

**Kairos of South Carolina State Chapter Committee Meeting
Columbia, South Carolina
July 31, 2010**

Present: Billy Gaines, Forrest Gilmore, John Williams, Jon Skytta, William Mathis, Bob Modder, Joe Cavallaro, Glenn Hesselbart, Steve Gordy, Lew Warren, Butler Gore Jr., Gail Randall, Melissa Walser, Calvin Newman, Thornton Crouch, Ken and Rose Cannon, Jim Holly, and Bill Leidel.

Forrest Gilmore opened the meeting with readings from Psalm 127 and Luke 12:22... and a prayer.

Billy Gaines handed out an updated agenda and started the meeting at 9:35am.

Bill Leidel noted that the minutes had been sent via email and a few copies were available for distribution. Modifications were made to the Music Coordinator Report and the minutes were then accepted as modified.

Treasurer / Financial Secretary Report

Lew Warren provided a detailed written report on expenses (\$80,151) and income (\$81,925) for the first half of 2010. He reported that we have some institutions that have spent more than they received and that there are some deposit receipts coming in without institutional identification. Mackie Manning was asked to speak to the Kershaw A/C to insure that their receipts are identified so that their income/expense reports are accurate. Lew read a letter from Christ Our King Church in Mt. Pleasant where the congregation tithes their weekly collections to worthy organizations and included Kairos Camille Griffin Graham Correctional in that tithe. Rev. Msgr. James A. Carter then suggested that we do likewise (passing on of faith and generosity).

International Committee Report

Jerry Bode, presently attending the Summer Conference, sent in his report by email. Jerry reported that a new (Red) manual has been approved by the IC. Many changes have been made and there were recommendations that will also be incorporated. The manual will be proof read in the near future and will then go to press. Twelve beta Institutions have tested the changes and have commented very favorably. This manual will be expected to be used for the Spring 2011 Weekends.

The Excellence Initiative program is voluntary at this time, but approved motions will make it mandatory based on written plans being developed in line with the new manual.

Committee Reports:

Agape Report

Ginny Schroeder, by email, reported that bags and general agape will be mailed to Lay Leaders for the Spring Weekends and we will reduce that amount of agape letters from some states so that the representation will be more evenly divided over the U.S. and abroad.

Supply Coordinator

Thornton asked that those who need supplies should contact Jerry Bode who is storing them at his home. Since we will be introducing a new manual in the Spring, it was suggested that we get the “Blue” manuals into the hands of the new volunteers and not be concerned about getting paid for them. Boxes of agape materials (crosses, Freedom Guides, etc) were handed out to all Institutions at the meeting.

Training Report

Bert Webb, by email, reported that there were about 20 volunteers present at the State Training on July 18th. There were 9 Weekend Leaders present, 1 A/C chair, 1 Kitchen Coordinator, 6 Inside Coordinators, and Ridgeland had 5 people preparing for their first Weekend.

Music Coordinator Report

Ken Cannon has emailed all State musicians regarding the searchable on-line database on the McCormick website and the alphabetized list of songs on the State website. These databases should be considered a resource and not an “approved” listing. If anyone has a song that they would like to use and can’t find on the website, they should contact Ken for a follow-up.

By-Laws Report

Steve Gordy noted that there was no activity recently.

Observer Program Report

Steve Gordy handed out an outline of the Institutions we serve, who will be the Observer on the Fall 2010 Weekends and how many reports have been submitted in the past. We are slowly achieving compliance with the requirement that all institutions submit a self-observation report after each Weekend. We will start to institute Outside Observers during the Spring 2011 Weekends. There was a lengthy discussion regarding costs involved in doing an observation of a different institution than the one we normally serve. A motion was made by S. Gordy and seconded by G. Hesselbart that “Additional expenses for the Outside Observer are to be reimbursed as an expense of conducting the Weekend of the Institution being observed”. This motion was unanimously accepted with a suggestion that S. Gordy formally define the parameters of the expenses.

A suggestion was also made that the Observer Program be added to the Training program so that observers are trained in what their particular role is on the Weekend. At this time,

the plans are that three Institutions will be observed by an “outsider” each year. This will then involve each Institution being observed by an “outsider” once every three to four years.

Trailer Coordinator Report

Billy Gaines asked that all trailers be looked at for security reasons. Doors need to be secured with locks and trailer hitch balls blocked. For insurance reasons, we may need to show that we made every effort toward security if we need to make a claim.

Head Coordinator Report

Steve Gordy reported that there was no new business at this time.

Food Coordinator Report

Melissa Zak-Walser reported that she was happy to see that food expenses are going down; a good sign. Kitchens could reduce the amount of special meals by eliminating food items such as pork, as many do not consume for religious and health reasons – several institutions have already implemented this with much success. This will make it easier on the kitchen staff and easier for distribution in the prison. A new kitchen manual on CD has been distributed to each institution’s state rep. – please be sure the kitchen leaders receive it before the Fall weekends. If there are any questions about kitchen menus or kitchen leaders, please contact Melissa at kairoskitchens@yahoo.com

Fund Raising Report

No report at this time.

Clergy Oversight Report

No report at this time.

Database Report

Forrest Gilmore reported that he now has full control over the State website. All correspondence needing to be published on the website should be sent to him at feg0420@wctel.net Forrest is presently redesigning the webpage and would like to have 3-4 volunteers to act as feedback/critique regarding these changes. The future website will have the table of Weekend Leaders for each Institution, archived minutes for past information, as well as other enhancements.

Institutional Reports:

Allendale

No report at this time. Bill Steiner has removed himself as CCR.

Broad River

Lew Warren reported that their A/C is working to get procedures into compliance. It looks like six tables for the Fall Weekend and team meetings have started. The Weekend will be held the third weekend in October.

Camile Griffin Graham

No report at this time.

Evans

John Skytta reported that Evans is looking toward having seven tables at their Fall Weekend on 9/16-19.

Kershaw

Butler Gore reported that three team meetings have already been held for the Fall Weekend and Kershaw is looking at having six tables.

Leath

Rose Cannon reported that the team has a good relationship with the Institution. The team is going to a new church, in Greenwood, for the Fall Weekend and is also going to have a new kitchen coordinator. Team meetings have already begun. Rose noted that the last Weekend's box of supplies was found missing at the last minute and would like to know who signed for the pickup this past Spring.

Lee

Glenn Hesselbart reported that they have had two team meetings and are looking at a large group of new recruits. The A/C is trying to institute the "3 and out" concept and is taking a strong approach to the Weekend activities. They expect six tables.

Leiber

Billy Gaines reported that Lieber has had no team meetings to date but expects to serve 6-7 tables in the Fall. Their Journey program is meeting up with resistance from the COs but the team is continuing to go into the prison with love in their hearts.

McCormick

Steve Gordy reported that the McCormick team is having their second team meeting today. Things are going well and they expect to have seven tables.

Perry

Bill Mathis reported that the team meetings, for the Fall Weekend, have started and they expect to have seven tables. The Perry team recently had a problem when one volunteer accidentally walked into the prison with a tobacco pouch at the last Reunion. Bill mentioned this as a warning to others that we need to be more careful before entering the Institutions we serve.

Tyger River

Bob Modder reported that their A/C is working on compliance to International requirements. Elections are being planned. Tyger River has changed to a brunch on Saturday's so the team is now working on providing a lunch during their Reunions.

Kairos Outside

Gail Randall reported that KO had their first “annual” fundraiser and was able to raise about \$2000 at a hamburger/hotdog/live entertainment outing held at a local church. KO will be conducting their Weekend at Camp Nazarene in Leesville/Batesburg in order to entice low country team members and guests. Future KO Leaders are coming from the list of former “guests” which is exactly the direction KO is striving for and should strengthen their program.

Gail handed out mail boxes with suggested donation items that each South Carolina team should fill and send back. These items will help defray costs for their Weekend and since they serve ladies from all over the state, they feel this to be a worthwhile show of support from the other Institutions.

Election of Institutional Leaders

Leath – Suzanne Modder was nominated for Wkend #18 and Rhonda Cox for Wkend #19. Both nominees were prayed for and unanimously accepted.

Lee – Mike Sheedy was nominated for Wkend #32 and Fred Lupton for Wkend #33. Both nominees were prayed for and unanimously accepted.

Perry – Bill Watkins was nominated for Wkend #28. Bill was prayed for and unanimously accepted.

Ridgeland – Charlie Horrell was nominated for Wkend #2, Jim Cato for Wkend #3, and Joe Cavallaro for Wkend #4. All three nominees were prayed for and unanimously accepted.

Kairos Outside – Angie Hudson was nominated for Wkend #10 and Lori Stout for Wkend #11. Both nominees were prayed for and unanimously accepted.

Kershaw – Reid Johnson was nominated for Wkend #24 and Keith Manus for Wkend #25. Both nominees were prayed for and unanimously accepted.

Old Business:

No old business was brought up at this time.

New Business:

- Joe Cavallaro reported that the Ridgeland Correctional Fall Weekend date needed to be changed to October 21-24 due to availability of the kitchen at the church they will be using as a home base. Mat Brown, who was expected to be the Leader for #2 had to step down due to wife’s health. Their Kitchen Coordinator and Assistant Inside Coordinator have attended State Training; Billy Gaines has volunteered to serve as their first Inside Coordinator. Ridgeland has signed

Institutional Agreement/Memorandums with the Warden and Chaplain. They will be using Great Swamp Baptist Church in Ridgeland for training and meal preparation and will share a trailer with Broad River/Camille Griffin Graham. Ridgeland is planning on having six tables and intend to have a seventh table for training new volunteers. They will have veteran Kairos volunteers serving on the team and note that there is a great deal of interest building among the inmates for this Weekend. Archie Pier has stepped down as A/C Chair and Mat Brown will be taking his place.

- The State Committee has received a letter from John Thompson, International President, announcing a signed agreement with Mentor/Caregiver's Choice, a nationwide program that helps connect the children of incarcerated parents with mentors in their communities. Melissa Walser noted that 18 Kairos Outside guests have applied for Mentoring Scholarships which KO is promoting through their Weekends. The Mentors, similar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, are checked through SLED in South Carolina.
- John Williams reported that one of the many things covered during the A/C Training recently conducted, is the need to keep fresh faces on the A/C Committees and team for future growth. A/Cs should be prepared for the upcoming audit and be watchful for changes in present procedures. John reported that about 50 people were in attendance at the training.
- John Williams outlined some of the problems we see in the prison system and our need to be aware of things that may affect our program but that we need to work with. As an ex-offender, John said that it is very difficult, if not impossible, for us to judge what goes on inside when we are living with outside society rules. Favors in the form of money, food, etc. are a common occurrence in prison and all we can do is pray that our brothers in Christ are strong enough to withstand the temptations. There are high stress levels on the yard and we need to be aware, at all times, where we are and what we say. We need to remind ourselves that we are to listen, listen, love, love.
- Bill Leidel spoke about the Weekend picture poster, the length of trouble it is to make up, and the now available CD which teams can take to a printing house and have multiple posters made up for minimal cost. CDs were handed out to all in attendance.
- Lew Warren asked that we all keep in mind that Ted Pappas will not be able to serve after this year and we need to recruit a new Treasurer. Lew said that he would be willing to serve through next year as Financial Secretary.
- Billy Gaines, Melissa Walser, Mackie Manning, and John Williams will serve as a Nominations Committee to present candidates for State office at the Winter Retreat.

- We all agreed that our Winter Retreat will be held at Santee on December 3-4, 2010 if Mackie can arrange for rooms.
- Forrest Gilmore reiterated that we need to bring any problems we have in the prison to the attention of the Chaplain and SCDC officers in a timely manner. When we don't address them promptly, the SCDC automatically acts defensively and ends up banning a Kairos volunteer or team from the Institution for a period of time.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Leidel
Secretary

Our next State Committee meeting will be held on October 30th with the Winter Retreat on December 3-4th.