

Kairos of Texas State Chapter Committee Meeting

Hill Country Bible Church, Austin, TX

April 13, 2019

Chair: Ray Sims

Executive Committee present: Ray Sims, Scott Baker, Joy Drady, Steve Newton, Bob Crane, Robert Kimmel, Dickson de la Haye, Joaquin Ytuarte, D.S. "Red" Gilbert, Teddy Carson, and Debbie Van Pelt.

Units not represented: Clements, Connally, Estelle, Hughes, Jester111, Luther, Neal, Polunsky, Terrell, Torch YCHP (Amarillo), Vance & Wynne.

Minutes

Gather for fellowship and Refreshments. 8:30-8:45 Praise and Worship led by Scott Van Pelt, joined by Tony Perez. Scott Van Pelt gave the opening prayer.

Ray Sims called the meeting to order with a "Thank You" to all those attending and helping to advance the Kairos of Texas ministry and he recognized those attending for the first time.

David Mosser, State Clergy Coordinator, gave the opening devotional: When your phone rings, have you ever looked at who was calling and decided not to answer? Listening is really hard work: to sit and focus on what someone is saying to you. A quote from Kairos of Illinois says:

"Kairos Volunteers are special people but not unique. The motto of Kairos is *'Listen, Listen, Love, Love'*. They listen more than they speak, without judgment of any sort. They love unconditionally and patiently. They keep everything they hear strictly in confidence. They work together as teams lifting up Christ without expecting conversion to their own style of faith. They do not expect praise or thanks but they give glory to God."

As a clergy person, I have this much in common with physicians: a lot of the problems that people have are related to loneliness. They feel like no one has given them a hearing. That is what a day in court is all about. You get to tell your story and the judge makes everyone be quiet to listen to you. Sometimes this may be the best thing that happens in a person's whole process in the criminal justice system. Every one of us has the capacity to listen to someone and there is great healing power in being able to listen. The Gospel writers rarely talk about Jesus listening. Perhaps they assumed that Jesus had such healing powers because he obviously knew how to listen.

The **Roll Call** was taken by Joy Drady, secretary. Those units not in attendance are listed at the beginning of the minutes. A motion to **approve the minutes of the January, 2019 meeting** was made by Charlotte Dalton and seconded by Scott Van Pelt. Motion passed.

Joy stated that 2019 Affiliation Agreements had not yet been received from 18 Advisory Councils and Ray Sims suggested that signatures for the Agreements can be gathered "on line" by the State Rep or AC Chair to be forwarded to Joy. He said "By signing the Agreement we commit that we are striving to do our best to follow the Kairos program guidelines as written."

Chaplain Christina Thomas, TDCJ Regional: I have been a Regional Chaplain for just over a year. I worked as a degreed engineer for 12 years before answering God's call to attend Bright Divinity School for a Masters of Divinity degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling and worked as a hospital Chaplain for almost 5 years. Then I agreed to God's suggestion to try as a Prison Chaplain and served 8 years at the Estelle Unit followed by 3 plus years as a Parole Chaplain. So I understand and appreciate what Kairos does. You come in and pour out your heart and love and resources to those who are incarcerated and don't have anything and you don't want any recognition. *"Kairos, I am very impressed with you!"*

What makes Kairos stand out is you are extremely professional and organized, and very security minded. You know that your ministry needs to start at the front gate, so you recognize and show appreciation for the correctional officers and you minister to and pray with the chaplains.

This is an awesome time to do prison ministry. The administration is starting to recognize the importance of it for the inmates because transformation and rehab is happening now for the inmates. As a parole chaplain I observed that the Kairos ministry continues when offenders are released. So you are a ministry of integrity. Kairos **“You Get It!” *We’re all brothers and sisters in Christ and that’s what the inmates need to hear.***

Kevin Resnover, KPMI Youth Ministries Coordinator (Ray noted that it is the goal of Kairos of Texas to expand the Torch program in Texas.)

Kevin began with a demonstration of the “Get Real” Talk that is given on a Torch Weekend: (entering with a mask on) *“Please hear what I’m not saying! Don’t be fooled by this face I’m wearing, a mask I’m afraid to take off. Don’t believe me please! I want you to think that everything is great. But it’s a mask, an ever concealing, never revealing mask. But I know that you know. I can tell at the glance that you give me. The glance is exactly what I need and I know that as long as the glance is filled with love and acceptance I can take off the mask.”*

The young people think about what they heard and begin to create their own masks, and later share their journey, why they wear the mask and what they hide behind and what they are hiding. For many of them this may be the first time they’ve had an opportunity to share their journey uninterrupted. During the weekend the team gives meditations wearing other masks: “I don’t need Anybody” “Victim” “Laughter” “Anger” “King or Queen of the Hill” Later in the Weekend at a Forgiveness Service, a man stands up, acting in proxy of all fathers, and asks for forgiveness for all the things we have done to our children (abandonment, abuse). The youth are asked to surrender their masks and put them in the God Box on which they have written words for how they view God. Then they receive the “blessing” of the Father from all/any of the men in room as the youth choose.

Continuing Ministry for Torch is a 6 month mentoring program, one on one in a group environment, weekly or biweekly. There is a Mentor’s Guide for boys and one for girls. The program is about development of family and for youth to understand who they are and who God created them to be, ministering to both the spiritual and natural side of persons and teaching them how to live with Christ as the center of their life.

Both men and women work on Torch teams. Often Husbands and wives work on teams together giving an example of a family. We have great appreciation for the KI and KO programs. The work being done in KI, KO and Torch is second to none. “We Are Better Together”

Chair Comments: Ray Sims

Annual Conference will be in Orlando, FL, July 23-27. KOT will pay for the registration fee (room and meals) for up to 4 members of each AC. **The registration forms go to Steve Newton** who will send them all together to KPMI with payment. **Please get them to him as soon as possible!** The transportation cost is up to you or your AC. Most of the training and workshops are on Friday and Saturday, so plan to arrive in time for dinner on Thursday evening and return home after lunch on Saturday. For all the folks that attend annual conference, please take the training and good information back and share it with your communities. (Don’t just let it drop or keep it to yourself.)

Elections – When I started as the new state chair I found that 38 out of 61 AC’s had not recorded their elections on the Messenger program. So after lots of calls, emails and helping secretaries with entrees we still have about 5 needing to accomplish that task. If you’re having trouble, let me know and Andy Perry at KPMI will guide you through that process.

Weekend Approvals – At my last check there were still 8 Weekends for Fall of 2019, not yet approved. KOT is responsible for that approval. It requires and Spiritual Resume for the Weekend Leader and Advanced Kairos Training completed 12-24 months before the weekend. (The Observing Leader should complete training before they are OL) It speaks to the health of your AC to get it done.

Affiliation Agreements – Let's just get those signed and sent in to Joy. It is required every year.

Trailer Report - We have insurance at a very reasonable rate for our trailers owned by KOT and we know about trailers that are shared by Units. We are not sure about some trailers used by individual Units and we need to get those insured as well. It is a huge risk to the ministry if your trailer is not insured. A letter will be sent to AC's asking for VIN#, make and model, storage location of the trailer and person responsible. The title/registration must be in the name of KPMI in order to insure it at low cost.

Training Sessions for Financial Secretaries & Recruiting/Outreach and KOT Subcommittee Meetings Lunch

International Council Rep: Robert Kimmel The emphasis right now at KPMI is on the preparations for Annual Conference. A new design will include information booths with people available to answer questions during times between the Workshops.

Kairos Outside State Chair: Teddy Carson How many here have never worked on a Kairos Outside team?

I am inviting everyone of you to do so and I promise the men will be well trained to serve on the kitchen team. We have 10 Weekends this Spring and will have 12 Weekends in the Fall with about 20 Guests attending each one. Think about how many women's lives will be impacted in one year! My question is: Do you know any of the inmates who are related to the ladies who will be attending? If an inmate asks you about KO do you know the answer or where to go for the answer? (Call Teddy)

A Kairos Outside AC is assigned to every KI Unit in the State of Texas. It is suggested that each KI AC should have a line item in their annual budget for supporting your assigned KO. We are truly "Better Together."

A KO Guest has given permission for me to share her personal testimony. When she came as a Guest she had two sons in TDCJ. She was blessed by the Christian love and support of her KO sisters thru many set-backs. (Her Dad and husband died within one year.) Having KO in this mother's life helped her get thru some hard times and when the older son was released the KO volunteers helped him get started in his new life on the outside with new clothes, housing and finding a job. Recently the younger son has been granted parole. When he comes home, KO women will be celebrating with her and helping him in his transition.... a success story of being Better Together. KO has blessed that family and they have blessed KO by serving as a Team Leader and more.

Our problem is we don't know the women who are related to the incarcerated people. Our best resource is for you to support and believe in KO and love those residents enough to match us up. Tell residents this is a gift they can give to their female loved ones.

Many of our KO communities do struggle with funding. Just know that in some communities 90% of the volunteers are single Mom's. Thank You for your continued support and we always welcome your prayers.

Torch State Chair: Bill Salser has helped with the restart of Torch, Katy and is looking at another facility in Harris County to expand Torch in south Texas. In north Texas (Dallas area) about three facilities are targeted for Torch with the efforts of Audrey Rivera. In central Texas (Hays and Travis Counties) Dickson de la Haye is gathering info for potential Torch locations. The potential for men and women to work on Teams together is a blessing for a marriage.

(New) Kairos Inside State Chair: Debbie Van Pelt We are looking to offer training at the July meeting for Fund Raising, Secretaries and perhaps one other AC position. These will be more in depth trainings for how you should be doing your job. I'm praying and asking for prayers to know God's direction for how to facilitate all of this. (Ray asked for AC's to encourage their secretary to attend the training as the secretary job is becoming huge in the Kairos Messenger world. Also, it's never too early to think about elections with the intent to replace one third of your Council every year.)

Steve Newton, State Financial Secretary, Financial Report (Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet for January and February, 2019 were distributed)

Reports show Total income \$407,945 less Cost of Goods Sold \$215,743 for Gross Profit of \$192,202. Total Expenses of \$125,252 brought Net Income to \$66,950.

A chart of bank account balances shows the distribution of wealth among Advisory Councils with some ACs doing really well and some others really struggling financially. Steve proposed that the ACs that are well off should consider "adopting" some of the ACs that are not doing so well. It is by God's blessings that you have an abundance and it is worthwhile to share some the wealth with other ACs. We have a wide range of wealth across our community and we need to help each other out as much as possible.

Mileage reports will be processed and checks mailed within the next week.

Bob Crane, Treasurer's Report: All of the 4th quarter Affiliation fees have been received. Now it's time to work on submitting the fees for the first quarter of 2019 that are due by April 20th. Encourage AC's to get those done quickly.

Sub Committee Reports:

New Starts: Tom Barnes It is exciting that we have two New Starts this year. Bridgeport will hold Weekend #1 in May. Wallace Pack will have Weekend #1 in October.

KO Abilene completed Weekend #2 and Weekend #3 is scheduled.

KO Fort Worth completed a great Weekend #1 and plan to have #2 in November.

Excellence Initiative: Scott Baker Every Unit does one after each Weekend. The Weekend Leader does the Leader's Report and someone else on Team should do the EI Report (usually the Advising Leader) It should be done within four weeks after the Weekend. We are still missing 3 EI's for 2018. The report is for the health of the Unit so the AC should review it to see what is going well and where they need to improve. In 2018 KOT had 3,567 Team volunteers including 856 "new" ones.

For 2019 we have new State reviewers: Kim Fornof for the Central Region and Teddy Carson for the 12 KO Units and we will have more Weekends with the New Starts. So far in 2019 we've held 8 Wknds and have 4 reports submitted. Andy Perry is the new contact person for EI reports at KPMI.

Agape: C.J. Salzman Packets are ready to be sent for the Weekends happening in the next 6 weeks. I have NO inventory of Agape for several Units right now. If your AC's Agape Coordinator doesn't know their responsibilities, I am happy to explain the process for them with a phone call.

Fundraising: Jim Lodovic There is a Facebook process for fundraising with a fee of only \$1.00 for non-profits. (on Facebook) Go to Fund Raiser, Raising Funds and on the "search line" KPMI will appear to click on. Then you enter the amount you want to raise and the dates for the two week period you choose. When it goes thru, someone at KPMI will call you to ask which AC is to receive the donation and they will transfer the amount. Everyone on your Council/Team can do it. If your Unit is struggling with fund raising please contact me.

Torch Katy Restart: Marcia Wiseman The original Torch Katy held three Weekends and then it shut down with no activity for over two years. At the request of Bill Salser to help get Torch Katy up and

running, I began to call people who had never served Kairos, asking them to be on the AC and we now have volunteers (ages 30 to 65) filling 8 positions. With prayers for God's help, and phone calls to other AC Chairs we received financial support from Clemens, Eastham, and Terrell Units and KO Houston.

We held 5 Team meetings at Macedonia United Methodist (Kevin Kissell, pastor) and held **Weekend #4 on March 29-30 at Harris County Leadership Academy**. The facility administrator, Rosaland Carter, was very excited that Kairos Torch was coming back into her Unit. Bill Salser was the Wknd leader with God's team of 12 volunteers and 8 young men (14 to 17 years old) participated in 2 Table Families.

The highlight of Saturday was when Team member, Jeff, gave the "Father, Forgiveness Talk" saying "I'm sorry" to each youth individually. At Sunday lunch, each one received a birthday cake, an Agape bag of letters from the team and a Kairos Bible. (3 of the 8 had a birthday during the Wknd!). The Weekend concluded with the "Celebrate You" talk and A Letter from God, followed by Closing. Today they are having their first of six Mentoring Sessions, one on one, for an hour and a half.

(Remember to ask your local store managers for price breaks on food and supplies for your Wknds because they are willing to help you.)

Chair Comments: I suggested to Evelyn that it was not easy to divide/charge the annual CCLI fee for music use to all the AC's. So this year the total fee will be paid by KOT.

The next meeting will be **July 13, 2019**.

Meeting was closed at 2:00 with prayer by Kevin Reslover and group singing *Surely the Presence*.

Submitted by: Joy Drady, Secretary

*Reports filed: Financials – P&L Report & Balance Sheets for January thru February, 2019
Report of Annual Affiliation Agreements filed for 2019 (18 not yet submitted)