



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting November 09, 2025

Members Present and on Zoom

Brian Sylvester President		Lee Korty
Lisa Cotton, Vice President		Jim Barr
Sheila Morris Treasurer	Zoom	April Poole
Francine Turner Secretary		Sam Downs
David Yankee Board Member	Absent	Mike Johnson
Rex Schadow Board Member		Olive Gray
Kevin Schuster Board Member-		Kennedy Gray
Absent		Candice Clotfelter
Lamar Walls	Absent	Bob Immel
		Bert Morton
		Lori Carlsen

Meeting called to order at 4:12 pm

Approval of minutes from October 12, 2025 Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes, Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report- Sheila gave a verbal report. Lisa made a motion to accept and file for audit, Candice seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Membership- Brian reported that he reached out to three FB members for membership conversations. They were Jake, Eduardo, and Casey. One responded, stating that he had moved out of the area but liked to see how CORAL was doing since he left.

Communications - Brian stated that the Facebook group had 14 new members, bringing the total to 970. The Facebook page had three new members bringing

the total to 1,087. There were 49 posts for the month with the top three being 5th Street's Soup Fundraiser at 594, the UIS Laramie Project Play at 494, and the Pridetober event with 243. The webpage is averaging 205 site visits with the most popular pages being our homepage and our calendar. On another note, a new parameter of the analytics is picking up AI directed requests to our website and it detected that 96 inquiries came in through AI media.

Activities- Lisa stated she had nothing to report.

Finance- Sheila asked for \$595 invoice to pay for Illinois Times Thanksgiving and Lisa made a motion to approve payment and Rex seconded it. There was a motion for the Board to approve the transfer of \$5000.00 to pay for start up costs for the Ritz.

Partners & Supporters – Lisa had a conversation with the Shriners about a Coral/Shriners collaboration.

Brian is in discussion with DSI about CORAL supporting a future walk.

The Jaycee parade is Dec. 6, 5:30pm. CORAL will be represented in this parade and may walk with the 5th Street Renaissance/SARA group. Candice said she would be willing to ask Walmart for candy donations to pass out to children.

Lee made a motion to accept and Candice seconded the motion.

Ritz - Lori is sending out thank you letters to our new and old Ritz community sponsors about how appreciative CORAL was for their financial support last year and what programs were supported through their donations.

Please let Lori or Burt know of any businesses or organizations that CORAL needs to approach for our fundraising efforts.

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

Old Business/Event Wrap-Ups:

EVENT WRAP-UPS

1. **Know Your Rights Workshop** - No one from CORAL was able to go, no report.
2. **5th Street Campout for Veterans** - Robb reported. There was lots of rain, but CORAL members made it to the event. Approximately \$12,000 in donations has been counted as of this point in time.
3. **Pridetober** - Due to the storms coming through, Brian decided to cancel the set-up of the CORAL tent.
4. **Phoenix Center Gayla** - Phoenix Center presented CORAL a 'Community Partner with Pride' award. Lisa Cotton proudly accepted the award for Coral and appreciated that she could represent CORAL as a 'handicapable person'. She also indicated that the event structure allowed for many social interaction opportunities.
5. **SAA Art Synergy** - Brian stated the event was held last night at Paul's Paradise Hall. He and Lisa attended the event and there were 16 art pieces auctioned. The average winning bid was approximately \$1,100.00 with the lowest being \$300.00 and the highest being \$4,100.00. Brian hopes that we can continue a relationship with SAA in the future and believes they would be very willing to work with us as well.
6. **Habitat for Humanity - Raise the Roof** - Jim indicated that five CORAL members went to the event on Friday Night, Nov.7. The fundraiser had a game show theme.
7. **5th Street Veterans Soup Day** - Tue, Nov 11. - Robb said that he has soup pre order forms or that soup can be picked up at the Veterans Center on Scarritt on Tuesday.
8. **Coffee with a Cop** - Tue, Nov 12. - Lisa organized this event at Golden Hour Bakehouse from 8-10am in partnership with the Springfield Police Department. Corner of Adams and 5th.

9. **UIS Laramie Project Play** - Nov. 7-9 and Nov.13-15 in Visual & Performing Arts Building.

10.**LGBTQ Recovery Support Housing Meeting** - Conversations are starting about having a Zoom meeting to discuss recovery support housing. Someone reached out to Brian about participating in these conversations.

New Business

1. **Book Signing, Rebecca Thorne** - 7pm at Our Town Books Jacksonville, IL. Requires a ticket, which includes a copy of her new book, *This Gilded Abyss*. Local author **Jade Rockwood** will also be a special guest.

2. **Holiday Meal Program at Chatham United Methodist Church** - April stated they are planning this year's holiday meal program. She stated last year they prepared and delivered 200 meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The cost was \$3,194.00. CORAL donated \$500.00 for paper products last year. April stated they will be doing Thanksgiving cold prep on 11/26 at 6pm, Hot packaging and all delivery on 11/27 at 9am, Christmas cold prep on 12/23 at 6pm, hot prep and delivery on 12/24 at 9am. Jim motioned for CORAL to donate \$600.00, Lee seconded. Motion carried. Olive Gray will deliver food slotted to go to Phoenix house.

3. **Transgender Day of Remembrance** - The main event for Transgender Day of Remembrance in Springfield, Illinois for 2025 is a candlelight vigil hosted by the Phoenix Center's "OUT on Second" group on Thursday, November 20th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Trutter Center, 2400 Millennium Drive. The event will be a remembrance of transgender and non-binary individuals lost to violence over the past year.

4. **World Aids Day Events, 12/01/2025 Springfield** – Brian is still looking into this and will report any updates on social media.

5. **Introduction of New Board Member** - Brian introduced Francine Turner, a new Springfield transplant from Missouri. She has experience organizing in the bi community and is excited to be working with the CORAL. Francine will be assisting in a secretarial capacity, having taken over the position from Lori Carlsen who is now heading the Ritz committee.

6. Massey Commission/Dr. Kelly Hurst - This was mentioned by April Poole.

Brian, I am not sure exactly what April wanted to know about CORAL being involved with this Commission.... Should this be included?

7. ACORN Equality Breakfast 9am, 12/6/2025 - Burt and Lee have purchased two tables in support of this event.

8. Decatur Pflag Activities -

Community Board Game Night - At Decatur Public Library

4th Tuesdays, 5p-8p, and 2nd Saturdays 1p-4p

Coffee & Discussion at Panera Bread, Decatur

4th Saturdays, 2p-3:30p

9. CORAL Thanksgiving Dinner - Sat. Nov. 22, 2025 6pm

Lincoln Park Pavilion 1601 N. 5th Street, Springfield, IL 62702

Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish or non perishable food donation items.

Dinner Items Provided by:

Mike Johnson- Turkey and Potatoes, **Lori Carlsen** - Turkey and Stuffing

Brian Sylvester - Ham, **Amanda** - Ham, **Lee Korty**- Turkey, gravy & 5 Gal. tea

April - Green Bean Casserole, **Rex** - Cool Whip, **Lisa** - Ice
Paper products provided by CORAL.

Candice made a motion to adjourn, Lisa seconded, Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.