



## C.O.R.A.L. Monthly Meeting Minutes from July 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm

**Present:** Jim Barr- President, Brian Sylvester- Vice President, Lori Carlsen- Secretary, April Poole- Treasurer, Bert Morton- Events Coordinator, Lisa Cotton- Activities Coordinator, Carolyn Austin- Board member at large, Lee Korty, Rob Weis, Art Clark (zoom), Terry Michaels (zoom), Paula Harris, Rex Schadow, Bob Immel.

**Minutes** were reviewed from June 12, 2022. Motion to approve minutes was made by Rex, and seconded by Brian. Minutes approved.

**Treasury report** – April submitted printed copies. April will create a report on expenses, and send a finance report to the board prior to the next Membership Meeting on August 14, 2022. Motion to file report for audit was made by Brian, and seconded by Rex. Motion passed.

### Committee Reports

**Ritz-** The next Ritz will be March 25, 2023. April reported that the contract with Crowne Plaza has been signed, and down payment has been paid. Ritz committee would like each CORAL members to think of one business to become a sponsor. Bert would like this done by the end of July. They would also like members to start thinking of a theme for the Ritz. Theme ideas are due to Bert and April by the end of August.

**Membership-** This past month, Brian has spoken with two prospects for membership. One is a professor of communications at LLCC, who stated that he's new to the area and wanting to get involved in the LGBT community. He responded to our posting on community activity ideas and thought it would be nice to have coffee with friends from time to time. The second is a grad student at UIS who is moving here in August. She is bi/gender queer and is hoping to connect with other queer people in the Springfield area. We talked about several options and she stated she would be in touch after she gets moved.

**Social-** The FB page has seen a drop in activity since June as our reach has fallen by 30% to 1,311 people. However, the number of visits rose by 4.4% to 119. The number of new members to the page also fell in June by 55% with only 8 new members. We had 28 posts for the month. Of those, the three highest in attention were the Logan County Pride with 257 reaches and 38 likes, Juneteenth with 249 reaches and 21 likes, and the final posting of the Pride Night with 225 reaches and 7 likes.

As for the FB group, we had 42 posts to the page in the past 30 days with 58 comments and 431 likes. As for popular posts, the top three were: The Pulse Anniversary with 2,784 reaches and 28

likes, the Pride Picnic pictures with 294 reaches and 4 likes, and Logan County Pride pictures with 277 reaches and 15 likes.

The website has seen a drop in activity too of 2% at 233 visits, however post views increased by 8% at 40. The most popular page continues to be the calendar with 24% of our visitors going there (36 this month). The page most visitors spent time on was our contact page at 45 minutes and the page that saw the biggest rise in activity was the partners page at 76%.

For the month of July, we're concentrating our content on activities by asking our members what type of activities they might be interested in us pursuing. Thus far, we have heard ideas such as a book club, movie night, and meeting for coffee with groups.

**Activities-** Lisa stated the Jaycees Concert Aug. 3, 2022 has plenty of volunteers. She is working on dates to have volunteers help out at the APL. She is also working on having a succulent party with Designer Landscapes.

**Finance-** April needs dates from the committee to meet.

**LGBTQ History-** Brian states we need people to help do video interviews.

### **Old Business**

**Logan County Pridefest-** They did a great job on the event, and had a great turn out. Lee stated he spoke with Sam Downs from Logan County Pride and this year's Pridefest more than doubled their revenue. They are looking forward to expanding the event to a larger venue.

**Pride Night at the Ball Game-** Rex reported that the event went well. His friends did get videos of the activities ie: Rex's first pitch, parade, and the cardboard emergency vehicle race with the kids. He will share with Brian to be added to CORAL's pages. Bert reported that Pride Night at the Ball Game was discussed at the Executive board meeting and we will continue to do the event yearly, but need to discuss terms with the owners.

**Juneteenth Parade-** Bert reported that we used items from the storage unit from previous floats, and created a small float in the back of his truck. The float had stars that said Justice for All. We had the only float in the parade. April spoke with an organizer of the parade who stated they would like us to do a State Fair type float for next year.

**Jaycees-** The concert has been rescheduled to Aug.3, 2022 and CORAL is still hosting the event.

**Pridefest-** Bert said set up of tent, tables etc. went well. Everything was done prior to the rain. CORAL shared space with IDPHA, Logan County Pride, and the Lucky Horseshoes. Bert recommended that we share our tent when we have partners at events. Jim discussed the PFLAG tent at the event.

**Pride picnic-** We had a good turn out for the picnic. We had some new attendees which is great to see. Paula was given an award from CORAL for her years of service. Art said he'd like to see a

handicap port-a-potty available to people, as the bathrooms at the pool were locked at the park. April has spoken to the service used by Twin Lakes and they would be able to deliver a unit on the Fri. of the picnic, to be picked up on Sunday. She will get more details from them regarding cost etc.

**Rural Harmony Project-** Brian stated that SIU School of Medicine's Dr Wiley Jenkins is doing a study on health risks and barriers that people living in central and southern Illinois may face especially related to their sexual orientation and gender identity. Register for the study by going to CORAL's Facebook page.

**Decatur Illinois Pride-** is on Sept.17, 2022 from 11am to 6pm at Fairview Park at the large pavilion. The drag show will be later at a different location. Jim will have more details after their next meeting.

### **New Business**

**Gender 101-** Carolyn says AgeLinc is having Gender 101 training on Oct. 11, 2022 on National Coming Out day. It's a 1-hour training conducted by Julie Grey Owens, a transgender woman from Equality New York. We will be able to attend the training at AgeLinc or via zoom. Agelinc is having a drive for school supplies for grandparents that are caring for school age children. Donations can be made at AgeLinc.

**River City Pridefest-** is July 15, 2022 in Peoria. Friday will be a ballgame with the Peoria Chiefs, the Pridefest is on Sat. 10am by the river, and on Sun. a "drag and paint" brunch. Brian stated there are no details as of yet on the Peoria Chiefs website for the game nor on River City Pride's for the brunch.

**Unity 5K-** April reported there will be a Unity 5K at Southeast High School in Springfield, IL on Sat. July 16, 2022 at 9:00am

**Bloomington Pride Fest-** Brian reports the Pridefest will be on Aug 13, 2022 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

**Committees-** Brian reported the current committees are: Finance- chaired by April, Activities- chaired by Lisa, Events- chaired by Bert, Social Media- chaired by Brian, Membership- chaired by Brian, Bylaws- Vacant. This will be added to the CORAL website in the near future so volunteers can see what

**5<sup>th</sup> St. Camp out-** Rob stated that 5<sup>th</sup> Street will be having a Camp out event on Oct.8, 2022. He asked that the board look into ways to support the event. Rob has sponsorship forms.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Brian, Rex seconded, Meeting adjourned