



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting September 13, 2026

Members Present and on Zoom

Brian Sylvester President	Mike Johnson
Lisa Cotton, Vice President	Roger Ruth
April Poole Treasurer	Kennedy Gray
Francine Turner Secretary	Robb Weis
Rex Schadow Board Member	Kathryn Devinue
Lauren Wilder Board Member Absent	Michael Peak
Liv Gray Board Member	Rosie Peak
Candice Clotfelter Board Member	Jeff Poeschel
Bob Immel Board Member	Taylor Mullin
	KiKi Steiner Zoom
	Salem Addison King

- I. Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm
- II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests
- III. **Approval of minutes from August 9, 2026.**
Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes, Rex seconded, motion carried.
- IV. **Officer's Reports:**
 - A. **Treasurers Report:** April Poole provided a written and verbal report. **Rex made a motion to accept and file for audit, Lisa seconded. Motion carried.**
- V. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Membership Committee:** Liv Gray reported that the membership committee did not meet, but that all efforts are being directed to promoting the CORAL Barn Dance as a community outreach event.

B. Communications Committee: Brian reported the activity on social media pages which included Facebook gaining 28 new followers bringing the total to 2,294. Most-viewed posts were the Barn Dance announcement (734 views), Decatur Pride Fest (284 views), and Logan County Pride Picnic (199 views). The website averaged ~200 hits per month with an average time on page of ~7 minutes. The calendar remains the most popular page. Ticket sales for the Barn Dance were migrated from the website to Eventbrite due to pricing issues. Work is underway to create a reusable events template page.

C. Activities Committee: Lisa reported that the committee discussed potential outings to Legends or Malibu Jack's, as well as a membership meet-and-greet at Fluid. She reached out to the Springfield Police Department regarding a "Coffee with a Cop," event, but they are booked up for September. Instead, she will be targeting October for scheduling this event.

D. Finance Committee: April reported that the committee did not meet this last month. A meeting will be scheduled for the upcoming month.

E. Ritz Committee: Lisa reported that the selected Ritz Gala theme will be "Generations of Pride" (to remain internal until public release). Liv is currently working on artwork. The next Ritz meeting will be Sept. 27th, at 6pm (**meeting time has been changed to 9/27 at 3pm**).

E. Partners & Supporters Committee: Brian reported that Bob Immel was approached by a new Springfield radio station offering CORAL the opportunity to present a regular monthly segment (flexible format/length). A follow-up meeting is needed to define scope and recruit hosts.

Art Synergy is taking place November 14th at the same place as last year (Paul Tree Farm). This year, Penny Powell worked with the same artist Brian had at last year's event. As the event gets closer, please consider buying a ticket.

Phoenix Center will be holding their annual Gayla on October 16th at 6:00 p.m. at Erin's Pavillon. This year's theme is Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil. Tickets are \$75.00 each. A table is \$600.00 (10 remaining as of this morning) and sponsorship is \$2,500.00. CORAL has a table for the event as it was part of the reciprocal with the Phoenix Center and the Ritz. Names of those who will be attending the event were gathered and the table is currently filled

April made a motion to accept the committee reports, Rex seconded it. Motion Carried

VI. Old Business

Event Wrap-Ups:

- A. Adopt-a-Street Cleanup (8/29/2026):** April Poole reported 13 volunteers (10 CORAL members, 3 non-members) cleaned Loveland & Ash near Dollar General. Removed 11 bags of trash (139 lbs total), ~700 cigarette butts, and storm drain debris. Proposed next cleanup for October 10th at 8:00 AM, pending city clearance.
- B. Pride Social: Interurban in Williamsville** hosted its first **Pride Social event** with positive reception; thanks extended to hosts Roy, Seth, and Lisa Cording.
- C. Decatur Pride Fest:** experienced lower turnout, vendor no-shows, and heat concerns due to timing; suggestions were made to adjust future hours later in the day.
- D. Harvest for Homes:** Successful event; Rob reported estimated revenue between \$15,000–\$20,000. CORAL served as an early sponsor and provided volunteer support.
- E. Women's Professional Baseball League:** April and Rex reported that around 18 people associated with CORAL, Pridelinc, and the Phoenix Center Coffee Group went to the Pride Night game on Sept.3, 2026. Except for the extreme heat, it was a fun night for all.

B. Upcoming Events:

1. **CORAL Barn Dance (10/2/2026):** Scheduled for Friday at 8:00 PM (\$30 ticket price via Eventbrite or door, Age 21+). There will be line dancing and other fun activities. AgeLinc is a top sponsor.
2. **Phoenix Center Gala (10/16/2026):** Scheduled for 6:00 PM at Phoenix Pavilion (\$75 individual ticket, \$600 table). CORAL is reserving at least one table; member ticket payments are due by the October 11th board meeting.
3. **AFSP Suicide Prevention Walk (9/26/2026):** At UIS Student Center (12:30 PM check-in, 1:30 PM walk). CORAL has a registered team (Lisa and Brian).

VII. New Business

- A. Arts Synergy:** This annual event will be Nov. 14, 5:30pm to 11:00pm. A motion was made to sponsor Arts Energy at the \$500 level (matching prior year), which includes

promotional benefits and two tickets. **Rex made the motion, April seconded it. Motion carried.**

B. Camelot / LCFS Trunk-or-Treat Donation: Event scheduled for October 23rd at 400 S. 9th St. **Lisa made a motion to donate \$200 toward trunk-or-treat candy, Rex seconded it, motion carried.**

C. Civic & Community Updates:

1. **Meet the Candidates Forum (9/27/2026):** Non-partisan candidate forum hosted at First Presbyterian Church (State Senate at 3:00 PM; County Sheriff at 4:00 PM).
2. **Upcoming Fundraisers: Fifth Street Virtual Campout for Homeless** scheduled for November 5th. Online donations will enable more community assistance with less physical camping out needed from the community.
3. **Fifth Street Veterans Day soup dinner** scheduled for November 11th at Spring & Skerritt. Last year there was a \$20 donation per quart container of soup.

Rex made a motion to adjourn, Lisa seconded it. Motion carried.