

This is the text of the first MCA Seasoned Coaches Circle invitation from 13Oct200

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Estimated reading time is about 6 minutes.

Hello XXXXX,

My name is Matthew Rochte and I am the president-elect of the **Minnesota Coaches Association (MCA)**. The **MCA** is emerging as one of the preeminent coaching communities in the world and the current board is ready to take on that challenge and that torch. As such, we want to bridge the entire community of coaches, not just the newly minted coaches and/or the struggling coaches.

*I recognize that this is a long email but I think that it will be worth your read.*

I want to invite you to take part in a new program of the Minnesota Coaches Association the **MCA Seasoned Coaches Circle** starting this month. Please note: this is a selective invitation. It is only being sent to seasoned coaches in our community: MCCs, PCCs, and identified coaches active in the field of coaching for over 5 years. I will be convening the circle at my house for the first gathering.

This is not a tool, class or product, and there is nothing to buy this is a new project that the MCA is bringing forth and extending to the seasoned coaches in our community. You do not even have to be a member of the MCA, though it is highly encouraged.

Also this is NOT the conversation circle program that a member of the MCA is advertising in the October Catalyst. The **MCA Seasoned Coaches Circle** is an MCA supported project.

**The Question:**

*What happens when you unleash the souls of the top leaders of coaching?* Knowledge expansion and hyperbolic connectivity and new ways of thinking, that's what a marriage of science, art, and the soul.

The time has come in our coaching community to engage experienced/seasoned coaches in new ways that nourish and expand them along with the profession and our communities.

The **MCA Seasoned Coaches Circle** will engage us, the seasoned coach.

The idea is to: Engage the thought leaders. Inspire the community. Nourish the soul.

**Background:**

For many a seasoned coach, a monthly gathering of coaches can be an arduous thing. The emphasis\*\* on build your practice sell my system and requests for free advice can bring on the sensation of What do I get out of it? or I've already done my part, or even worse boredom. We do not see a part for us beyond traditional leadership roles.\*\*

We want something different.

We want stimulation, camaraderie and contribution. We want an open dialogue about what matters, what is going on in the industry and with ourselves. We want to unleash the power, wisdom, and experience of our fellow seasoned coaches.

*How can we, as seasoned coaches, all connect, share, and expand our understanding of community, our callings and ourselves?* We can engage in the **MCA Seasoned Coaches Circle**, a conversation circles of coaches.

**Conversation circles** are an old technology and an ancient form of communication. They have gone by many names: elder's council, leader circle, roundtable, campfire circle, and many more. Conversation circles naturally slow people down, allow people to focus, create equality, connect, and think together. They create a space where intimate and profound learning can take place that catapults us into new awareness and experience. This forum for conversation is unlike any other conversation people have. It is not a debate, it is not a coaching session, it is not networking session, it is not your fathers automobile type of conversation. The conversation circle is a way of communicating that fosters thinking-together and thought-expansion. The question is often more important than the answer. Our individuality and our ideas start to surface and be shared when we do not talk about facts or data. What is really important surfaces. We discover that we are not alone in our thinking. We create new and powerful ways of thinking and being from a place of integrity and soulfulness. We build community.

The conversation circle is a tool and opportunity to bring nourishment, joy, and awareness back into our game as coaches and share our collective wisdom with the community.

### **My Involvement:**

I have been hosting circles at my home since my move to the Twin Cities two years ago. The depth, intimacy and profound learning that have come from these circles have profoundly affected my life. I am so passionate about them that I even commissioned a movie for a website [www.conversationcircle.com](http://www.conversationcircle.com)

The Seasoned Coaches Circle idea was the impetus to my submission to this years ICF Conference Masters Track in Quebec - using the conversation circle as a tool for community. It was accepted and modified as I have joined forces with Karen Kimsey House, MCC of CTI and Shirzad Chamine, president of CTI. We will be hosting a macro conversation circle known as a conversation caf.

I share this with you to explain my urgency in coming together in our own community before next months conference. I would like to share with the conference attendees the experience of starting a program here in Minnesota.

### **The Intention:**

The intention is to create a community of seasoned coaches that will meet once a month in a circle of 7-15 peers of equals. Together we share, expand, play, and ask ourselves the questions that we are not asking and that our community isnt asking, all the while expanding our understanding of each other, the profession, and ourselves.

*What kinds of questions you ask?* Questions like: What are the questions we are not asking? What are we not asking of the community? What new ways can we ally with each other and/or other professionals? In service of what? Is coaching a viable profession of the future? Whats next? What are our needs?

*Possible topics:* Alliances / Partnerships; Trust; Love; Stagnation; Certification process; Continuing; Education; Legal Issues; Island Thought; Creating Together; Sustainability; Giving Back; Bigger Game; Evolution of leadership role What comes after past president?; ?

Select learnings can then be fed back into the greater Minnesota Coaches Association community either through the Catalyst, the website, or a forum at a later date. We may even start creating other circles within the MCA of mixed or tiered experience.

**The Request:**

Our hope is that this idea strikes a chord in you and you have an interest in participating. Again, you do not have to be an MCA member to participate, though it is encouraged. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by phone or email. **612-332-1642**  
matthew@workingintentionally.com

## We do need to know your availability and interest for the days listed below

**Location:** My house 5005 Oliver Ave S, Minneapolis (Near 50<sup>th</sup>&Penn just S of Lake Harriet)

**Time:** 2:00-5:00pm (1.5-2hrs for the conversation circle, 30minutes general socializing), after the first session we can determine if the program should be 2 or 2.5 hours.

**Dates:** Tuesday or Thursday afternoons look best for convening this group. Which of the following afternoons 2-5pm do you have available and would be willing to engage this conversation.

Tuesday October 19<sup>th</sup>

Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday October 26<sup>th</sup> (MCA meets this evening)

Thursday October 28<sup>th</sup>

(If none of these work for you and you are interested in being involved starting in November, please email me your availability for November Tuesdays and Thursdays)

**MCA Seasoned Coaches Circle or Coach Seasoning Circle:** *adding spice and kick to life, profession, and community through conversation circles.*

Thank you for your time and I hope that you will consider joining us in circle. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call and/or visit my website for more information about conversation circles or see the movie. [www.conversationcircle.com](http://www.conversationcircle.com) and soon [www.seasonedcoachescircles.com](http://www.seasonedcoachescircles.com),

Regards,

Matthew Rochte  
MCA president-elect

\*\* The **Minnesota Coaches Association** is taking great strides and succeeding in shifting the programming away from programs solely designed for new coaches. The Dialogues of Learning with Julio Olalla, master coaching classes and this project are just some of many new advancements in the programming of the MCA. So, if you have not been to an MCA meeting in a while, you might be in for a treat!. <http://www.minnesotacoaches.org>

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**Matthew Egan Rochte - Professional Coach**  
*Providing a Space of Expansion for Intentional Leaders*

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