

Kairos of Texas State Chapter Meeting

May 1, 2021

Attendees in person

were: Ray Sims, Chair; Scott Baker, V-Chair; Kyan Kirby, Sec; Bob Crane, Treas; Steve Newton, Fin. Sec; Driscoll Tubbs, Joaquin Ytuarte, John Osborne, Julie Cole, International Reps; Debbie Van Pelt, KI Chapter Chair; Marcia Wiseman, Torch Chapter Chair; Buck Rogers, Robert Kimmel, KPMI Board of Dir.; Mark Oncken, Fundraising Sub Chair; Chris Wilson, Recruiting /Outreach POCK Committee Chair; Cheryl Glasgow, Web Dev. Committee Chair; Scott Van Pelt, Music Coord (CCLI); Tom Barnes, New Start Committee Chair. Others attending were: Robert Cole, Ted Zobeck, Pam Baker, Melvin Jackson, Guy Jenson, James Bell, Stefanie Pegg, David Higgins, Nancy Higgins, Tony Perez, Steve Whatley, Audrey Duke, Jonathan Goodale, Richard Montgomery, Jerry Dorman, John Windbigler, Cindy Taylor, Robert Burcus, Nina Burcus, Marjorie Whitner, Julie McIver, Tina Ramirez, Kathy Anderson, Paul Draper, Lucinda Rose, Sue Hamman, Ellen Best, Wayne R., Dawn Jonas, Christina Benavides, Amanda Ocha, Lawrence Harrison, Jennifer Baker, Chloe Pichotta, Harriet Brodie, Doug Brodie, Diane DuTeil, and Jill Berkel.

Attendees by Zoom were: David Mosser, Clergy Committee Chair; Red Gilbert, International Rep; CJ Salzman, Agape Committee Chair; Dwight Carlson, Bill Anderson, Guy Barba, JHIII, Hilltop, Michael G., Casey P., Ralph B., Briscoe Unit, KOET, Wayne Davis, Michele De Bellis, Susan Anderson, Tommy Lyles, Russell Halvors, Dickson de la Haye, Gail Small, and Richard Whitter.

Ray Sims welcomed everyone. He had 2 announcements: Jim Irwin, who was KOT Chair 7-8 years ago is in hospice. Ed Keefer, past KPMI Board Chair, and secured Hill Country Bible Church for our meetings, is in the hospital. Please pray for these men.

In David Mosser's devotion, he told us that we are the salt of the earth. We believers are the salt of the earth and we need to be pushing others forward. We need to be the light of the world and shine for God and give glory. David opened with a prayer.

Doug Brodie was our special guest. He is from Salado. Doug is a Family and Community Relations Specialist for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (douglas.brodie@TJJD.Texas.gov). He opened his message to us by stating, "God is good all the time." He talked about Apple Watches, the Texas model, and ministry opportunities. He thinks everyone needs an Apple Watch because he saved his life by vibrating constantly advising to see a cardiologist because of Afib (Atrial fibrillation). Why did he begin with talk about Apple Watches? It's easier to talk about an Apple Watch than a relationship with Jesus. It is always good to live as people of faith. He has been part of Cursillo for 13 years. Doug talked about TJJD and the Texas Model. The Texas Model is a comprehensive approach to managing and improving the juvenile justice system. The purpose of the model is to help youth increase their chances of success in life while making our communities safer. In developing and refining the Texas Model, the TJJD uses science and evidence to find ways to reach the youth in their care. The Texas model is trying to treat youth as human beings, and see them as individuals rather than criminals. He suggested we Google TBRI (Trust-Based Relational Intervention) to better understand the treatment for at-risk youth that Texas has adopted. We have all had trauma in our lives. The adult average is three traumatic events; whereas the youth in the care of TJJD average five to seven traumatic events. It is the same for incarcerated adults. We need to identify and treat kids in healthy, normal ways. We need to keep them out of the adult

system. Torch builds and mentors relationships. When the kids come into the system, they need mentors with healthy relations, Mentors to show how and why God does things for His glory. Seeing people's faithfulness through extreme situations, God uses people for different purposes. What happens after kids go home? Community relations people work with families to help deal with this. We need people of faith to deal with kids who have been incarcerated.

As COVID wanes, TJJJ is slowly opening up and letting volunteers in. The criteria to be a volunteer begins with a background check, and fingerprints. Volunteers must be vaccinated and must not have any criminal record. Tremendous opportunities are in TJJJ to work with these kids and their families. Some groups are reaching into the facilities praying, with food, cards, etc. and they will continue to grow. Look to the State Representatives and Senators for help. Throughout the State, there is no central office for TJJJ. We are just scattered. A source for Kairos Outside guests is in the families of some of these youth.

KOT Chair - Ray Sims announced that the TDCJ is beginning to crack open the door to volunteers. How things will be changing, who knows? One thing for sure is smaller groups now. What do we need to do to stay engaged and keep our communities together? Kairos Outside has full weekends happening in addition to SWAP groups, advisory council meetings and reunion events. Kairos Inside, with a two volunteer per event limitation in effect, now has prayer and share opportunities and the variance of hygiene donations and cookie distributions is still in effect. For all Kairos events, volunteers must continue to wear masks and social distancing until further notice. Debbie Van Pelt will contact the KI's about what the individual Kairos Inside communities are doing—cookies, letter writing, writing on prayer chains, etc. Concentrate on Continuing Ministry. As of the state meeting there can be 22 in a group including officers and volunteers. KO needs to continue with SWAP. We need to keep our communities engaged.

KOT will pay for 4 AC members to go to the Annual Conference July 13-17. Actually, the AC's need to be there July 15-17. The deadline is June 11 for Steve to have all paperwork in to KPMI. Steve will need your registration forms no later than June 5. The closer to June 1 the better.

AC's MUST HAVES—They are due January 1 of each year—Affiliation Agreements and Kairos Messenger. Kairos Messenger is the communication of the future. KPMI must have all your AC election results entered into Kairos Messenger. They must have this information to apply for grants, etc. We have 62 AC's in Texas including KI, KO, and Torch. Fifty four have sent in their Affiliation Agreements and only 48 have put their information in Kairos Messenger. KPMI will NOT issue EZRA to any unit that has not sent their information to Kairos Messenger.

KOT Financial Secretary - Steve Newton sent us a message from Jeff Coatney that we need to get inside the trailers and clean them out. If repairs need to be made to tables or anything else, get them done and ready to go. Be sure the tires, batteries, etc. are in good shape. Work hard to get things in order.

Bob and Steve trained January 16 and 23. There will be no more training this year. Go to MyKairos.org for some good videos. Even though there is no audit this year, check yourselves. Keep everything updated. We were dinged on lack of signatures. Sign everything, do not just type your name. Sign, sign, sign. We will be audited in 2022. The total contributions fell 61%, expenses fell 70%, and the net income fell 87%. KOT expenses are down but they expect things to turn around in the 3rd and 4th quarters as the

prisons open up. Total AC bank balance is down \$22,399. KOT March 31, 2021 bank balance is up \$61,799. The mileage forms are on the table. Do not type your name—Sign it.

Steve reminds us that KOT is not paying any late fees for the conference in Louisville. Be sure and check the box, “Bill to State” and put in TX. Please send in your AC all together if possible. If you are flying be sure and fill in the information so the hotel can pick you up at the airport.

KOT Treasurer - Bob Crane reports that 85% of the AC's are in compliance with five signatures on the bank account signature cards and 15% are not. The signatures needed are the AC chair, AC treasurer, State chair, State treasurer, and the CEO-KPMI. This is an important issue, and Bob has been in contact with every AC treasurer where the account is not in compliance.

Effective April 1, every receipt log needs 2 signatures for money collected during Kairos events. The two- signature requirement had previously been lifted due to the impacts of COVID on physical gatherings.

Because COVID has lessened and demand is returning strongly, the hotels are going to be more challenging in the future. The rooming list has to be turned in 3 weeks prior to the meeting. In 2022 the list will have to be turned in 4 weeks prior to the meeting. Double rooms are challenging. They will direct bill to KOT only names on the list. If you book your own room reservation, you will pay the difference. Reservations can be cancelled 48 hours in advance. If you cancel late, you will pay at least half. Be sure and check for emails from Julie, they might be in spam.

Kairos Outside Report—Susan Mannas expressed thanks to all the KI's for their generous Interministry blessings. She noted that expenses during Covid have increased the cost of supplies, cleaning products, etc. She additionally noted that some of the facilities cannot accommodate our requirements for social distancing, so some are having to use hotels. The result is that the cost for the Weekend is essentially doubled, so they are in urgent need of additional green agape support, and she requested that each AC prayerfully consider how they might help. She additionally noted that they have conducted 6 Weekends this year with KO Amarillo and KO Lubbock in progress. Kairosoutside.org is a new website just established for Guests to be able to directly sign up for a Weekend online.

Kairos Inside Chapter Chair - Debbie Van Pelt will be contacting the KI Chairs to find out if the KI ACs are in the prisons with prayer and share or not, how you are supporting one another and the community, are you meeting regularly, etc.

Marcia says that Torch is alive and well. Both Katy and Amarillo participated in AC training. They are busy, praying, staying in contact, having Zoom meetings. Amarillo has recently reorganized with 6 AC members required to conduct business. They, both, have tentatively scheduled October for their youth's next Weekend. Katy is in the process of their MOU being executed by Harris County. At this time neither unit is going in but they are both still making plans and moving forward. Thank you, Robert Byrd and Jeff Noorian for your leadership. Dickson de la Haye is leading an ad hoc committee to start a Giddings Torch at the TJJJ facility. Leadership is scheduled to attend AKT in November. Please pray for this unit administration who will be new and the ad hoc can meet with them and start planning for a Weekend in 2022.

Lunch was prepared and served by “Jails to Jobs.” It was awesome. Each person on the team had been in jail and were now earning wages, respect and self-worth. Steve Newton made the motion to have them every time and Mark Oncken 2nd the motion. Everyone was in agreement. They cleaned up the mess and took the trash out!

International Council Reports:

Joaquin Ytuarte, Communications Committee, reported that KPMI will assemble information to your local churches, radio stations, TV stations, etc. when you are having a Weekend. Just send the information, including the names of the radio stations, television, etc. to KPMI, they will contact them.

Julie Cole and Driscoll Tubbs who serve on the Kairos Outside sub-committee reported that Ruby Burris is the new Women’s Ministries Coordinator. She has served as an AKT Trainer for KO. We are learning how different and how much the same we are. Zoom has been added for KO Chair meetings everywhere.

John Osbourne with the Recruiting and Outreach Committee stressed the importance of promoting and funding the KO Weekends, particularly during this pandemic. He suggested we go to MyKairos.org and look at the ideas. He suggested that every month, we should submit two recruiting ideas to KPMI for the Newsletter.

We heard from two board members. Larry “Buck” Rodgers is excited about two Florida units having KI’s. Other states are ready to follow as soon as they are allowed into the prisons. He suggested that everyone go to the KPMI website and learn about the Annual Conference and read the board reports at mykairos.org. Cornerstone doing our finances

Robert Kimmel is proud to represent Texas. He advised they have Governance, HR, Finance, (with Cornerstone doing our finances), and Investment sub-committees. He said that the board is on the same page. CEO Evelyn Lemly works very hard, along with the other 10 other employees in Florida. We had no layoffs. We need to keep the volunteers engaged. How is your spiritual growth? It is amazing how everyone’s gifts work together for the better. They worked on videos during the pandemic. He also advised that KPMI believes that we are probably going to be required to be vaccinated for Covid to get back into the Units. Robert encouraged everyone to go to the Annual Conference in Kentucky to show motivation and to be motivated. Don’t ever cancel a Kairos weekend for lack of money.

Fundraising - Mark Oncken, Fundraising Committee Chair, said that we are interwoven through the data base in Kairos Messenger Donor.

Outreach/ Recruiting Committee Chair, Chris Wilson, reported they discussed actively engaging in getting back up and running with P&S, reunions, and recruiting.

New Starts -Tom Barnes, New Starts Committee Chair, commended the New Starts for their enthusiasm. Ellis is planning to have a Weekend in November. Crain in Gatesville is in need of leadership. They do have some positions filled. Torres has added the Ney Unit with the “Yard” Concept. Torres was able to do this because Torres shares a warden and chaplain. Torch Katy is targeting a Weekend in October. Giddings is still getting started. Tom has served New Start three years and is willing to spend a year training a new person. So, look around and pray about a new person.

Scott Baker had a good discussion with those interested in the Excellence Initiative. Many questions were answered. You can find out more about the EI on Kairos EI.com. It was a great meeting!

Ray Sims closed with a few more notes. We need people on the Crain AC. Crain is a large women's facility in Gatesville. The next KOT meeting will be August 7, 2021. We need a new AKT Coordinator. Mike and Bebe Stumbaugh have been doing this for twelve years, truly a mission of love. They are willing to train for a year.

Greg Jackson, from the Briscoe KI AC, has a quote on page 187 that he would like someone to run by KPMI. It has to do with a quote that may be wrongly attributed to St. Francis of Assisi – "Preach the gospel always; and use words if necessary". Ray directed Greg to drop him an email and Ray will send it to KPMI.

A motion was made by John Osborne and 2nd by Debbie Van Pelt to approve the February KOT minutes that were sent out. Motion carried.

Buck asked if there was a Chaplain present at the meeting that would close us in prayer. John Windbigler, former chaplain and now Spiritual Director for the Estes Unit AC closed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyan Kirby

KOT Secretary