

Bob Oser

Black Running Horse

Brothers,

Why I'm Standing

I would not be standing for this position were it not for three things. First, I continue to have the complete support of my wife of 25+ years, Deb, to do so. She has been very supportive throughout my MKP career and is well aware of the commitment of time that will be required to execute the duties of Vice Chair.

Second, I continue to have the passion, energy, and love of this work, as well as the good health that allows me to pursue this work. Some three years ago I told my Kentucky community that the work MKP does has become my life's work. Since I am no longer working in the business world, I have the luxury of and desire to devote 100% of my time to MKP endeavors. I have also seen the enormous benefits and rewards of this work - in me, in my community, and in all my relationships.

Third, we have a lot of unfinished business within MKP-USA and I would like to stay around another year and help complete that unfinished business. I talk about what I feel are unfinished areas in item number seven below.

1. My MKP Background

My MKP resume is as follows. I was initiated by the Kentucky community in October 2002 in Bedford, IN. Since then I have taken BSDT, LT-1, LT-2, IGLT, I&I, staffed 18 times and MOS'ed five times. During the last seven (7) years I have served on the Board of Directors for the KY Center and lead the Center as it's President and Center Director for the past five (5) years. In 2009, I served as one of the six Center Directors on the MKP-USA Council and was elected as the U.S. Rep on the International Operating Committee. In addition, that year I also served on the IOC Finance Committee. For the past two years I have served in the position of Vice Chair of MKP-USA as well as the U.S. Regional Representative on the MKP International Council.

2. My Business Background

Prior to retirement in 2002, I worked for 35 plus years in various management positions in an international consumer products company and held positions of increasing responsibility, gaining the experience and judgment of a seasoned professional. In the course of my corporate career, I had the opportunity to participate in the following areas, just to name a few:

- a.) Participated in the Strategic Planning process in a Company with 18 billion in sales, learning to become a strategic and visionary thinker.
- b.) Managed a departmental budget of over 10 Million dollars, acquiring financial acumen.

- c.) Responsible for a CEO driven values (respect, integrity, etc) training and development initiative encompassing top management located in 153 countries, acquiring a global perspective of an international organization.
- d.) Conducted Contract negotiations with some 20 different Unions for 13+ years, gaining broad interpersonal skills as it relates to influencing and negotiating as well as building and sustaining relationships.
- e.) Worked in Human Resources for 30+ years, learning to tackle problems head on, manage change, and initiate efforts across constituencies.
- f.) Gained a great deal of Multicultural perspective when I was responsible for EEO, Affirmative Action, and Diversity in a company that had 10,000 employees in the U.S.

In short, I have good leadership skills and management execution skills and a high degree of maturity, integrity, and self direction.

3. MKP-USA Vision and Challenges Ahead

Three of our greatest challenges in the MKP-USA Region are improving our "stagnant" financial income, our "stagnant" enrollment trends and our lack of an effective communication cycle with our new warrior brothers. Enhanced IT and Marketing initiatives have the potential to assist us in improving all three of these critical areas. Our lack of retention is also problematic and has to be fixed. We need to reach out to the men in this world and show them the gold we possess as an organization. This should result in men coming to us, rather than us asking them. From my perspective, MKP is a Healing, Social, Leadership Training, Elder Respecting, Values Driven organization and I envision that all of these areas can assist us in addressing our financial, enrollment, communication, retention, and outreach challenges.

We need to work collaboratively with each of the U.S. Centers and Constituencies and develop win/win strategies to tackle our challenges. That means lots of phone calls, even more E-Mail, and continual probing to find out what is working and what needs to be improved.

4. My Shadows: As the Vice Chair of MKP-USA I will, of course, bring along all of my shadow pieces as they are always with me. One of my shadows is "arrogance" - which comes from the 'been there, done that,' part of me. "I know it all," - which in part comes from walking this earth as long as I have and having had the opportunity to experience all I have. "Self-reliance," - which, on occasion, tells me that I can do it all myself and don't need any assistance. "Over confidence," - which comes from that overly optimistic part of me. Lastly, I need to get out of my head and into my heart more often.

5. My Gold: And, thank goodness, I also bring all the above mentioned experience and skills - the "head" perspective as it were to this position. Besides the experience and skills mentioned in "a" through "f" in the above Business Background section, I feel I am detail oriented, follow through with projects, am open minded, have high moral standards, communicate and listen well, am politically astute, friendly, outgoing, poised, have drive, work hard, am perseverant, reliable and trust worthy. In addition, I will bring

along a lot of passion and energy - the "heart" perspective - which will serve me well as long as I listen to it.

6. Life Balance: Most areas of my life are in good balance, some need more attention. I'm comfortable where I am in my spiritual life, and with my relationships with my wife, children, extended family, and friends. I'm also comfortable with my donations to charity, leisure time, travel, and financial security. Although I'm in good health, I could do better in taking care of myself (better fitness, more exercise, eating better foods) and in managing my continued education and learning. I could also be more involved in community service activities.

7. Beliefs about what is working or not in MKP-USA and what we have to do: I love working with MKP-USA's many committed individuals. I have already hinted at a few of the things I think the MKP-USA Council needs to improve and they are as follows: 1. Financial stability fueled by three separate, distinct fundraisers at different times of the year and a Development Director working on additional revenue sources all of which will result in cash reserves and sufficient stable revenue. 2. Increased enrollment in the 6 to 9% range over the 2011 enrollment. 3. A virtuous Member Relations Communication Cycle that goes out frequently to all Centers and their local listserves aimed at improving our organizational focus, vision, mission, volunteerism, brotherhood, and connectedness to MKP-USA. 4. Improved open I-Groups which will attract additional enrollment and increase retention and which are the focal point of Centers. 5. Rework the process by which a man moves from a NWT weekend through PIT into I-Groups so as to increase retention. 6. Start developing trainings which serve men throughout their life cycle. 7. Continue to assist in establishing an even more professional infrastructure so we can continue to accelerate our organizational development and attainment of our goals.