

Kairos of Mississippi
State Chapter Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2013

Committee Member Attendees

Darryl McElrath	Von Brister	Jean Harvey
Sharon Scott	Barbara McDonald	Paul Morris
Gennia Varnado	Bobbie Blake	Richard Marlowe

Advisory Council Chairs Present:

Anita Johnson

Members Absent:

Carolyn Mims	Paul Brady	Gary Shelley
Jimmy Gant	Martin Butler	
Jim Sonnier	Tammy Hillman	

Guests Present:

Chaplain Eugene Wigelsworth

The meeting was called to order by Darryl McElrath with an introduction of Eugene Wigelsworth, Director of Religious Programs for MDOC who shared scripture from Psalm 107 along with his concerns, future plans, etc. concerning the state prison facilities.

Questions & discussion followed: Gennia Varnado asked if volunteer chaplains had to be ordained ministers and Chaplain Wigglesworth responded not always but a lay clergy should be mature, trained with experience on the outside, endorsed as a lay leader and willing to commit to this ministry. The clergy or lay clergy of Kairos should be leading the ordinary Christian person to share God's word with the residents by being able to sit and listen among them at their level right where they are in there are – just need to plant the seed. Bobbie Blake asked the question whether a lay clergy was protected legally from hearing a confession and the answer was no that they should refer that person to an ordained minister or staff chaplain. Von Brister made the comment that we need to be actively searching for retired ministers to serve in this volunteer ministry. Darryl McElrath encouraged all the AC's to look at their white card list, short list for lay leadership. Jean Harvey, who is involved in the Gideon ministry asked if there are facilities that need Bibles, Walnut Grove and could they also be placed in the Christmas packets given out to the residents. Gennia Varnado encouraged Chaplain Wigelsworth and Kairos to encourage, by invitation African-American ministers to attend a special introductory tour of CMCF. A tour and special information session could produce new volunteer chaplains and ministers that would benefit Kairos and MDOC. Chaplain Wigelsworth said he would let us know when a session could be scheduled in 2014 working

with Darryl. Paul Morris asked about the age of individuals who could serve as a volunteer and the law is till age 21. A tour can be arranged for a group to come in and a waiver for a Christmas function are the only times anyone under 21 can come into the facility.

Chaplain Wigglesworth closed his discussion in prayer.

BREAK

The minutes from the July 20, 2013 were not approved as there was not a quorum present for voting. They will be re-visited at the January meeting for approval.

Old Business:

AKT training will be held September 5-7, 2014 at the Duncan Gray Center. Details concerning Torch participation to be finalized. Training will take place in Birmingham, Alabama every other year.

A meeting with CMCF officials is still in the planning stages and to include SCC Chair, Vice-Chair, International Council Representative, AC Chairs, State Representative, Liaison, etc. This meeting will take place somewhere off site of the prison facility.

Bobbie Blake requesting their weekends to be held Thursday through Sunday. They are presently Wednesday through Saturday and recruitment has been a problem since this was implemented. Also asking if they can pay security personnel to work on Sunday if this is one of the reasons for the change in the weekends.

Anita Johnson voiced concern over not knowing what is in the budget as the Women's Retreat, Christmas function and the April, 2014 weekend will be coming up. Darryl explained the transition issues that Martin Butler has faced in getting the financials up to date i.e. confusion with data merge, etc. Also, CPA MOMS were hired to work this out including lawyers. KPMI did pass a formal audit – first time EVER!! Darryl assured everyone there is money in the account to cover expenses for these events. Also, the question concerning when the budget is due: November 1, 2013.

Anita also inquired as to whether KPMI would be purchasing the laptops for the Donor Program - Darryl, Martin and Von are working on the language concerning the purchasing & issuing of laptops to each AC with the understanding that the laptops will be the property of the state and each AC is responsible to keep up with it, maintain it and if something happens to it, that council will have to pay to have it repaired or replaced. Following this discussion, it was unanimous that Willie Varnado be designated SPECIFICALLY to maintain each laptop concerning Ezra as it is transferred to and from each weekend leader.

Chairperson's General Comments

- Still planning on visiting all the prison facilities and meeting with the warden & chaplain to discuss the memo of understanding between Kairos, the warden, chaplain and superintendent to educate any new personnel concerning the Kairos program.
- Plan on attending the next MDOC Mtg. on November 14th
- KPMI wants to consolidate to one bank – Wells Fargo and to choose another affiliated bank for those areas that do not have a Wells Fargo Bank.
- There is only one CPA on staff with KPMI and no more CPA MOMS. The financial report is updated every 30 days and forwarded to KPMI. If this report is not updated every 30 days, each state can be fined up to \$500.
- ACOP is also being re-written in 2014
- Would like to have a transition meeting in 2014 for all AC committee members.

KPMI Representative – Von Brister, IC Representative

- Looking for a volunteer to go inside the facility 1-2 days a week to handle any Kairos business and at the same time educate personnel on the Kairos program, etc. MDOC would like to see this happen also. This volunteer could be ordained clergy or a lay person that has worked more than one weekend and committed to this ministry.
- Kairos Outreach – working on a strategic plan through 2018. Von Brister & Gary Shelley attended the Louisiana State Chapter Committee Meeting.
- KPMI is looking for a 35% growth with emphasis on minority participation. Von would like to meet with everyone in Outreach and discuss recruiting should be talking to civic groups, churches, etc.
- In 2014 the Outreach Coordinator is to be MANDATED in each council.
- The authorized registered Kairos logo (solid blue, no rainbow) with Kairos in the middle will be implemented in 2014. This will provide continuity between all the states to be more reflective of the Kairos ministry.
- The home office building debt has been paid with a donation from an anonymous individual.

Vice Chair's Report – Richard Marlowe reporting for Gary Shelley (emailed report)

- Marius (Mac) Van der Merwe, an SMCI volunteer inquiring about a potential fund raising opportunity and asks permission to move forward with the proposal: A boxing venue in Laurel, MS February 22, 2014 at the Magnolia Center. The promoter is willing to allot \$1 of the revenue from each ticket to Kairos. They are willing to also mention Kairos in the billing in whatever way is allowed. Discussion was held concerning the promoter 's son who is a resident in Parchman and the implications associated with this venue. Gary Shelley will discuss the implications with the promoter concerning this venue and request that Kairos' name not be mentioned or the name of the resident (promoter's son) at Parchman and the promoter could still make a donation on his own from the proceeds.

Treasurer's Report – Jim Sonnier (emailed report)

- All the bills were turned in timely and have been paid.
- The timelines are being met and working smoothly

Financial Secretary's Report – Darryl McElrath reporting for Martin Butler (emailed report)

- All invoices and expenses (properly received) have been paid
- We are current with KPMI through July. August statements are uploaded to KPMI but still to balance two accounts, which should be completed tomorrow, Sunday, October 20th.
- AC's – please fill out the proper forms completely concerning allocation and detail to be processed in a timely manner.
- All financial secretaries should be operating Donor Service Pack 8.12 and beginning to upload their files electronically to me through the use of DropBox. They can also use DropBox to send large files that will not easily be transmitted through email. Expenses and invoices can be scanned and electronically transmitted in order to speed the process of approval.
- The financials are updated every 30 days to be forwarded to KPMI

Kairos Website – Barbara McDonald

- Nothing to report

Agape – Gennia Varnado

- Update on monies concerning the Golf Tournament
- Provided wall agape to several Kairos locations.
- Additional plans on encouraging MS Kairos volunteers to use the 3-Day Vigil Prayer slots for other locations and to share with other ministries.
- Agreed to chair the golf tournament for 2014 & would like the assistance of Barbara McDonald.
- Need increased support and increased participation from Kairos members to play in the tournament, also more volunteers.
- Discussion as to moving this venue to later in the afternoon going into the evening (lighted) affording increased participation.

Advisory Council Reports

MSP – Paul Morris reporting for Jimmy Gant

- The following are the upcoming Weekend Leaders:
Kairos #33 Unit #30 – March 2014 - Hal Davis, Leader
Kairos #34 Unit #29 – June 2014 – Sid Lane, Leader
Kairos #34 Unit #30 - August 2014 – Steve Calvert, Leader (needs AKT Tr.)

CMCF Men – Bobby Blake

- A reunion was held on Saturday, September 21st
- A Christmas party is being planned for December 14th
- Waiting to meet with the new superintendent to discuss Thursday through Sunday Kairos weekends and paying for security for those weekends.
- Earle states that things are going well at the prison facility and security has eased up. Also, attendance from both the free world and residents has been good.
- Mike asked if anyone had gone to Sam's to ask about buying deodorant for the residents at the prison. Johnny said he has been talking to a contact of his at Walmart about their donating seconds. Wyman Tygert at Brandon Discount Drugs said he would order some and sell it to us at cost. Mike suggested we send these suggestions to Willie.
- Bobbie said he hasn't been receiving notification of those meetings.
- Earle stated that they should recommend the whole AC attend the AKT in September, 2014.
- The following are the upcoming Retreat & Weekend Leaders:

Retreat - November, 2013	Johnny Jordan
Kairos #29 – March, 2014	Johnny Jordan
Retreat – June, 2014	Buddy Pharis?
Kairos #30 – August, 2014	Jerry Perez
Retreat – Winter 2014	Stephen Coleman
Kairos #31 – Spring 2015	Buddy Pharis
Retreat – Summer 2015	Mike Byers
Kairos #32 – Fall 2015	Stephen Coleman
Kairos #33 – Spring 2016	Mike Byers
- The following were elected to the AC for the next three years:
 - Greg Campbell
 - Danny Hart
 - David Morrow
 - Mike Norcum
 - Maxey Phillips
 - Jim Raedel

CMCF Women – Anita Johnson

- There will be no Kairos weekend in the Fall – no one ready to lead
- Retreat will take place at Quickbed on Friday, October 25th – Diane Vaughn leading with 60 participants.
- Darryl to attend the next AC meeting on November 4th
- A Christmas party is being planned for December 15th (waiting for confirmation).

SMCI – Richard Marlowe

- Weekend #16 – just completed
- Kairos #17- Spring 2014 – Anthony Snow leading
- Financially in good shape

- Chaplain Powell requesting items i.e. deodorant, shampoo, etc. for the residents at Christmas.
- The Winter Retreat is planned for November 30th

Torch – Paul Brady

- We are in the 2nd month of the mentoring phase for Torch # 7
- Ronnie Berg was the first person from Louisiana to witness a Torch weekend and plans on meeting with and making an official appeal to the Louisiana prison commissioner to begin Torch in their state. He left this Torch weekend event with a letter of recommendation from our chaplain, and a promise from KPMI's Kevin Resnover to also meet with them.

Kairos Outside of Mississippi – Jean Harvey

- Kairos #18 went well with 17 ladies attending
- The scheduled reunion had to be rescheduled due to a storm; therefore, the participation of volunteers was low.
- Darlene Strickland (has completed AKT)
- Would like to see more participation from other Kairos members in attending closings

South Mississippi Kairos Outside – Tammy Hillman

- As reported at the last meeting, a weekend will be taking place October 25-27, 2013 at the Home of Grace and the ladies are very excited.
- Nothing else to report.

New Business

Team applications need to be submitted as soon as possible for review.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Scott