

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Georgia Walk to Emmaus was held on April 15, 2025 at Park Avenue in Valdosta. Chair Tony Gunter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

The following members were present : Tony Gunter, Stan Lankford, Melissa Kostyu, Pablo Campa, Carole Nelson, John Holt, Patti Minton, Michelle Epps, Kathy Roberson, Heath Sellars, Dustin Merriman, Joe Corbett.

Call to Order/ Prayer/Welcome

Tony Gunter opened the meeting in prayer.

New Business:

Lay Directors reports Walks March 2025:

Carole Nelson, women's lay director, stated that it was a very good weekend there were several salvations and rededications. There were many issues with the facilities at camp Tygart. There was a weather issue that was handled well. There was a need to go off script from the format for Saturday night due to a pilgrim. The issue was related to a heretical performance related to transgenderism. The Board representative proposes that we revise the script in the kitchen manual.

The change on the weekend was highly regarded by other workers.

The kitchen head felt that the change was last minute. The revelation of the need to make the revision did not come until late in the weekend.

Stan Lankford stated that a revision for the skit may be in order.

Kathy Roberson suggested we seek other communities to see what they do for Saturday entertainment.

Patti Minton asked the question, "Who could be put to the task of seeking script ideas?"

Michelle Epps and Heath Sellars volunteered to research new script options.

John Holt men's lay director stated that it was a good weekend. There were issues with restrooms not being available. There have been several men who have attended reunion groups.

Bob Burns Board representative stated that the power of the Holy Spirit was present with the men's team. There was an issue with a rogue farm animal during the weekend. Camp Tygart allowed simultaneous use of facilities to other individuals. In the future, the contract for lease needs to stipulate sole use of the property during the walks. An emmaus worker came to set up early before leased time and was not professional while speaking with the camp representative. We need to make clear the expectations of Emmaus workers. The use of signs may be helpful in sendoff for pilgrims to get properly checked in.

Team members need to be properly vetted for the weekend. Issues with sleeping during the video and being on phones occurred during the weekend.

Bob requested that the song Decolores be explained during the weekend.

Projection of song lyrics was helpful on the weekend. Kitchen heads need to ensure that training for the kitchen team includes staying out of the conference room. The issues with the facilities have been ongoing. The kitchen needs to be aware of streamlining communication practices.

We may need signs at the entrance to Camp Tygart for the privacy of the weekend

Stan Lankford added that there was an offer for us to use the tabernacle for gatherings. Camp Tygart is experiencing financial difficulty with drain fields and air conditioners.

Bob further mentioned that assets were left out from Chrysalis in the Agape room.

People saw the face of Jesus.

Bob Burns left the meeting

Stan Lankford Suggested that we cultivate a plan B scenario with Camp Tygart when facilities fail. Tony Gunter stated that he would speak to Lisa, Pete and Jerry.

Secretaries minutes: All members were emailed a copy of the February, 2025 minutes to review prior to the meeting. After review and request for changes and or additions, Kathy Roberson made a motion to accept the minutes as written. John Holt seconded the motion. Upon a vote by show of hands, the motion carried and the Minutes were approved. The minutes will be submitted to Melissa Kostyu for upload to the SGWTE website.

Treasurer's report:

Income

March Gathering deposit \$233.00

Emmaus walk deposit \$12470.00

Online \$5073.09

Total Deposits \$17776.09

Expenses

Check number 2604 Edward Gunter 508.00 Golf Carts

2605 Lee Turner 114.00

2606 Crosses 333.91

2607 Sellars 309.43 kitchen supplies

2608 Tygart 3333.75

2610 Tygart 3333.75

Purchasing total/food \$ 5990.10

Total expenses \$13994.94

Total operating Account Current Balance 13373.96

Scholarship Account

Deposits 0
Expenses 0
Balance \$15445.82

Richard Trawick fund balance \$1070.00

Walk Balance \$3392.00

Melissa Kostyu motioned to accept the treasurer's report as submitted; Patti Minton seconded the motion. Upon a verbal vote, the motion was carried.

New business

Focus is on the Gatherings

Previous board meetings mentioned the possibility of quarterly gatherings. Tony mentioned quarterly gatherings March, June, and September. He inquired about renting Tygart on a Saturday with the Pool \$500.00 was the quoted price. We also have discussed including Chrysalis. Barbeques and bouncy houses were mentioned.

Another Scenario is two large gatherings per year at Tygart. Stan Lankford volunteered to be gathering coordinator. He will inquire about the use of Tygart for Gathering. Kathy Roberson also volunteered to help. Proposed Dates March and October. October 18th 2025 would have been the Saturday of the woman's walk if we had it this fall.

Final Scenario is a gathering 4 times a year to include support for Chrysalis in January.
January, March, August, October.
Aug 23, 2025
October 25, 2025
January 24, 2026
March 28, 2026

Stan Lankford made a motion to approve 4 gatherings per year. Melissa Hughes seconded the motion. Upon a vote by show of hands, the motion was carried and the motion was approved. This is contingent upon scheduling with facilities.

Patti Minton and Melissa Hughes discussed Lay directors for upcoming walks

Jason Rinker and Laura Huff have been recommended. After a brief discussion, Kathy Roberson made a motion to approve the nominations. John Holt seconded the motion. Upon a vote by show of hands, the motion was carried and the motion was approved.

Melissa Hughes will send out an email about progressive servanthood. This will help to inform potential community members on team selection.

Patti Minton is encouraging sponsoring Clergy. A request was made for us to inquire in our local churches. A consideration was discussed for clergy to attend outside this local community.

Tony reminded us to sign up for the BAND app.

Also we need to approve the standing rules and bylaws for 2025. An electronic vote will be taken in BAND.

Melissa Hughes mentioned that we need to review the participation rules in the standing rules. The goal is to move to two walks a year presently the rules are overlooked due to time difference between walks.

Old Business

Committee Reports

Agape:

Candlelight:

Community Trainer: Looking for a community trainer to teach and be a point of contact for sponsors.

Clean up: Stan Lankford Jerry allowed the community to come back the next day. Getting people to help is still difficult. Doing all things unto the Lord.

Clergy: There is a great deal of difficulty with availability of Clergy for walks.

Face to Face: Carole Nelson Sept 10-13 2025 are the dates for an upcoming walk. Lay Director is Bill McGraw. Looking toward 2026 in Thomasville and the steering community becoming a board.

Gatherings:

Kitchen Buying:

Kitchen Coordinator: Morris Landrum can you prepare a list of certified Kitchen Heads to Kathy Roberson? For future lay directors.

LD Coordinator/ Boxes:

Music:

Prayer Vigil: Stewart Ward has accepted the position.

Pre Walk Coordinator

Registrar: Michelle Epps Male candidates 15 applications. 23 applications confirmed currently. Numbers are looking good for us to continue the conversation about adding back fall walks.

Send Off: The walks went well. The rain was difficult for the woman's walk. It was managed well.

Team Selection: A great job was done by team selection.

Technology: Covenants due in Ministry Manager. Team needs to be uploaded to the ministry manager. We need to recertify the credit card info.

Worship: need to seek a community member who lives close to Tygart. Pete Moore is still operating in the role.

Closing of Meeting

The next meeting is in August

There being no further business Stewart Ward closed the meeting in prayer. Stan Lankford made a motion to adjourn the meeting Melissa Kostyu seconded the motion. Upon a vote by a show of Hands, the motion unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Kostyu

Secretary