



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting , 9,2025

Members Present (Zoom)

Brian Sylvester President
Lisa Cotton, Vice President
Sheila Morris Treasurer
Lori Carlsen Secretary (zoom)
David Yankee Board Member
Jenna Broom Board Member
Jim Barr
Brendan Brown (AgeLinc)

Candice Clotfelter
Christina Newton
Harry Carlsen
Rex Schadow
Maggie Osborne
Bert Morton
Lee Korty
Mike Johnson

Meeting called to order at 4:09 pm

Approval of minutes from February 9,2025 Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes, Jenna seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report- Sheila provided printed reports and gave a verbal report. Harry made a motion to accept and file for audit, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Membership- Brian stated nothing to report

Social Media- Brian reported that the Facebook group had 93 posts this month which were viewed by 3,778 members, an increase of 226%. There are 13 new members bringing the total to 904. On another note, the gender spread with members is beginning to balance out as well. For many years, the membership was heavily female but this has become 59% female and 41% male at this time. Our most popular posts for the month were Brian's interview on Channel 20 with 958, the Phoenix Center's Strays for Gays event with 476, and Logan County Pride's sponsorship with the Ritz at 441.

The Facebook page had 61 posts this month which were viewed by which reached 3,300 members, and 803 members visited the page. There were 33 new members added bringing out total to 1,012. Our top posts for the month were the first Illinois Times ad for the Ritz with 1,402, our event with the Cat's Pyjamas Café with 1,399, and our ad for the Pritzker Study with 660.

The webpage has received 586 sessions this month, an increase of 143%. The sessions are lasting over 6 minutes and are coming through via Google (at 247), Direct (at 182) and Illinois Times (at 92). The most popular page viewed are the Ritz pages and the most clicked item is the Ritz Flyer.

Activities- Lisa reported we are currently focusing on the Ritz event.

Finance- Sheila reported we've just been working on the Ritz.

Partners & Supporters- Brian reported Planned Parenthood of Illinois is having an in-person and online celebration for Transgender Day of Visibility on 3/29/25 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Bloomington Public Library. Registration for the event can be found out the CORAL website.

Ritz- Lori reported that the Ritz planning is going well. We currently have 31 Sponsors, around 80 Advertisers. Table and Ticket sales are going well.

Lisa made the motion to accept committee reports, Rex seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business/Event Wrap-Ups:

Phoenix Center Trivia Night- Members who attended stated it went well with CORAL taking 7th out of 28. They had a good turnout. But CORAL needs a cool name for our team.

Cat's Pyjama's Brunch- Brian reported that he, Lisa, and Sheila attended. While the attendance was fairly low, they had a steady number of people stopping by and probably made about \$100.00 resulting for CORAL's presence.

AgeLinc's Mardi Gras- Brian stated the event went well.

Black History Ball- Brian attended the event with Fifth Street/SARA Center. It was at this event that he ran into Bernadette Gordon and was able to remind her about the Ritz, and also got Frontier International to also have an ad.

Springfield Pridefest- Brian completed the application for the \$3K sponsorship for the stage and received a thank you from Teresa with confirmation that CORAL will be sponsoring the stage at the event. Lisa will get us a double booth.

Hoogland- “The Prom”- Bert stated the ad will be featured on the back cover of the Ritz program. The dates are June 27th-29th and July 5th-6th.

Phoenix Center Prom- Will be on April 12, 2025 at the Inn 835. CORAL will be an advertiser.

New Business

Vetting Committee- Brian reported that it’s time to create the vetting committee for the upcoming elections in May. This year’s elections will involve president, secretary, and two members at large as Shelley Vaughn has tendered her resignation. Brian asked who would like to be on the committee? Mike agreed to be on it. Brian’s, Lori’s and David’s positions are up for re-election. All have agreed to run for another term. Lori stated she’d like help with the monthly meeting minutes next year during the Ritz planning. Especially the last 3 months.

Jacksonville Pridefest- Brian reported they will be conducting their Pridefest on 5/31 from noon to 5:00 p.m.

Logan County Pridefest- Lisa reported they will be having their Pridefest on 6/7 in downtown Lincoln again from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Lori made the motion for CORAL to be a Red Sponsor (\$1,000.00) again this year, Jenna seconded. Motion carried. CORAL will be the entertainment sponsor.

Knights Family Drag Bingo- Brian reported that he was contacted by Duane Williams about the bingo event and they are now in need of a 501c (3) non-profit to sponsor the event. He wanted to know if CORAL would be willing to sponsor the bingo event. Harry made a motion to discuss using our non-profit to sponsor the event, Lee seconded. Lee stated that he didn’t think CORAL should do it. There was much discussion on the subject. A suggestion was made that this would be a one-time sponsorship only. Harry made the motion for CORAL to sponsor the Drag Bingo using our 501c (3) one time only, Rex seconded. Vote was 12 yea, 2 nay. Motion carried,

SAA Sponsorship for Paint the Street- Brian reported that SAA’s Paint the Street will be on June 28th and asked if CORAL would be participating again this year. The

price was \$40.00 last year. Rex made the motion to sponsor this event, Lori seconded. Motion carried.

SAA Art Synergy- SAA has reached out to Brian to participate in this year's Art Synergy fundraising event. The cost of the sponsorship for CORAL would be \$500.00 and/or 8 tickets. Rex made the motion to sponsor the event, Mike seconded. Motion carried.

Habitat for Humanity Music & Trivia Night- Jim reported they will be holding the event at the K of C a table costs \$250.00 it is a table of 9. Jim stated that rounds can be sponsored for \$100.00. The event is being held March 14th. Rex made a motion to sponsor a round at the event, Mike seconded. Motion carried.

Lisa made a motion to adjourn, Harry seconded, Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.