference amongst a whole host of other topics. We intend to support the leader body in scheduling trainings both in and outside of MKP. We will visit I-groups and teach Multicultural processes to help create safer, more effective containers for men.

## TLC:

The TLC topics for the Steward Council Call was covered largely by other men on the call. The Spring NWTAs is on track with 14 men registered, although a replacement co-leader is going to need to be recruited. The Athens IGFT in March is full, and the TLC approved an August IGFT in Atlanta with specifics to be determined. The July LT-2 is on track.

## I-Group Council:

The I Group Council met for the first time Sun Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. Six of the 10 currently active circles were represented.

### Here are some of the highlights of our meeting together:

1. It was the first time our SE Area had gathered so many I Group coordinators together on a Zoom Call
2. **Alan Davis, SE Area Coordinator - provided some context** for our next strategic position as the SE Area is moving from a 'top-down' model of leadership to 'bottom-up' model. This means they need input from the I-Groups on what kinds of support we need so that we are leading what is happening (of course with Council budgetary and administrative approval). The SE Area Council needs and wants to hear from each group, and groups as a collective so that they can provide what is needed for the area's growth and well-being. Bottom line: YOUR ROLE IS EXPANDING in IMPORTANCE as we progress in this new model.
3. **Men made comments and asked questions:**
  - a. Do groups make requests directly to the Council or through John Musser the I Group Council Coordinator?

**i. Answer – they can do either – but please copy John or keep him in the loop for all activities and requests made to the council**

b. Grateful to see groups communicating and sharing ideas and things that are working to assist all groups

c. What kinds of resources besides training are available to the I-Groups?

**i. Answer – in addition to these scheduled trainings this year:**

1. I-Group Facilitation Training – Athens – March 29-31 – Contact Michael Moore – [rabbimoore@yahoo.com](mailto:rabbimoore@yahoo.com)
2. NWTa – Rutledge, GA – April 25-28 – Contact Jermaine Johnson [Cheshusband@icloud.com](mailto:Cheshusband@icloud.com) or Robert Six Owls [robert6owls@gmail.com](mailto:robert6owls@gmail.com)
3. Leader Training 2 – Not often offered locally – Free Thought Society, Atlanta, GA – July 29-31 – Joe Bryan [josephwbryan@gmail.com](mailto:josephwbryan@gmail.com)
4. International LKS Society Gathering – Summer – July?? – Ryan Gatlin [ryangatlin.mkp@gmail.com](mailto:ryangatlin.mkp@gmail.com)

ii. Answer – there are other trainings that MKP offers including

1. Issues and Isms – Multi-cultural awareness training
2. Shadow work
3. Other?

iii. Answer – there are men in our community who will be offering workshops, seminars

1. Ralph Hilliard – Conflict resolution strategies – May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 2, Atlanta – FreeThought Society – [myfriendralph@gmail.com](mailto:myfriendralph@gmail.com)
2. Robert Six Owls – Conscious Breathwork
3. How to publicize your meetings
4. Not discussed YET, but sharing of ideas for things like:
  1. How to govern your group
  2. Practices to ensure men’s safety
  3. Maintaining group lists and communications
  4. Balancing Open and Closed (Deep work) circles
  5. Time-limited Open Circles

**3. Each man from each group shared a bit about what is going on in their area**

3. Athens – open circles being conducted – growing – inviting men openly – expanding their reach in the community

i. Learnings – bring open circle men quicker into the larger Athens Circle to retain the men

1. First time they did open circle – those men met on another night for a long time and were a close-knit group and when they tried to merge the two – many of the men who were

newer dropped off and did not merge into the Monday group (for many reasons)

- ii. Have open circles be time-limited
  - iii. Operated open circle at local Unitarian Universalist church – very successful
  - iv. Still trying to balance needs for open circle (uninitiated) men and men who want to do deep work
  - v. 5 men signed up for next Nwta
- b. Macon – small – solid 4 members with others attending – some meetings social in nature – in talks with Columbus group to have combined area – seeking ways to continue to outreach and grow
- i. Impact – shared meetings occasionally in between
  - ii. Social time shared between groups
  - iii. Benefitted from seeing website pages from Awakened Warrior and Athens Circles
- c. Atlanta - Awakened Warriors
- i. Continuing to grow – averaging between 13 to 21 each Monday night – almost 70 on roster
  - ii. Split group each week when 14 or more into 2 groups with uninitiated men/open circle format and more traditional I-Group 4 round deep work format
  - iii. New men attending PIT and stepping into facilitation / king role
  - iv. Social event being organized for larger Atlanta community Monday Jan 28
  - v. Business meetings every quarter
  - vi. Posted Web page
  - vii. 3 men signed up for next Nwta
  - viii. Have hosted Conscious Breathwork event, Carpet Facilitation training, many men attended PIT training and co-facilitated PIT training, serving on Area Council
  - ix. Keep documents for group on Google docs to keep members informed
  - x. Dues paid on Web page – via paypal link
  - xi. Scholarships awarded for members to attend trainings - \$100.00 per man who makes request
  - xii. Challenges – how to govern as we get big, keeping track of men who drop off, developing new men into leadership,
- d. Elder – Wild Life
- i. New – finding their foundation – small but elders requested place to focus on elder issues and do work around this
  - ii. Meet once a month
  - iii. Elders are participating – men are encouraged to let Elders

- know this now exists in addition to their Elder breakfast meetings
- e. Atlanta – Circle of Kings – Jermaine Johnson
    - i. Growing – 9 members actively attending out of roster of 14 or more
    - ii. Meet Thus eve. At Rock Spring – same location as Awakened Warriors
    - iii. Open circle – inviting men – incorporate them and do work as deep as the container is ready to go – flexing with this each week as the need arises
    - iv. Promoting social time 1x per month – example – Jazz night at Fatt Matt’s BBQ across the street
  - f. Tucker – Paul Brown – I Really Love Life
    - i. Not able to attend – ill
    - ii. Just started in Tucker area with 4 men – open circle – welcoming new men
  - g. Birmingham – David Askenazi – unable to attend – will attend or send rep to next meeting
  - h. Kennesaw – WHAM – Drew Muse – unable to attend this week

There was a lot more we could have covered and shared.

**The consensus of the group was that it would be valuable for us to meet monthly for at least the first 3 months of 2019, and then we will re-evaluate the value and need for how frequently we will meet after our March zoom call.**

**Our Next call will be 7-8:30 PM Sunday February 17.**

## **Outreach:**

**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 addiction backgrounds w/ Kovacevich & Bucey; 1 referred a patient; another attended AW 3x and had extensive comments, enthusiasm and concerns, in an hour long call with Outreach and I-Group Coordinators (Doyle and Musser)

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 RECOMMENDATION**

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 coming. This is unlike the "old model" where men joined circles after their NWTA. With circles being the gateways to serious 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.

**Recommended 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?

Recommended Remedy: 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" outreach--on hold for reassessment and realignment with long term relationship definition

Documents in Development:

Questionnaire--  
Hosting Protocol  
Guest Guidelines for Circles  
FAQ for Healers  
Relationship-building with healers and MKP Area

Team Development: (An Open Circle team?)  
Outreach Doyle Mentoring Carter  
Enrollment Fleitz, Johnson  
I-Group Musser  
Tracking Kovacevich  
Inreach Brown  
Warriors: Bucey

## **LKS:**

We are moving forward with planning for LKSI, Joe Bryan was honored for taking on the role of MOS Lead for the event. All men are encouraged to come experience the LKSI Gathering

## **Finance:**

I am providing the finance report for our previous council meeting, 2/10/19.

I am happy to report an overall healthy picture for our finances so far this year.

I'll try to work on a better format for future updates, like tables, but for now I'll just provide the numbers as line-items.

Let me know if this doesn't meet your expectations.

Restricted and Unrestricted Funds  
**Scholarship Fund Balance:** \$2240  
**Scholarship Pledges:** (\$400)  
**MKPUSA Scholarships:** \$400  
**NWTA Scholarship Need:** -\$950  
**Projected Scholarship Balance:** \$1690 (\$2090)  
**General Fund Balance:** \$460  
**Total Funds:** \$2150 (\$2550)

January PIT  
**Men Participating:** 10  
**Leaders:** 3  
**Contributions:** \$725