

**Restore Georgia Board Meeting Minutes**  
**03/08/2021 - 7PM**  
**via Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Brendan Spaar, Director; Bill Paul, Managing Director; Andy Stein, Treasurer; Waleisah Wilson; Member at Large

**ABSENT:** Beverly Cochran, Secretary

**MEMBERS:** Julian and Richard

1. **CALLED MEETING TO ORDER** - by Director Brendan Spaar

2. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of December, January, February Meeting Minutes; motion to adopt by Bill, seconded by Andy; motion passed.
- B. Restore Georgia Zoom Account: 2 part expenditure\_\$65 for Tech Soup and going forward it will be half price thanks to Tech Soup. This year we will pretty much pay full price.

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- A. Approval of any expenses: None
- B. 4Q 2020 report: \$2,033.00 from 4th qtr, now \$2400 in bank account. \$400 increase in donations during the past 3 months.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Regional/National Update - Brendan Nothing much going on with National; discussing a possible virtual mini-conference, but won't take the place of the regular conference in October. Looking at "how to tell your story and communicate with law-makers about your story." Georgia has a small spot in the digest, so anything to submit has to be in by Friday.
- B. Constituent Services Update - Bill Paul Attends SORB meetings; one coming up this Friday, we are recognized and get our name included in their minutes; we are the only outside group attending currently. Attended the GASA meeting in Feb. and didn't realize that Tracy Albert, the Ex. Dir. of SORB was so involved with GASA; she owns a counseling service in North GA. A paper on Mandatory Reporting Laws was presented that dealt with providers reporting any illegal activities. Reported that he thought the state meeting and the Fearless group meeting was exceptional. Information from that included Mr. Moore with Housing for all Felons has 19 beds in the Stone Mtn. area and specializes in SO's. He will have 8 female beds coming up this month. Also, someone from Prison Release Hotline and Ms. Wilson's faith project were all invaluable. We received a couple phone calls from the Augusta Public Defender's office regarding housing issues and he thinks that he answered them satisfactorily. We still have to build the databases for employment and housing. Just as a reminder on the Regional initiatives Region 1 is led by Brendan, Region 2 by Julian, Region 3 by Andy, Region 6 by Bill and Region 7 by Wiliesha. Regions 4 (Valdosta area) and 5 (Savannah area) are still open. More involvement is needed in all regions to get involved in activities and meetings, i.e. ACLU & Faith based. April is 2nd Chance month and presentations have been made to county commissioners in Gwinnett, Gilmer and Cherokee counties. We need to expand on this. Brendan has already run this by the state and the governor signed off on it. Brendan stated that CiviCRM needs to be

cleaned up and need to track who we talk to and what we do; please add in if it is not listed. This information can be used to hopefully secure re-entry grants to possibly pay someone to answer phones live.

- C. Social Media Update - Waleisah All 4 social media outlets are being updated regularly. They are getting more likes and responses now. 28 followers and 26 likes on the Restore Georgia Coalition site. Brendan pointed out that Andy has the Registry Matters podcast that comes out every Monday night and asked that Waleisah retweet his posts--she will "follow" him. Brendan stated that we have a YouTube channel now that posts the Bi-monthly meeting, as well as info on HB 720; 347 and 194. On our Google Ads account we receive "play money" to be used on ads from searches. 2,000 people have seen our ad and 491 people have clicked on Restore Georgia. It would have cost us \$972 for the ad without this account.
- D. 2021 Legislative Update - Brendan - Thinks HB 347 is dead for this year; 194 has until midnight to cross over to the Senate for action. Representative Kennard wrote a powerful speech to give if HB 194 goes to the floor. A draft was emailed to the BOD. (Bill stated that he did not receive the draft). Good news: SB 105 unanimously passed in the senate and came over to the House. This is probation relief for everyone. Hopefully it will pass in the House.
- E. Justice Reform Partnership Update - Brendan The topic at tomorrow's meeting will be All Things Re-entry. Brendan stated that Restore Georgia does not actively push the 2nd Chance agenda because they do not include registrants. He will be making a presentation tomorrow at the end of the meeting on "Registry 101" to provide background information.
- F. Fearless Update - Julian: 14 persons total at the meeting sharing diversity in situations. Tara did a good presentation and it was stated that it didn't seem like a first meeting. Next meeting will be 3/25 at 6:30 p.m. Encouraging people to sign up on the website.
- G. Meeting with Gwinnett Church - Brendan - Brendan was informed that he is not allowed to worship at any of the Andy Stanley churches anymore per the Director of Member Services. Was told that he could get everything online. They run the GBI database from membership or donations to the church. Their insurance requires them to act once they know of a registrant. By their actions they are conducting criminal background checks on everyone without consent or knowledge.
  - Approval for \$100 to be allocated for raising awareness to issue at North Point's Gwinnett Church campus. Bill made a motion to approve, seconded by Waleisah; discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.
- H. Outreach letter to new registrants - This is a project that Beverly brought before the board, but she is not present to make a presentation.

**5. ANY ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS** - Waleisah asked if there was anything planned for 2nd Chance Month. There will be a Bi-monthly meeting in April and can discuss; will speak with Mr. Moore to see if he has anything to present. Brendan made a commitment to do a FB live on Registry 101 in April. Also, Bill brought up Amazon Smiles that donates to non-profit organizations. Brendan stated that we have to be in the PUB78 database with IRS and they have not updated to show us as a 501(C)3, but as soon as it updates we will apply.

**6. NEXT MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021 7:00 PM**

**7. ADJOURN**