



# Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

## Georgia State Chapter Committee Meeting Minutes

### Virtual/Zoom Meeting

April 27, 2024 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

1. Call to order
  - a. Welcome Beverly Upperman
  - b. Opening prayer and Devotion – Jim Smith: Prayer was the focus of his devotion. God talks with Solomon. Prayer vigil is May 3-5. Pray for hearts open to serve as well as residents to receive and accept Christ. He prayed for Beverly’s 94-year old Mom who has pneumonia, three open positions on the State Committee and for the needs of God’s Special Time - Kairos
  - c. Music – Waymaker video
2. Roll call, confirmation of quorum – Diane Morgan: 18 of 20 facility reps and subs present plus Leadership Committee. Quorum met.
3. Additions to agenda – Later in Minutes
4. Secretary report – Diane Morgan - Secretary’s Report – Diane: Review of JOT Weekend Leader and Variance Requests: Walter provided summary of volunteer service from Kairos Messenger.
  - Approved leaders - **Coastal**-Steven Kelly, **Emanuel**-Amy Waddell, **Valdosta**-Tim Feathers (approved with Grace), Richard “Dicky” Lee, Jamie Phelps and Kenny Smith
  - Conditional Approval: **Hancock**-Bobby Thomas- **Variance needed**, but conditionally approved, **Pulaski**-Amy Holbeck needs one more Talk to be given when she serves as OL and AKT attendance in August, and Joanna Nakayama needs to attend AKT in August.
  - Note: Be timely in submitting Leader Nomination forms. See page with Leader Requirements prior to submitting. (% of involvement in Kairos Prison events, at least two Leadership Positions plus being at a Family Table, two Talks or main meditations given)
5. Financial secretary report – Roxann Davis: Review P & L Jan.-Mar. and Balance Sheet:
  - Kairos is in good financial shape.
  - Roxann held two meetings with Donor Coordinators, one on a Saturday and one on a Monday. Only 7 of 20 ACs attended. When invitation to a training session is sent, RSVP to Roxann whether you intend to be there or not.
  - PEX cards have been ordered by KPMI and will be sent to ACs.
  - Beverly noted that each State Committee Representative is or will be scheduling training for each AC position. Attendance is critical. Chance to ask questions, gain clarity on given positions. RSVP.
6. Treasurer report – David Griffin: Contact him for Deposit Slips if needed.
7. IC report – Dawson Long/Vanessa Velez Cruz

*“You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to Me, He gives you.”— John 15:16 (MSG)*



## **Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.**

Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

- Vanessa Velez Cruz: Excited to be a part of the IC. She was appointed to KO subcommittee with members from all states and international. Goals were set for 3 Kairos programs. She is support person for Georgia and Texas. Excellence Initiative Reviewer, results used to improve Weekends.
- Dawson Long: Serves as IC Secretary. IC does groundwork to support AC Chairs. He is on a committee to build new starts and restarts. The committee searches online to find churches where volunteers may be found. KPMI Bill McVay takes that information and pushes it to AC Chairs. IC sub-committees include Communications, Torch, KO, KI, Program Excellence (review of EIs), Volunteer Guest and Recruitment, Governance. Board positions will be voted on at Annual Conference, where Vanessa and Dawson will vote for Georgia.

### 8. Subcommittee Reports

- Agape – Ed Bynum is attending Team Formation today – no report
- Program – Ladson Golden had to step away from this position
- Beverly asked that State Representatives look at SCCOP online to help fill three vacant State positions: Program, Outreach and Fundraising. Send recommendations of persons equipped for these positions to her.

### 9. Vice Chair - Executive committee meeting report – Walter Straham presented Kairos update from March and April State Chair meetings. Points made:

- Game presented to point out key issues: Kairos is not an Emmaus “Walk”, Clergy cannot serve as Leader, Leader Requirements, KO Conference Room positions, Number of weekends served to be a Leader, Talks Required for Leadership.
- Kairos greatest need is qualified volunteers. ACs need to set goals for recruitment numbers, report on their status, share what’s not working, consider buying a pull up banner for promotion (\$79 on merchandise site). God opens doors when we move Joshua 3:15-16.
- Engaging volunteers before losing them to other areas of service. Keep them engaged. Suggest serving with KO, recruit and promote.
- Weekend leaders must attend AKT 12-24 months prior to serving. Their weekend date MUST be on the Kairos Kalendar before the leader will receive EZRA. Not optional.
- ACs must attend AC Training annually.
- Things that divide: Promoting denominational practices, not following Code of Conduct (see Mykairos.org), stop known issues before they start, avoid inviting volunteers to serve who are not well-suited for the ministry.
- Kairos Distance for Deliverance Walkathon June 7-16, 2024. Outreach and fundraising tools on KPMI website.
- Financial: ACs should review financials monthly, there are NO FEES to serve on a Kairos Team! Team is encouraged to raise funds for the Weekend. Assessing fees is off-putting for those who cannot afford it. An audit is coming, Important! We cannot use personal accounts like Venmo, Zelle, etc., to raise money because funds go to an

*“You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to Me, He gives you.”— John 15:16 (MSG)*



## Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

individual rather than Kairos. Against IRS and GAAP rules. Donations need to be made directly to Kairos.

- DOC/DJJ Relationship – State Leadership meets with them often. Use science behind
- Kairos Documents. Promote KO and impact on family/connections to inmates. We still have big challenges with badging.
- Annual Conference July 25, 26. Fill out registration and send to State Financial Secretary. NO show? NO refund. The goal for each state is to send 4 persons. GA voted to send at least one person from each AC. Sponsorship of others, local or international attendees with personal donations. (GA has given a donation for an international attendee.)
- GA Executive Committee is to approve future leaders, by verifying info through Kairos Messenger and Leader Tracker. Those filling out applications need to ensure all information included is correct and complete.

### 10. Report – Beverly

- Training/Administrivia – See Leader Requirement Document in Program Manuals: KI p.61, KO p.44, Torch pp. 51-53. Follow Ezra requirements, attend AKT (12-24 mo. Prior to Weekend), submit variance if needed. Kairos Messenger is #1 tool for finding Leader information. Weekend Leader and Excellence Initiative need to be submitted for correct information to be available. AC Chairs can verify volunteer service. Find volunteer information under Volunteer Tab. Click Volunteer List, then sort the Last Name column for the search box. Enter Last name of volunteer whose file you want to see. Let the State know if information is incorrect. **Important:** Make sure leaders complete the Leader Report correctly. If volunteers change positions during the Weekend, make sure that information is corrected. The Ezra Report drives data. Due diligence + Timely reporting is key. Beverly opened [www.KairosOfGeorgia.org](http://www.KairosOfGeorgia.org) to show Download for Leader and Coordinator files. “Donate Now” is where one can enter an amount, direct to specific facility. Donation shows up under “Other Contributions”. Beverly opened each tab and showed where to update Kairos Kalendar.
- DOC Updates – Badging: Frustrations noted. Process has not improved. Conversations with Dr. Turner and Chaplain Cotton at DOC revealed their “pain points” – delays in badging and renewals denied. DOC is short staffed. Investigators have a large workload. Deep diving into social media accounts for new employees, returning employees, ministries like Kairos and others is delaying process. Investigators are looking for parolees, being on visitation list of an inmate or putting money on books or other limiting activities. Chaplains or Wardens may also deny an applicant for not being committed to the ministry (attendance at Reunions and Retreats.) If applicant is denied, DOC will not give reason on the phone or by mail due to inability to verify ID. In some facilities the Warden or Chaplain can extend

*“You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to Me, He gives you.”— John 15:16 (MSG)*



## Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

- grace to allow those waiting for a badge to enter on driver's license. How can volunteers investigate denial? Good question. Problems have surfaced with emailing to gmail accounts (DJJ). Sometimes the browser being used is an issue. Keep the State informed. The State Chair will try to advocate but has been told, "if denied, reapply in a year." **Do not let badge expire!** Renewals are processed quickly. Point potential volunteers to KO where no badge is needed or invite person to attend AC meeting.
- AC Focus – Training: Thirteen ACs have attended AC training. Next one is July 13, knowing an earlier date would be preferred. If your AC has not received annual training on position job descriptions, sign up for training in July. Feedback from attendee: Great content for new volunteers.
  - Annual Conference – Sign up now. Airline information is needed for shuttle purposes. Can type "TBD" and add later. Our goal is to have a representative from each AC. State will pay Conference Fee. AC needs to pay travel expenses.

### 11. Advisory Council Updates

- Augusta State Medical, Craig Stone – Just held K #68. Instructional is 4/27/24. #69 in the Fall will soon be on the Kairos Kalendar.
- Wilcox, John Glaize– After 4 years finally a day Retreat was held. They are hoping to host a Weekend, but their volunteer base is dwindling, partially due to badging issue.
- Pulaski, Eugenia Helms – Trying to get Prayer and Share groups in each dorm, led by Kairos Graduates. They haven't been allowed to do Retreats or Reunions, but just completed #51 Weekend. They will be doing a short Bible study in a month or so, getting donations for materials (Kairos Bibles). Prayer and Share will follow to help encourage residents. The issue is lack of officers.
- Rogers, Tommy Casey – Held first Weekend in November 2023 with 20 Team Members. The number of participants doubled for Reunions on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays. Consider volunteers from inactive facilities to serve at Rogers. Their next Weekend is in November. Beverly noted Inactive as Autry, Burruss, (who is coming back), Calhoun, Dooly (request for Kairos to come back), Macon and Ware (received request for Kairos to come back).
- Washington, William Zachary – "We're a mess." Two AC members resigned due to issues with the State's denial of Leader Nomination.
- Walker, Michael Vaden – They held a March Weekend. Nineteen new volunteer badges were denied. He reported that they found an excellent recruiter for volunteers. Beverly asked that he send her the name and contact information.

*"You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to Me, He gives you."— John 15:16 (MSG)*



## Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

- Lee State, Trent Jennings – Calhoun volunteers now serve at Lee State, where Prayer and Share groups meet every Tuesday night and Saturday Reunions are held every month. They may have a Weekend in the Fall. They hosted an Outreach dinner with 10-15 in attendance. The challenge is to inspire new recruits to go through the training process.
- Kairos Outside Georgia, Nita Hodges – A Reunion is scheduled for May 18, an Outreach event in June and a Weekend next November.
- Emanuel, Gladys Collins - #18 was held in April. Instructional is 4/27/24. All is going well with recruiting new volunteers. The Leader is on track for October Weekend.
- Smith - Thom Staub - #17 is May 2-5. They have held Reunions since February. Average of 80 graduates are attending. Ware volunteers are serving, although they are struggling with limited volunteers. Note, to help with consistency, hold Weekends, even if a smaller number so Leaders can be on track. A minimum of 3 tables is required.
- Phillips, Jeff Parow – Weekend #28 was cancelled. April 6, the facility was placed on lockdown due to violence. The Weekend will be moved to an October date. Lots of cookies were given to the Prison Staff (a good way to support the staff). A reunion is scheduled for May 18. Pray for the staff and the residents to reduce the violence.
- Coastal, Roy Paul – A Reunion is taking place today (April 27). Large turnout necessitated dividing residents to A-M days and N-Z alternating months to limit crowd size. Prayer and Share groups are Tuesday afternoons. In March, volunteers were allowed to go in with Visitor Passes. A new Warden will be in place soon. Badging is their biggest obstacle. Their Chaplain is also an Officer. Staffing is an issue.
- Metro, Lester Harvey – They will have a Weekend in May. He thanked Beverly for the badging information, which may give volunteers some hope.
- Valdosta, Bill Holt – They have lots of leaders approved. It helps to have three in the Que. They are “in good shape” for #47 and 48. A recommendation was made to keep good relationships with the Chaplain and the Warden, who may extend grace when it comes to facility entry. Numbers have boomed in both the Annex and the Main facility. They still have not gotten outside persons in for Closing due to lack of Officers. They have lots of new volunteers, but many experienced ones have had to drop due to age and health issues.
- Hancock, Jerry Kirby – the last Team Training is today, with the first Weekend since pre-Covid being next weekend. They will have 4 Tables. Washington volunteers have also assisted with this movement.
- Macon YDC, Angela Johnson – They need prayer. Their AC is dwindling as is the volunteer base. Please cover them in Prayer.

*“You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to Me, He gives you.”— John 15:16 (MSG)*



## **Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.**

Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

- Whitworth, Diane Morgan – Weekend #14 was held last weekend with six tables. The Holy Spirit showed up big time.
- Lee Arrendale – Their last Reunion was held in March. Some volunteers are now serving at Whitworth.
- **NOTE:** For all communities having a Fall Weekend, please be sure to place on Kairos Kalendar!

### 12. Prayer Focus

- Prayer Vigil – May 3-5, 2024: Sign up online to participate. Very timely as it comes on the heels of the National Day of Prayer (May 2<sup>nd</sup>).
- Specific prayer requests: Pray for upcoming Smith Weekend, May 2-5, P. Williams (Hancock), L. Wilson (Lee Arrendale), T. Staub (Smith)
- For these and any unspoken requests, Beverly prayed a blessing over us from the Amplified Bible version of Numbers 6:25-27.

### 13. Benediction / Adjournment – Rev. Jim Smith Prayed us out.

Next Meeting – August 31, 2024, via Zoom

*“You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to Me, He gives you.”— John 15:16 (MSG)*