

**Kairos of Mississippi**  
**State Chapter Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 3, 2014**

Committee Member Attendees

Darryl McElrath	Von Brister	Gina Sawyer	Sid Lane
Sharon Scott	Barbara McDonald	Gary Shelley	Bobby Blake
Gennia Varnado	Paul Brady	Carolyn Mims	Lynn Pudas

Advisory Council Chairs Present:

Anita Johnson  
Earle Burkley

Members Absent

Martin Butler

The meeting was called to order by Darryl McElrath who opened with a devotional from 2nd Timothy 4:7.

Barbara McDonald made a motion to approve the amended and corrected January 18, 2014 minutes, seconded by Gary Shelley, motion carried.

**Chairperson's General Comments**

- Achieved consolidated status following changes in the KPMI financial process.
- Mississippi has been selected for audit purposes and everything is in order.
- Kudos to those Advisory Councils that are complying with the financial reporting process.
- Anyone having problems uploading the new Donor program should contact Willie Varnado who is in contact with George Brown (KPMI Treasurer).
- Any monies for Christmas programs, gifts, etc. MUST be funded outside of the Advisory Councils as this is NOT in the Kairos program manual. When sending out emails for donations need to be explicit as to how the check (if writing one) should be filled out, etc.
- The Summer Conference is scheduled to be held in Indianapolis July 15-19, 2014. Only the personnel that need to be there will be approved financially to attend. If you just want to attend for personal reasons, you will be responsible financially for travel, lodging, etc.
- Jim Sonnier has resigned after serving three years as Kairos of Mississippi State Chapter Committee Treasurer effective May 31, 2014.
- Darrell Whitford (presently serving as Advisory Council Chair of Torch) has expressed great interest in the position as SCC Treasurer. Discussion followed – Paul Brady

nominated Darrell Whitford as Kairos of Mississippi State Chapter Committee Treasurer, Gennia Varnado seconded, motion carried.

- The new start-up process for a Kairos program at the Marshall County facility has begun. This is a private run institution with a population of 1800 men. Von Brister and Darryl McElrath visited with Chaplain Jefferson who is really excited about the program. They were given a tour of the facility and the chaplain volunteered his church for the orientation meetings, etc. He was also given a Kairos program manual. The Advisory Council has been formed and Darryl McElrath & Von Brister plan on returning Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> to meet with the chaplain, staff, AC Chair & liaison. The plan is to hold a reunion/retreat the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of May for past graduates of the Kairos program and to assist in the startup of Prayer & Share groups.
- KPMI requests for endorsement – Commissioner Epps would like to do an endorsement of MS first then do an international endorsement. Send any ideas, thoughts, etc. to Darryl on how you would like the endorsement to be reflected before the July conference.
- Each Advisory Council (inside only) to work on comprehensive data in updating their Kairos graduation list and then sharing it with each council by email.
- Advisory Councils to update their personnel list and send to Darryl & Sharon.
- If program-oriented, a cash advance can be given and the receipts then sent in a timely manner.

#### KPMI Representative – Von Brister, IC Representative

- Kairos International already has a five year plan in place.
- Attended the Winter Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia February 4-8, 2014; was on the program for Outreach and made a presentation to the group.
- Each Advisory Council should be active in the area of Outreach and Von will be available to help and assist anyone in the area of recruitment & fundraising. When speaking to a group of people keep it short i.e. one person speaks 5 min on what the Kairos program is about and another person speaks on what the program means to them as a volunteer and/or a 2 min video from an ex-offender.
- Kairos Inside Sub-Committee – Von Brister is on this committee also and said the EI Reports are going to be revised but presently the reports coming in have improved.
- Von Brister is also on the Long Range Planning committee, which is part of the 5- year plan.
- There are three councils in the Pensacola, Florida area where Von has gone to help re-organize as they are way out of the riverbanks, keeping in mind their Kairos system is different from ours.
- Need to be using the Donor Program as we can be fined or placed on probation if not complying.
- To refresh those who have forgotten what the IC Committee does: elects all Board of Directors, make motions, changes in the manual, bylaws, revisions, etc.
- Von will also be available if any of the councils would like to have a conference call to address some of the issues involving Outreach.

- Von Brister made a motion to approve for payment of recruiting brochures for 4<sup>th</sup> Day Communities and Ultreas booklets, seconded by Paul Brady, motion carried.

#### Vice Chair's Report – Gary Shelley

- Working on completing the Excellence Initiative for 2013 and 2014
- Issues with the website concerning the different units at the same facility – working on this.
- Recruiting issues concerning working three weekends, taking one weekend off, and restrictions with speakers at closing. Ideas for increased Kairos exposure – place in bulletins at church, place on bulletin boards, speak to the congregation at church, other meeting places.
- Darryl will talk to Gary Shelley concerning in-house Advisory Council training.
- An updated memo of understanding is needed from the South Mississippi Correctional Facility.
- There needs to be increased cooperation and communication between chapters in sharing ideas, restrictions, etc.

#### Treasurer's Report – Jim Sonnier (resigned effective May 31, 2014)

- All the bills were turned in timely and have been paid.

#### Financial Secretary's Report – Martin Butler (Absent)

- No Report

#### Kairos Website – Barbara McDonald

- No Report

#### Agape – Gennia Varnado

- Kudos to Barbara McDonald for her great support & expertise in helping with the golf tournament.
- WLBT news report went well with Gennia Varnado and Mike Byers speaking about the upcoming golf tournament at Whisper Lake.
- The food was donated again by Fannin United Methodist Church and unique prizes have also been acquired.
- The registration fee will be \$95.00 after May 3, 2014.
- Still looking for a photographer – will contact Steven Coleman.
- Tax statements sent out to sponsors & players to April, 2013 golf tournament participants
- Agape posters to be sent out

## Advisory Council Reports

### MSP – Sid Lane

- Hal Davis led weekend #11- Unit #30 - March 2013
- Sid Lane leading weekend #12 – Unit #29 – June 2014
- Steve Calvert leading weekend #34 - Unit #30 (also needs AKT Training)
- Planning a Spring picnic for the female volunteers
- Planning for 400 Christmas packages to be given out in December

### CMCF Men – Bobby Blake

- Johnny Jordan led Weekend #29 with 54 team members (12 rookies) – went well.
- Rusty Runnels is leading Weekend #30 in August.

### CMCF Women – Carolyn Mims

- Carolyn Mims gave a report on leading Weekend #33 with 27 team members (7 rookies) which went well.
- Barbara McDonald leading weekend #34 in October.

### SMCI – Gary Shelley

- Anthony Snow led Weekend #29 with 46 team members and 42 participants – went well
- Tom Blakeney will lead Weekend #18 at the end of August.
- Gary Sims will be leading the 2014 Summer Retreat and then leading Weekend #19 in the Spring of 2015.
- Kevin Shaw will be leading Weekend #20 in the Fall of 2015
- Plan on scheduling a work day at the church in Leakesville where the team always gather for their meetings.

### Torch – Paul Brady

- The need is great for leaders but still need to be mindful who you choose to lead a weekend.
- Skip & Linda Jack Led Weekend #8 in February, 2014 with 19 team members and 24 participants.
- Bill Jones & Janet Gordon will be leading Weekend #9 in October 2015
- Justin Chaney, Clergy at Walnut Grove goes out to recruit new members
- Anderson UMC sent an invitation to come to their church to talk about the ministry on July 26, 2014.
- Lawrence Mack, Warden at the Walnut Grove facility resigned and moved back to Illinois about a month ago. Grady Wallace is listed as the Interim Warden.
- The Kairos program is desperately needed at Walnut Grove for adults; very few of the young men that have gone through the Torch program ever come back and may be due in part to the influence of the adults in the facility who have not gone through the program making it difficult for the graduates to cope with negativity, etc.

Kairos Outside of Mississippi – Lynn Pudas

- Kairos #19 was held March 21-23<sup>rd</sup> and went very well. Kairos #20 is still in the planning stage and will be led by Layne Herr.
- The following women to be approved for leadership (Kairos #22, 23 & 24) and to attend AKT Training: Renee Brown, Coralein Cain, & Sabrina Fields.

South Mississippi Kairos Outside – Gina Sawyer

- Weekend #6 at Home of Grace with 40 women in attendance and low participation of volunteers which affected Weekend #7 by minimal volunteers and only 7 guests.

\*\*Bobby Blake made a motion to accept Kevin Shaw and Gary Sims as upcoming weekend leaders for SMCI, seconded by Paul Brady, motion carried.

\*\*Sid Lane made a motion to accept Cindy Rainey and Dixie Evans as upcoming weekend leaders for South MS KO, seconded by Von Brister, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned. Next meetings scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Scott