

KOT State Chapter Committee Meeting
Hill Country Bible Church and via Zoom
February 6, 2021

Attendees in- person were: Ray Sims, Chairman; Scott Baker, V-Chairman; Kyan Kirby, Secretary; Bob Crane, State Treasurer; Steve Newton, State Financial Secretary; Michelle Edwards, KO Sub-Chapter Co-Chair; Marcia Wiseman, Torch Sub-Chapter Chair; Larry “Buck” Rogers, KPMI Board of Directors; David Mosser, Spiritual Director; Chris “Gotcha” Wilson, Volunteer Outreach/ Recruitment Sub-Committee Chair; Roger Harbert, Audio/Visual Equipment; Wayne Radwanski, State Rep-Hughes Unit; Ed Keefer; and Pam Baker. (A Kairos Covid health form was signed by each person in physical attendance)

Attendees by Zoom were: Evelyn Lemly, KPMI CEO; Red Gilbert, John Osborne, and Julie Cole, International Council Reps, Texas; Robert Kimmel, KPMI Board of Directors; Cheryl Glasgow, Website Development Sub-Committee Chair; Susan Mannas, KO Sub-Chapter Co-Chair; Roger Harbert, Audio/Visual Equipment; and Lisa Harbert

45 Unit AC Reps participated either in person or via Zoom. Units not represented (18): Bridgeport, Clements, Dalhart, Ellis, Estes, Hilltop, Jordan, Lynaugh, McConnell, Montford, Polunsky, Robertson, Smith, Stiles, Telford, KO Houston, KO San Antonio & KO Wichita Falls.

Ray Sims called the meeting to order.

Pastor David Mosser had an opening prayer and devotional from 1 Corinthians 9:16. If we stay open to others, do not put up a wall, and be there for others, we will keep on the road for discipleship.

Kyan Kirby conducted a **Roll call** which was answered with “blessed.” Forty-five Units were represented either in person or on Zoom. A Motion was requested to approve the October 2020 minutes. Marcia Wiseman made the motion to accept and Bob Crane 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Evelyn Lemly, KPMI CEO, introduced the 2021 Kairos theme, “Find the Blessings”, based on Psalm 105:1. She challenged all of us to find and share blessings and to send them to her at KPMI so that she can share them with others. Kairos ministry is the act of serving, not just going into prisons. We need to pray, and check on one another. We need to serve Him. God is using Covid to wake up His people.

Evelyn encouraged everyone to review the MyKairos.org website because KPMI has developed “tons” of new training tools to assist us. She left us with a challenge to, while we cannot go into the prisons, to support Kairos Outside. How can we get creative and find Guests for the KO Weekends? Talk to your Chaplains about the program, how it can help the residents, and see how it can be promoted inside. Some tools to assist can be found on the website.

Evelyn closed by challenging us to find different ways to have fundraisers, to communicate, share prayer requests, and to not be isolated. She thanked everyone for their service.

Ray Sims reflected on the vast difference a year of Covid has impacted our KOT Meeting. Last January the room we are meeting in had about 250 people and was overflowing. Today we have maybe 20 with a large group joining via Zoom. Think about what it is doing to our ministry. Our ministry will change. TDCJ's Chaplaincy Dept has just advised that there will be NO Spring Kairos Weekends. The good news is that vaccinations of staff and Residents is beginning.

Ray commented on what is happening with our volunteers. What is Covid doing liminal to Kairos? How are we going to come out of it? What is KI going to do? What will our team and Community look like? It is important to regularly engage with the AC's and the communities. For example, once a month, do a Zoom or teleconference. It is free. **Go to conferencecall@mykairos.org** to reserve a conference call line or a Zoom video. You can also have teleconference calls. The following information must be in your request or it will not be accepted.

Type of call (conference call or Zoom video), Organizer's Name, E-mail Address, State, Advisory Council Full Name, Date for the call, Time and length of the call (include your time zone), and the nature of the call.

You can additionally provide hygiene bags or have a cookie distribution periodically. If we stay out of sight, we will be out of mind! Also remember that you will need 42 people on the inside for a full KI Weekend, so focus on nurturing your Team through this pandemic.

Ray noted that he had a great Zoom meeting with KO Thursday night. It was high energy and he expressed high praise for the KO organization.

Concerning Torch, Ray noted that Katy Torch is active. Additionally, he has been speaking with Robert Byrd and noted that Torch Amarillo has a lot going on. And we have the stirrings of a great opportunity to introduce Torch into the Giddings State School as our first Torch Unit in a State facility. We have great leadership in Dickson de la Haye there as well.

Two Must Haves:

We MUST have the 2021 officers and positions recorded in Kairos Messenger. This is our communication with KPML. It is necessary, so let's get that posted in Messenger before the month is over.

Secondly, we need your Affiliation Agreements turned in to our State Secretary, Kyan Kirby (kkkirbyko@centex.net). Many are past due.

On another note, AC training is available by Zoom. 7 AC's are currently scheduled. This is a very easy way to get trained from home. Try to get 3 AC's together for the same date. Select a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice of dates, email Ray the dates and the ACs names, and he will get it set up.

Term limits for Kairos officers have changed effective with the 2022 elections. Now, you can serve up to 3 3-year terms (9 years) in the same AC position instead of only 2. The Chairman is the exception. The Chairman can serve up to 5 years if they want to. It is up to that person if they want to serve more than 3 years and are elected to do so.

Steve Newton gave a financial report. The donations were way down, but the expenses were way down also. Total donations were down 30%, and total expenses were down 65%. The net income for KOT SCC increased 485%. Steve also praised the 5 data entry people for Quick Books. He also said that we have a spring audit of 15 units which will be selected at random. The audit scores have been dismal the last two years. We hope to do better. The KOT bank balance December 31, 2020 was \$94,834. 2019 bank balance was \$19,206. Steve also commented that KOT has money to spend.

Financial changes for 2021 are that the State Fees, based on year-end bank balance, will drop from 15% to 10% and Trailer maintenance Fees will not be assessed. And finally, Financial Secretary Training is now available online for review.

Bob Crane gave the treasurers report. We need to all be 100% up to date on our signature cards. Two-thirds are using Wells Fargo. This is easy for the signature cards. They can be done through other banks though. Please call or email Bob (kairostxtr@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Scott Baker went over the Activity report. He stated that 2020 had unique challenges. The 63 AC's hosted only 12 Weekends vs the usual 109. Seven were KI's and 5 were KO's. Nine were pre-covid and three were during covid. In 2020, all Weekend Leader and EI reports were posted. Congratulations!

The ACOP prescribes that AC's try to meet monthly, but no less 6 times per year. Be sure that all minutes are sent to Ray Sims and Scott Baker. Scott's challenge for us is that all AC's have at least 6 meetings per year.

Representation at the quarterly KOT meetings is **mandatory** for each AC. All quarterly meetings need at least one person representing their AC. If the State Rep is unavailable, an alternate AC member should be in attendance. With Zoom, Covid exposure is not a concern, so representation is easier than ever. The KOT meetings let us know where and how things are going in the state, provide updates from KPML, and give us the opportunity to stay connected and to ask questions.

All AC's that had Weekends were thanked and KO Abilene was congratulated for having two KO Weekends. No pressure in having weekends with Covid.

In 2019, Texas had 47 people attend the Annual Conference. He would encourage everyone to make plans to attend the next Annual Conference. The Annual Conference in 2020 was via Zoom. Scott encouraged all to consider having a representative attend the Annual Conference if it happens in Kentucky, or have many people attend if done again via Zoom.

Scott challenged everyone to submit their Affiliation Agreements in February.

A question from the Zoom call related to proper distribution of AC Meeting Minutes. Ray clarified that all Minutes go to Ray Sims and to Scott Baker. If the Minutes are for a KO Meeting, the distribution should additionally include Susan Mannas and Michelle Edwards. If the Minutes are for a Torch Meeting, Marcia Wiseman should be copied in addition to Ray and Scott.

Susan Mannas and Michelle Edwards discussed the KO KOT Sub-Committee meetings. They had a KO Chair meeting the end of February that was very creative and flexible. They also discussed the KO AC meetings could be Zoom, by phone or in person as long as the covid rules were applied. There are so many questions that our AC Chairs have because of Covid that the meeting to discuss details and “creative and flexible” options was very helpful so the meetings will continue. Six KO’s are planning spring Weekends. Three are being planned for fall and 2 are planning both spring and fall.

Debbie Van Pelt in her Kairos Inside report said that 2020 was the year of the unforgettable. Covid has taken many lives, so just imagine the fear that exists in the KI Units. She noted that there was one KI Unit where the volunteers wanted to send in cookies to all but were turned down due to Covid concerns. So, they got permission to bring in cookies for just the staff which was approved and the gesture made a very positive impression on the guards. We are all hopeful that some or all Units will open in the fall. She asks everyone to be vaccinated and noted that things will be different when we go back inside, but we are Kairos.

Marcia Wiseman, Torch State Chair, gave an update on the two Torches in the state. We were not able to conduct any Weekends in 2020 but they are both planning and praying. Robert Byrd is AC Chair for Amarillo Torch which will be running as a re-start Unit. They are planning to have a summer Weekend June 11-13. Tracy Moragas is the new AC Chair for Katy Torch and he and 3 others attended AKT. Katy Torch is working on an October Weekend. Dickson de la Haye is working on a New Start in Giddings with their TJJD. Amarillo sent in cookies and letters of encouragement. Katy sent cookies in to the guards and staff.

Driskoll Tubbs – International Council Rep - No Report

Joaquin Ytuarte - International Council Rep - No Report

Red Gilbert - International Council Rep - Have not yet had a first meeting this year but hopes that KI will get more involved with helping to get Guests identified for KO and get more involved with Torch.

Julie Cole – International Council Rep - No Report

John Osborne – International Council Rep on the Volunteer and Recruiting Committee – Reported that on January 21,2021, the ROCK Talk was about how to get volunteers from Donor and Ezra consolidated for Outreach purposes. The ROCK website is in kairostexas.org. Each of the ROCK series is located there with many, many other ideas that can be used for Recruiting and Outreach. John also stated that KPMI International Council had their meeting January 28, 2021. On the call were 8 members, 4 of which were new members being welcomed.

Chris Wilson - Recruiting/Outreach chair and ROCK Committee Co-Chair. Stated that ROCK is Zooming once a month and that all the information goes on the website. Evelyn talked about blessings, and we can do that by helping on KI, KO and Torch. For example, there is a new TDCJ release procedure where offenders can be released from their Unit directly without having to go to Huntsville to be released. So he will be teaming up with another ministry that provides street clothes and will help get them delivered to their Unit rather than Huntsville. So in short, there are many blessings we can share even if we cannot go inside at this time.

Robert Kimmel - KPMI Board – Reported that they are a prayerful group of 15 members. Evelyn and staff are making cuts to manage through the reduced donations being received. But Cornerstone Investments have done a very good job of managing the KPMI investments and Robert feels very comfortable. The position terms for Board members have been changed. Robert encourages everyone to be vaccinated as soon as possible so that we can continue the ministry with confidence. Please pray for the inmates.

“Buck” Rodgers - KPMI Board - Suggests that with all the changes in government, people and games we need to “Find the Blessings”. Count all the joys when going through trials. “Kairos, be ready”, for when all this is over and stay positive. We are a better witness for all when we stay positive and count our blessings. Look at the B i g picture. Also, we need Board members, so if you are led, put your name in the hat!

Ray clarified that Robert Kimmel and Buck Rodgers are the Board members from Texas. He also noted that in order to stay engaged, Evelyn has a meeting every month with all State Chairs. It has been so effective that Ray is proposing to have a similar meeting once a month with every AC Chair. These meetings will occur via Zoom the first Tuesday of every month starting in March and will last 1 hour.

Ray thanked everyone for their service.

Buck Rodgers closed the meeting stating that God gives strength to the weary. Isaiah 40:28-31. He closed in prayer giving thanks to God.

Submitted by: Dyan Kirby, State Secretary

*Reports filed: Financials –

- 1) Profit & Loss Statement (Jan thru Dec 31, 2020 compared to 2019)
- 2) Bank Account Balances for KOT and Units and Total Assets thru Dec 31, 2020
- 3) Balance Sheet and Balance Sheet Summary as of Dec 31, 2020
- 4) Kairos Messenger Election Status Report 2021