

KOT State Chapter Committee Meeting

Hill Country Bible Church and Zoom

May 14, 2022

Attendees were: Ray Sims, Chair, Scott Baker, V-Chair; Steve Newton, Financial Sec.; Bob Crane, Treasurer; Kyan Kirby, Sec.; Jeff Coatney, Trailer Coord.; Julie Cole, John Osborne, Susan Mannas, and Roger Harbert, International Rep.; David Mosser, Clergy; Dickson de la Haye, Torch Chair; Marcia Wiseman, New Starts; Debbie Van Pelt, KI Subcommittee Chair; Cinda Rose, AKT Coord; Scott Van Pelt, Music Coord; Pam Baker, Kevin Adkins, Paula Aitkens, Robert Bunch, Angela Burnell, Davis Burris, Robert Cantu, Patricia Coatney, Rexine Davis, Julie Dominguez, Jerry Dorman, Dawn Doughten, Joy Drady, Audrey Duke, Jonathan, Goodale, Andrew Hamilton, Nancy Hulit, Jackie James, Audra Lee Johnson, Andrew Hamilton, Nancy Hulit, Jackie James, Audre Johns, Bill Jonson, Dawn Jonas, Julie Martin, Melinda McDonald, Michael McNeely, Nancy Patterson, Rose Mary Pena, Linda Rivera, Margie Rodriguez, David Ross, CJ Salzman, Sarah Sims, Michael Sondergram, Janet Stewart, Judy Taylor, Becky Terry, James Thompson, Dawn Tucker, Debra Usry, Clarissa Van Pelt, Debbie Van Pelt, Martha Valdez, Beth VandeSande, William VandeSande, Steve Whatley, Marjorie Whitner, Dawnya Wineinger, Don Wineinger.

Units answering roll call were: Allred, Beto, Bridgeport, Briscoe, Clemens, Clements, Coffield, Coleman, Connally, Crain, Dalhart, Daniel, Ellis, Estelle, Hughes, Huntsville, Hutchins, Jordan, KO Abilene, KO Amarillo, KO Central, KO East Texas, KO Ft. Worth, KO Houston, KO Lubbock, KO Midland, KO North Texas, KO San Antonio, Luther, Memorial, Michael, Mountain View, Murray, Pack, Polunsky, Roach, Stiles, Torch Amarillo, Torch Giddings, Torch Katy, Torres, Vance, Wainwright, Wallace and Wynne.

Ray Sims called the meeting to order.

Scott Van Pelt and Mike McNeely, from the Wallace Unit, led the opening music. We were introduced to another new verse of Just As I am written by an ex-offender.

Opening prayer and devotional was led by Rev. David Mosser. He referred to Matthew 16: 13-19. He referred to a trip to Canada when crossing the border.

Everyone is asked if they have anything to declare. In Matthew, Jesus hand is extended and inviting. Peter asked, "Who is Jesus?" Peter said, "You are the Son of the living God." It is for us to decide, "Who is Jesus," and live that day by day. We need to visit, and we are emissaries for God in Christ.

Kyan Kirby did **the roll call**. The motion was made by Debbie Van Pelt to accept the February 12, 2022 **minutes** and 2nd by Anna Leagans. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker, Carlton F. Hazelwood, TDCJ Deputy Director of Religious Services, gave a most impressive testimony. He is a pastor in Huntsville. He had been in the Marine Corps and has been married for 45 years. He enjoyed the Marine Corps and prison as a correctional officer. There were only 36 TDC Units when he was a Sergeant. One night in the dining room, one of the Hispanic workers asked Hazelwood if he was a Christian. He did not answer. The next day this Hispanic scribbled a scripture on a torn off sheet of paper and placed it on top of his plate of food. Instant reply was, "don't you ever do this again." Three days this continued. So, the Sergeant started reading his Bible. If this Hispanic could do this, he could also. Within 6 years, God broke him down. He took courses from Dallas Theological Seminary, received a Master's degree and went back to prison. He started the "Hug a Thug" program. Eventually he was promoted to the Head of Chaplaincy. He retired at this time.

After 5 months, he was asked to come back to TDCJ and teach Leadership to the staff. This he did for 6 years. He was then asked to help reform the Chaplaincy program within TDCJ. He has accordingly hired 42 Chaplains in the last 18 months.

He noted that Kairos is one of the most effective programs for changing lives and bringing people to Christ and that he appreciates Kairos.

We hear death row inmates singing "Praise God" and "Amazing Grace" on death row. Graduation was followed with Overcomers and Bridges to Life. Guys that have no hope, one has already been executed, are now praying for officers. It is scary, a radical change. It happens because of people like you, volunteers. They enjoy the food, but they have found Jesus. We are seeing things we have never seen before. "They are now praying for the officers! This is because of you, Kairos volunteers." We are sending field ministers into the G4 pods. Assault of the officers is down 42%. We are teaching life course programs and cognitive life

skills. 80% are now Protestant or Catholic. He also said that we need to get the Gospel to everyone. Inmates have been traumatized. Keep doing Kairos, double down and continue what you do! Hazelwood closed by praying for us Volunteers and asking God to continue showing us how to serve.

Status of Kairos in Texas. Ray made us aware that Memorial had a total G4 Weekend. TDCJ wants more involvement with G4's. The programs are there, get the Warden's on board. Pray and be persistent. Ellis #1 had no support from the Warden, but Deputy Director Hazelwood made a call and the Weekend was reinstated. Thus far we have had 14 KI's, and 7 KO's in 2022. Last year, 2021 we only had 20 total and 2020, we had only 12. KI Terrell #10 is happening, as well as KOWF #48. Fall has 35 KI's, 10 KO's and 2 KT's scheduled. July has another Death Row Scheduled at Polunsky.

Changes are that the Segovia Unit has been converted to a facility to house illegal immigrants so is closed for Kairos, but their Kairos AC has moved to the nearby county State Jail #1, currently known as Willacy County State Jail.

The Annual Conference has 89 registered and 114 promises and we would like to have more, like 200. June 5 is the cut-off date.

Annual Conference Update from David Ross and Steve Whatley. The Conference will be July 26-30, Tuesday – Saturday. Registration forms are available as well as a list for volunteers to sign up on. The Conference will be at the Hyatt Regency DFW which is near Terminal C of DFW. Your parking is included with your reservation. We need to recruit more AC's to the Conference. There is still an opening for an experienced photographer for the week. Secondly, there will be a Memorial Service for all Volunteers who have left their earthly homes since our last Conference, and these names should be forwarded to Bettye Keefer.

Steve Newton gave the financial report. We are paying \$.30 per mile for travel. We need to get the registrations in for the Conference immediately.

The total income has increased 120%. Total expenses increased 45%. Net Income increased 390%. AC's increased blessings by 38%, State Dues increased by 8%, Trailer Fees increased by 100%, Total Contributions increased by 121%, Interministry Material Cost increased by 286%, SCC Meeting Expenses increased

by 645%, Housing/Facilities Expense increased 148%, and Meals/Food Expenses increased 66%.

March 31, 2021-Total AC bank balance= \$984,160

March 31, 2022-Total AC bank balance= \$1, 045,775 + \$61,615 increase

March 31, 2021-Total KOT bank balance= \$174,413

March 31, 2022-Total KOT bank balance= \$114,881 -\$59,532

March 31, 2021-Total Trailer bank Balance= \$17, 991

March 31, 2022-Total Trailer bank balance= \$40,594 +\$22,603

Steve added that 12 AC's had less than \$5000 in the bank the end of March which leaves an opportunity for Interministry Blessings.

Audits for 2021 will not be happening, but in 2022, the grace period is over and they will be looking at many. Be sure that your documentation is correct for checks and deposits.

Steve also feels like we need to conduct a survey for what the actual costs are for the Weekends, Continuing Ministry, and Post-Weekend expenses (Reunions, etc.) throughout the state.

Bob Crane gave an update on the current bank balance. We have as of Thursday, May 12, 2022, \$187,000. He reminds us to check accounts for fraud and strange activities. Bob also needs to know about any changes for signers to those accounts.

First quarter Affiliation Fees- 55 owe and 42 have submitted their fees.

Nancy Patterson presented Michelle Edwards' KO report stating that KO is alive and doing very well! 125 Guests lives have been transformed so far in 2022. KO appreciates all the donations and prayers. She also wanted to remind us to have Closing speakers for all KI units.

Debbie Van Pelt gave her KI report. She stated about the excitement of prison openings, and that some are having rebuilding experiences as we have lost volunteers due to Covid. She suggested that all go to the ROCK website for help. Be sure and use person to person relationships. The blue fish t-shirts are also a

drawing card. KO is looking for Guests, so take applications with you wherever you might be.

Dickson de la Haye had a Kairos Torch report. They are excited about opening Amarillo in June with 16 boys and 9 girls. Giddings #1 will be in late October or early November. They are working with Epiphany in Giddings for the logistics July 21. Torch Katy will be the Weekend of November 11- go to the website and volunteer. Mentoring can be weekly or bi-weekly and can be singles or husband-wife teams.

Scott Baker presented an AC Activity Report.

- Of the Weekends we have reported on so far in 2022, we have already had 180 new volunteers, or an average of almost 8!
- We have hosted 29 Weekends this year with 50 more scheduled. Accordingly, our second half Kairos Weekend activity will be back to almost our pre-pandemic level!
- We need your Weekend Leader Reports posted a little sooner, please as this is a Weekend closeout function, and should be closed out within a couple of weeks of the Weekend.
- The KPMI minimum guideline for AC Meetings is every other month, which would be about 2 so far. Our average is only 60% of that. If you have Minutes, please send them in.
- We have 12 EI's posted already.
- This is our second KOT Meeting in 2022. Including our Zoom attendees, we had representation from 37 of our 63 AC's at our February meeting, or a participation rate of 60%.
- Also, the conference is right around the corner, so sign up to go!
- Remember your Affiliation Agreements must be sent in and posted in Kairos Messenger before Ezra will be issued. These were due in January, so please get them in.
- If you would like a full copy of this report, text or email Kyan and she will send it.

Driskoll Tubbs spoke with us about Continuing Ministry. He would like to have different Continuing Ministry meetings. He emphasized that KI Weekends are actually a sign up for 6 months. This includes weekly Prayer & Share, and we

should be having 2 Reunions a year. We need to also push 2 day retreats. More information can be found in the silver manual on page 328. Scheduling, better talks, (the talks are amazing), and encouraging leadership is also found there. The Retreat can be done in one day if necessary. The Retreat is open to anyone who has been in Kairos without a case! The Inside Resident Community Council is found on page 327. Even one day a year, have a Zoom Reunion.

Make some changes in the selection for Pilgrims. We need to get the Cartel and gang leaders in Kairos. Refresher training for leaders is online, Thursday, June 9 from 1-3 pm, Wednesday, August 17, 5:30-7:30 pm. Continuing Ministry KO will be May 21.

Retreats are held 3 months after a Weekend. If you need to cut the talks down to 6, it is ok. Have breakfast and an afternoon snack of veggies and Ranch. Try for 8 am-2 pm.

We need to get Continuing Ministry going. Many have not listed anything in Kairos Messenger for Continuing Ministry.

International Council Reports were as follows:

Julie Cole reported that we have new KO areas starting and Texas has 12 currently active KO AC's which is great.

John Osborne hopes that we will have the recruiting basics wrapped up by the Conference!

Susan Mannas stated that we need to have our EI reports clear and compliant.

Roger Harbert stated that he is new on the KI Subcommittee. His first Meeting will be 5/26/22 and he will have more to report at our next meeting.

Other Reports:

CJ Salzman has enjoyed the **Agape** position and reminded us that he is passing it on to Amanda Anderson.

Chris Wilson with **Outreach** reminded everyone that the Assessment Sheets are needed.

Fundraising with Jim Thompson and Anna Leagans. Jim stressed the idea of having 10 energetic people to help with this. Anna suggests we combine

Fundraising with Continuing Ministry and Outreach. It is a good idea to have Kairos magnets, window decals, t-shirts, and license plate covers in your car and be prepared. Butter-bread is another thing you might consider selling. (We get 30 to 40% of the proceeds.) On a recent Saturday and Sunday Bake Sale, they made \$900!) Bake sale after church and feed at team meetings are just a few thoughts. Talk about Kairos and pray with them. Jim added that they will also start having UAC Zoom meetings to plan fundraising activities.

New Starts with Marcia Wiseman said that Torch Katy is doing a wonderful job and is progressing well. Giddings is doing wonderful and has 5 AC members. She met concerning the new Powledge Unit in Tennessee Colony with Randy Moore and they are off to a good start with 5 AC members. Crain, with Julie Dominguez, also has 5 AC members and they have a new Warden who has received the MOU, and a new Chaplain. They would like to at least start Prayer and Share. She also reminded us of the Conference.

Jeff Coatney, State Trailer Coordinator, reminded everyone to check the condition of the trailers, tires, etc. They have been sitting around for a while in all kinds of weather. Check the contents inside the trailers and be sure everything is working properly. Be sure and check the seats in the chairs to be sure they are not rotten. Five gallon water coolers are \$25. Be sure everything works properly. Do not wait until the last minute. You might be shocked at what does not work. We will be getting proper titles for the trailers.

Driskoll Tubbs is holding a new position as Continuing Ministry Leader. He says that Kairos is about Continuing Ministry. Be sure and turn in your Continuing Ministry functions. He noted that we currently have 7 Units that have not filled the AC position for Continuing Ministry Coordinator. Those Units are Clements, Crain, Ellis, Ferguson, Montford, Roach and Telford. He also requested that AC Chairs and Continuing Ministry Coordinators, be sure and sign up for the really high-quality training videos online. They are May 21 for KO 8-11 am and June 9, 1-3 pm, and August 17 5:30-7:30 pm for KI. Sign up for this video training. Look in your manuals and online for more information.

Remember the Weekend extends for 6 months- Prayer and Share, Reunions—encourage them, and be in attendance. We are supposed to have two 2-day

retreats twice a year. If you cannot do them, change to one day Retreats with snacks. Read and study the schedule for the Retreat Weekends.

Andrew Hamilton noted that it is great to have a banner that says Listen, listen, love, love displayed at the meetings. This is why we are there. Andrew has a supplier for banners and if you would like further information, his phone number is 214-716-9005.

Our Chair reminded us that our next meeting will be August 13, 2022 at the Hill Country Bible Church. The meeting will be on Zoom, but try to come and join the group.

Ray Sims closed with a prayer.