

**Robert G. Powell**  
*Joyous Wolf with Raven*  
Washington DC (MKP-GW), Nov. 1992

I hereby place myself in nomination for the position of Vice Chair for the ManKind Project USA Region.

***Why now?***

MKP USA, as young an organization as it is, already stands at a moment of significant transition requiring a new vision of leadership. As we professionalize our staff and establish our Executive Director as the chief executive officer, it is necessary that the Board and, in particular, the Chair and Vice Chair be comfortable with stepping back to a position of guidance, support and oversight. By temperament and experience, I am ready, with the Chair, to hold the space for this transition and to give David Lang the space he needs to implement the vision we have been formulating the past two years.

Also, the consolidation and reorganization of the Region that the Council has approved in principle has been my particular area of interest in my two years as an at-large Executive Team member. As we move into the implementation phase of this restructuring, I believe that I can be highly effective as the Vice Chair in carrying this work forward.

I have long experience (described below) in bringing organizational and visionary skills to MKP operations. As MKP USA Vice Chair, I will be able to serve the Region and its Members and fulfill my personal mission of holding sacred space for change through acceptance and compassion for myself and others. Having done this in the cauldron of the NWTAs, my home Center, and in many positions in the New Warrior Network and ManKind Project, I believe that my 19 years of service have prepared me for this next step and that the time is now.

***MKP and Business / Life Resume***

Initiated in November 1992 in the Washington DC Center, I served as Manager of Training (94-96) and Center Director (96-99). I was elected Center Council Chair in February 1997 and reelected in February 1998. I served as Project Council Secretary from 2001 until 2003. I was also a founding member of the Global Resource Team, subsequently serving as Mentor for the German-speaking community and worked on the Multicultural Resource Team, serving as the first Multicultural Committee chair. I was certified as a Co-Leader in 1997 and Full Leader in 2003. In all, I have staffed 60 NWTAs.

Trained in philosophy (Ph.D., 1974), I worked for 37 years in information technology, primarily as a project manager for a number of government consulting firms in the Washington DC area, including Planning Research Corporation (PRC), DynCorp, Northrup Grumman, and SRA International. Throughout my career as a manager, I focused on developing my staff and mentoring them into positions of increased responsibility and opportunity. I retired in September 2011 and now have the luxury of more time to devote to my passion for the continued growth and development of MKP USA.

In October 2009, I was widowed after 35 years of marriage. Annette, a Woman Within graduate, was always fully supportive of my MKP work and, in honor of the transformation effected in me through my relationship with her, I have changed my animal name to honor her Raven totem along with my Wolf totem. Our marriage was unconventional, though hardly unique within our generation. As I came to full awareness of myself as a gay man, Annette and I held fast to the soul-based love we had for each other and recommitted to each other for life. With her passing, my life has taken yet another turn and I am opening to whatever new pathways lay ahead.

### ***The shadows in my life***

Men may have reservations about my standing for Vice Chair because I have a tendency to become primarily focused on the structure and rules of the institution and am not always as attentive to an appreciation for the emotional soul and culture of the work. I am aware of both the temperamental and experiential basis in me that can awake my tyrant King and manipulative Magician. When they are in charge, I can be arrogant and unheeding of interpersonal bonds, plowing ahead without respect to the needs and feelings of others, as well as the value and rightness of their insights and intuitions.

When stressed and overextended, I can become petty and begin to micromanage, more intent on proving others wrong or incompetent than creating space for discussion, compromise and creativity. I am aware when these shadows begin to loom over me and able to hear others when they call me on them. Using self-facilitation techniques I've developed over time, I am able to check the data around me and plug back into the reality of the moment.

### ***The gifts and gold in my life***

Men might support my standing for this position because they know my breadth and depth of experience in our work as well as in the operation and management of the Project. My skills as a project manager and my passion for delegating and mentoring speak to my professional qualifications for this position. I hope that men see the passion, commitment, and open-heartedness that I bring to this work after 19 years. I am the man I am today because others have supported and encouraged me to trust my heart and gut and then allowed me to offer my talents in service to others.

Now, with the time and resources I can bring to bear and with the good health with which I'm blessed, I want to serve MKP USA and its Members at what is, perhaps, the optimal moment in my life.

### ***MKP USA at the crossroads***

As much as we might have wished for a period of peace and tranquility in which to inaugurate the new MKP USA organization, we have been thrown into a maelstrom of financial, structural, and cultural forces that threaten our ability to survive. We have identified and begun to implement a series of significant reforms that hold the promise of a better, stronger body on the other side of the rapids. The vision of a strong Executive staff, the creation of a meaningful Membership program, the (re)branding underway in the new technology, and the agreement to make "men in circles" our focus – all these are necessary first steps to a new vision which I want to help shape as Vice Chair of MKP USA.

And, some areas are just emerging from the shadows to which we need to bring our light and power. With a strong Executive staff, what will be the role of the Board and of the Council? How does the role of the constituencies need to change to reflect the focus on men in circles? How do we attract, retain, and empower younger men into leadership across the generational divide?

If there is a single question that drives my desire to continue serving MKP USA, it is: What will we pass on to the next generations of men as our legacy and their inheritance? Answering this question in a way that serves men, and women, is both why I want your blessing to serve as Vice Chair.