

KOT State Chapter Committee Meeting

February 10, 2024

AC Units represented: Allred, Amarillo Torch, Beto, Boyd, Bridgeport, Briscoe, Clemens, Coleman, Connally, Dalhart, Daniel, Ellis, Estelle, Estes, Ferguson, Giddings Torch, Hightower, Hilltop, Hobby, Huntsville, Hutchins, Jordan, Katy Torch, KO Abilene, KO Amarillo, KO Central, KO Corpus Christi, KO East Texas, KO Ft. Worth, KO Houston, KO Lubbock, KO Midland, KO North Texas, KO San Antonio, KO Wichita Falls, Lindsey, Luther, McConnell, Memorial, Murray, O'Daniel, Pack, Polunsky, Robertson, Smith, Stevenson, Stiles, Telford, Torres, Vance, Wainwright, Wallace, Willacy, and Wynne. (only 8 were not represented)

Attendees were: Scott Baker, Michelle Edwards, Kyan Kirby, Bob Crane, Steve Newton, Roger Harbert, Susan Mannas, John Osborne, Bill Johnson, Scott Van Pelt, Robert Kimmel MD, Larry Rodgers, Pastor Lisa Harbert, Driskoll Tubbs, Savannah Hazelton, Jim Thompson, Dawnya Wineinger, Don Wineinger, Laurie Garner, Andrew Hamilton, Debbie Van Pelt, Joaquin Ytuarte, Don Christie, Wilda Christie, Ray Sims, Sarah Sims, Debbie Love Babbs, Steven Fike, Kelly Gerland, James Goodwin, Randy Eyre, Kevin Adkins, Chris Clark, Lesa Clark, Debbie Higgs, Tina Ramirez, Ledezma L Rodriguez, Melissa Tamez, Elisa Flores, Lucy Landeros, Kathy Anderson, Mark Parcel, Dana Parcel, Dickson de la Haye, Kim Lindsey, Jo Fern Thomas, Audrey Duke, Chase Blosser, Larry D Rogers, Becky Terry, Mary Lou Nettles, Joshua Pope, Randy Nettles, Donna Hardin, Julie McIver, Cinda Rose, Cheryl Wallace, Debra Wilson, and Jeanna Berry.

Scott Van Pelt **opened the meeting with song**. Scott Baker called the meeting to order.

Pastor Lisa Harbert gave the opening prayer and devotional. Many things are going on right now – Valentine, Lent, and Leap Year. As a group for Kairos, we are busy using our time and energy, like Abraham and his son Isaac. We are sacrificing because we love God! Our challenge is thanking God for our new brothers and sisters and loving one another. That love is strengthening when we take it back to our AC's and team loving one another. "Here I am." Starts with LOVE.

Kyan Kirby did the **roll call and asked for approval of the minutes**. Bill Johnson made the motion to approve the November 11, 2023 minutes and Driskoll Tubbs 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Evelyn Lemly, CEO for Kairos Prison Ministry was our guest speaker. She has served 12 years as CEO. Think about what God has given us to serve –wisdom, design, etc. so we can be good stewards and obey. Kairos is a ministry of EXCELLENCE! She challenged us to be good stewards and to use the wisdom and design God gave us to gather together. Train at team meetings and do our best because God does His best. Do ministry with Excellence. Use your manual because it works! Recruitment is important. Talk about what God is doing. He uses all of us to do His work. Look at the miracles. We need to recruit, recruit, and recruit.

The Annual Conference General Sessions begin on Thursday July 25, 2024 with dinner. We will have 24 General Sessions on Friday followed by a General Session Friday evening. All the workshops will be recorded and posted, therefore, we will have more resources on Mykairos.org. She ended by saying, “Be blessed and have a wonderful 2024 recruiting.”

Scott Baker, Chair of KOT, reflected on Kairos. 2023 was an active year! We had 104 Weekends—3 Torch, 21 KO’s and 80 KI’s. For the 2024 Conference, we had 35 Texas AC’s represented, with 77 representatives for that great conference. So far this year 2024, we have 101 Weekends scheduled. Number 1 Lindsey will be in July. Prayer and Share will begin at Goree February 17. The Warden wants Kairos on the unit. Vance Drum will be helping with that.

Scott Baker and Steve Whatley will be meeting with CF Hazlewood, Deputy Director of Religious Services, about plans for Kairos in TDCJ. Three more volunteers have been elected as KI Sub-committee Chairs to be able to better serve the KI Units. They are Nash Dowdle, Andrew Hamilton and Joaquin Ytuarte, who will join Debbie Van Pelt.

Michelle Edwards will focus on the chairs, while Michelle and Scott B will share in the leader reports. Cinda Rose and Kyan Kirby will be doing the AKT coordinator jobs.

The 2024 Annual Conference will be in Louisville, Kentucky July 25-27, 2024. The Memorial Service honors those who have served in Kairos. Bettye Keefer needs their names, the next of kin and their names and addresses. Please email them to her at bettye.keefe@yahoo.com.

Steve Newton gave the Financial Report. Comparing Profit & Loss - 2022 vs 2023. Regular income increased 25%, Program Expenses increased 23%, and Continuing Ministry increased 87%.

Balance Sheet Comparisons – Dec 31, 2022 vs Dec 31, 2023.

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|------------------------------|-----------|----|-----------|-----------|
| Total open advances | \$400 | vs | \$2,120 | +\$1,720 |
| Total Open Facility Deposits | \$12,590 | vs | \$13,742 | +\$1,152 |
| Total AC Bank Balance | \$872,256 | vs | \$873,666 | -\$1,410 |
| Total KOT Bank Balance | \$72,434 | vs | \$93,556 | +\$21,122 |
| Total Trailer Bank Balance | \$8,621 | vs | \$4,432 | -\$4,189 |

Blessings Given and Received in 2023:

48 AC's gave blessings - \$70,909 25 AC's received blessings - \$70,154

Steve also stated that the first cash advance needs to be reconciled before another one is given.

He gave a report on the Annual Conference. KOT will send 4 active members per AC to the Annual Conference in Kentucky, paying the registration fees. The AC pays the travel costs. If you want a single room, you will need to pay the difference. If you are flying, send your flight information with the application. These applications must be in to Steve Newton steve_newton@att.net by June 10, 2024. If you are struggling financially, please let KOT know. Email Scott Baker, Steve Newton and Bob Crane.

Bob Crane let us know that the AC's using Wells Fargo, monies can be transferred from one account to another with permission. It will be easy for AC's to pay affiliation fees, etc. to KPMI, KOT, etc.

Laurie Garner gave the Kairos Outside report. They welcomed Evelyn to their meeting last night with 40 people in attendance. Eleven of the 12 KO's were represented. KO appreciates what all the KI's do for us. They have done fundraising by providing lunch for the KI team meetings and taking donations. They also have the opportunity to talk at these meetings about KO. KO has 9 Weekends scheduled in Spring and Summer so far. They have attended the ACOP trainings. They will be speaking at the KI Closings. They will publish a list of which KO is responsible for each KI closing. Laurie also told us that the KO videos with testimonials are awesome.

Dickson de la Haye gave a report about Torch. Amarillo Torch has a new Chair – Steve Fike. Dickson encouraged KO Amarillo, Clements, Neal, Jordan, and all in the Amarillo Area to please support and help the Amarillo Torch. He talked about leadership and establishing a community, as well as the importance of recruiting. Dickson also reminded us to NOT put restraints on the Lord. We need to introduce Torch to KI and KO. TJJD Youth usually stay a long time in those facilities. Everything is different at each of those units (photos, food, etc).

Debbie Van Pelt gave her KI report. The minutes need to reflect what the unit is doing. Each team needs 1/3 new volunteers. Wear your logo or blue t-shirts around town. Go to a team meeting!

Andrew Hamilton gave his KI report. His advice is, "Don't laugh at God". Andrew has been a leader twice at the Torres unit.

Michelle Edwards gave the AC activity report. She praised the AC's for what they are doing correctly. She also encouraged us to recruit. One unit's team has 50% ex-offenders. In January and February, many signed up for the online Advisory Council Training. If anyone else needs it, please contact Michelle! If anyone on your AC would like to attend AKT training, please send them. KOT is more than happy to help financially, if you need it. Be sure that your Advising Leader enters the EI Report.

Michelle Edwards gave a very informative Chair Boot Camp. She explained the importance of an updated Master List and why Texas has one unlike other states. The AC needs to address issues within their AC or send information to Chair. Scott

Baker. The minutes need to be sent to Scott, Michelle and your KI Chair as listed on the Master List. A template has been sent to all secretaries that they can use if they want. Every AC member needs to report on their position each meeting. If you have a testimony or know someone who does, we need that to be sent in for the newsletter. The Chairs have monthly Chair Calls. They are by Zoom and info to join Zoom is sent to every Chair. Michelle encourages everyone on the AC to go to AKT training including Clergy and KO Speakers. The Communication Coordinator is responsible for KO people to speak at the KI Closings. Some units require the speaker to have Volunteer training while others do not! Be sure and check at the unit before you go to closing. Delegate!!!

Julie Cole, registrar for the Master List, explained the purpose for the Master List and why it needs to be updated immediately when changes to your AC happens. She also explained about the Spiritual Resume and where to find it in kairostexas.org website. She stressed that the AC Chair must sign it. The AC secretary should put your Weekend dates in the Kairos Kalendar!

Kyan Kirby and Cinda Rose, AKT Coordinators, had some pointers about AKT. They explained that this year all leaders for 2025 and Spring of 2026 should be trained. Registration needs to be done immediately!

IC reports: There were no meetings, so no reports were given.

Continuing Ministry led by Driskoll Tubbs reported. He emphasized the importance of KO. We need to spread the importance of KO to the KI groups. Kairos is all about Jesus Christ in all three areas. We all need to read our manuals and go to church. KO is responsible for Reunions, SWAP and Kairos Messenger after their Weekends. KI is responsible for Prayer and Share, Instructional, and Retreats. For both, we need dates, number of volunteers, and number of guests or inmates. All need to be recorded in Kairos Messenger.

Savannah Hazelton with agape. She spread the word that she needs more agape. Please send it to her through email, snail mail, or bring it to the state meetings.

Jim Thompson, Fundraising Chair, would like more ideas about what your AC does to raise money for the Weekends. Please email those ideas to

thompson77554@gmail.com. Look for individuals in a church for meal tickets, foundations, grants, etc. Think outside the box, what are some great ideas?

Dawnya Wineinger, Volunteer Recruitment Chair, gave her report. She thanked the Chairs for their quick responses to her emails. When she gets a name referred to her that is interested in Kairos, she sends that name and information to the AC Chair that is closest to that person. Thus far, she has had 50 referrals from KOT and 64 from KPMI.

New Starts report from Steve Whatley. Amarillo Torch is having a new AC Chair. Meetings are scheduled. Brownwood Torch is having major changes now, it is on hold until changes are finalized.

Beaumont KO is meeting with the Stiles AC for planning.

Buster Cole and Choice Moore KI Units are launching P&S. An Ad-Hoc Committee Has been formed with 5 Kairos volunteers planning for Weekend #1 late 2024 or early 2025.

Goree Unit (KI) plans to start P&S February 17 with one per month eventually getting to one per week and a Weekend.

Lindsey Unit (KI) is continuing P&S that began April 2023. Their first Retreat was Nov 11, 2023. The next one will be March 16, 2024. Their 1st Weekend is scheduled July 25-28, 2024.

Comments from our Chair, Scott Baker. Prayer and Share at a unit can include inmates that have been through Kairos at other units. He reminded us about the Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Our registration forms must be sent to Steve Newton no later than June 10, 2024. Scott has advised us that our next KOT meeting will be May 11, 2024.

Michell reported that the Chair Boot Camp breakout training was fantastic with good dialogue.

Meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Lisa Harbert reminding us that in Ecclesiastes 4:9 together two are better than one, so join together and build each other up!