



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting July 9, 2023

Members Present

Brian Sylvester President	Bert Morton	Lee Korty
Lisa Cotton Vice President (zoom)	Harry Carlsen	Rex Schadow
Lori Carlsen Secretary	Margie Bisbee	Curt Bisbee
April Poole Treasurer	Terry Michaels	Sheila Morris
David Yankee Board member at large	Rob Weis	Shelley Vaughn
Jenna Broom Board member at large		
Jim Barr		

Meeting called to order at 5:01pm

Approval of minutes from June 11, 2023- April made a motion to accept the minutes, Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report- see printed copies. April went over the financial reports. Harry made a motion to receive and file for audit treasurers report. Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Membership

We received one new volunteer from the website in the past 30 days, which Brian responded to today. Brian would like everyone to really begin considering ideas on how CORAL can expand their active membership with the organization moving forward. While CORAL has done a wonderful job with increasing their visibility in the community over the past several years, bringing in a strong base of active members has not kept pace with the level of activities that we want to do in the future. We will be looking for ways to increase this in the upcoming year.

Social Media

Brian reported the Facebook group is still seeing a strong response level from postings at 130% or 901 for the month. We have 19 new members for a total of 766 overall. Our most popular posts were the pizza delivery to All in One laundry at 1,689, the Stonewall Anniversary posting at 944, and the president's letter at 393.

The Facebook page is also maintaining a strong level of response at 1.5% or 3,269 for the month. Visits increased by 27% or 764 and we also saw an increase in membership of 125% or 27 new likes and 35 new followers. Our most popular postings were the Stonewall Anniversary posting at 1,122, the Transgender flag at 170, and the Capital City Celebration announcement at 168.

The website has seen a steady increase this month too with a 36% increase in visits at 471 and a 26% increase in new visitors at 298. While last month it was reported that we had seen a dramatic increase in direct source traffic (which has remained at the same level), a new medium being used for access is DuckDuckGo, which had seven visitors use. For those unfamiliar with the browser, DuckDuckGo, this is a medium that can be used by those who do not want their activity to be traceable.

Activities

Lisa reported that there are no new activities at this time

Finance

April reported that the Finance Committee will be setting up a meeting in the next few weeks to discuss movement of money, and new line items.

Partners & Supporters

Brian talked with Lingling Liu, Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Memorial Hospital to see how our two entities can work with one another in the future on July 5th. She is very interested in working with CORAL and wants to stay in touch with our future plans. She also passed on our name to their Director of Volunteerism, Jay Boulanger, who Brian will be talking with in the near future as well.

Joshua Gavel, of UP Center in Champaign reached out to Brian to discuss their upcoming Pridefest event in September, which begins on September 29th with a Queer Homecoming that evening and the Pridefest on the 30th beginning at 1:00

pm. Pricing varies. A parade entry is \$100.00. A booth is \$100.00. An ad ranges from \$50 for ¼ size to \$150.00 for full page. And the smallest sponsorship level is \$250.00. Jim made a motion to do a full-page ad and to discuss future participation, Rex seconded. Motion carried.

April made a motion to accept committee reports, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Lucky Horseshoes- Pride Night Game- Harry reported that the event went very well. Parade was a lot of fun. Rex stated that the turnout was better than last year's Pride game.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Food Drive- April stated that the next food drive will be Saturday August 5, 2023 in Ward 4, at Carlito's Bingo Hall parking lot from 10am-12pm. April will be there by 7am to receive 200 boxes.

Pride Picnic- Lisa reported we had 75 people in attendance. Everyone had a good time, and she received a lot of positive feedback. Rob stated that Fifth Street Renaissance thanks everyone for helping to assemble safe sex kits for them.

Petersburg Pridefest- Rex stated it was a good event. Terry stated it was a wonderful time.

Juneteenth- Harry stated we had 1 truck decorated, 13 walkers, 2 riders, and 2 dogs in the parade. It was a great parade. Harry and Bert will meet to assess CORAL's trailer to see what work needs to be done to it to make it usable for future parades. Harry also is looking for a better speaker system for parades.

New Business

CORAL T-shirts- April reported the new T-shirts are in. We sold quite a few at the Pride game.

LevitAMP Concert- Kings and the Associates will be playing. CORAL will have a tent there. We are to arrive at 5:30pm. Concert is from 6pm-9:30pm. We currently have 4 volunteers to welcome people, 2 for counting. Still looking for additional people to help out with the event.

Harm Reduction Kits with the Phoenix Center- Event will be on a Tuesday, date to be determined. Brian will let everyone know how many volunteers will be needed.

Faith Community Event- Overall individuals thought they needed to control the room better. Rob stated that Susan Phillips of First Presbyterian says they are working together to address concerns and discussion regarding responses to the survey they sent out.

Press Conference at the Rotary Gardens- will be held on Tuesday July 13, 2023 at 1pm regarding the recent article about the YMCA and their non-discrimination policy regarding Transgender members use of locker-rooms. Question was asked if CORAL will be present to support our Transgender community. Jenna stated this should be sent to the Executive Board for a decision.

River City Pridefest- will be held on July 15, 2023 from 10am to 10pm in Peoria by the river. Tickets are \$5.00 each.

Bloomington Pridefest- will be held on July 29, 2023 from 4pm to 11pm.

Board Vacancies- Shelley Vaughn stated she is interested in the open Member at Large board position. Shelley has been involved in several different organizations including her current position with PCASA. Rex made the motion to elect Shelley to the current open board position, Rob seconded. Motion carried.

Rex suggested that CORAL should attend the last home game of the Lucky Horseshoes on August 3, 2023 to show our support for the team.

Rob stated that Fifth Street Renaissance has cancelled their water balloon battle.

April stated that Sheila Stocks-Smith gave her \$50.00 gift cards to pass out to individuals affected by the recent storm. This will be sent to the Executive Board to decide how to distribute the cards.

Storage Unit- Rob stated we should pay the rent, and send the decision to the Executive board whether to continue with current rental unit or to use the storage shed owned by HMCC at Church of the Brethren.

Harry made a motion to adjourn, Jenna seconded, Motion carried meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.