



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting May 12, 2024

Members Present (Zoom)

Brian Sylvester President
Lisa Cotton, Vice President
April Poole, Treasurer
Jenna Broom, Member at Large
David Yankee Member at Large
Jim Barr, Ex-officio
Lee Korty
Tameka Seymour
Bert Morton
Rex Schadow
Sheila Morris
Candice Clotfelter
Mike Johnson
Rob Weis
Sam Downs

Meeting called to order at 4:01 pm

Approval of minutes from April 17, 2024. Rex made a motion to accept the minutes, Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report- See printed copies for April report. April gave verbal report, noted that the checks for Decatur and Logan County Pride were returned and must be resent due to addressing errors. Will also be receiving \$603.90 from ALUUC as their "Change for Change" recipient. Rex made a motion to receive and file for audit, Mike seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Membership- Brian reported that we have received three volunteer forms online since our last meeting with emails going out to all of them.

Unfortunately, no one attended the first Membership Orientation presentation on 4/17/24. Lisa Cotton and Brian Sylvester were present to provide information. Another one will be scheduled for May 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Social Media - Brian reported the Facebook group had 44 posts and reached 2,521 followers. We have 13 new followers bringing the total to 834. Our top posts were the announcement of our Pridefest sponsorship with 361, the announcement of our APL event with 275, and the announcement of the Pride Walks in June with 243.

The Facebook page had 29 posts and reached 1,500 followers. We have 7 new followers bringing the total to 915. Our top posts were the announcement of the Pride Walks at 825, our request for volunteers for Pridefest at 329, the Lesbian Visibility Day post with 180.

The webpage had 129 visitors with 173 sessions. Most of these are still coming in via Google, with direct coming in a close second. The average session is over three minutes.

The Instagram account has a total of 8 followers and all postings to the Facebook page are now flowing through to that account.

Activities- Lisa is working on scheduling for this month and in general as May has already been very busy. April is working on a shred event with Ald. Erin Conley.

Finance- The committee met and presented a new budget as attached to the agenda. New lines added include grant funds, award process to be determined.

Partners & Supporters- Brian reported that Laura Ouk, the visiting Inclusive Education Director for both the ISBE and U of I has reached out to us for volunteers to join working groups to create a resource guide for educators on the LGBTQ community and history, as Illinois now requires that this be taught in schools. The first meeting is scheduled for June 13th via Teams from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Brian will be joining one of the work groups.

Caroline Kionka of the Sangamon Valley Collection of the Lincoln Library reached to Brian to advertise the Pride Walks in June. She is very excited about these walks coming up and would like all of us to attend and provide her with any information she may not have gleaned from the many historical sources she went through. Martha Miller has been a valuable source for her thus far.

Rex made a motion to accept the Committee Reports, Mike seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business/Event Wrap-Ups:

Amasong Concert – Jim thanked everyone who came to the event in Decatur. The performance was excellent, and they hope to host the group again.

APL – Lisa reported that we had 9 volunteers, including several new people. APL

is still short staffed, so CORAL mostly handled everything ourselves. Made lots of toys and had a great time, hope to do again.

Down & Derby – Was held by ACORN but no CORAL representative attended.

Douglas Ave Methodist Church Brian reported that he, Rob Weis, and April Poole attended their services to celebrate the adoption of allowing LGBTQ clergy and the approval to conduct marriages within the church. There was a brief service, and several members provided some dialogue of their personal stories with faith before we were directed to their recreational area for pizza and cake. Brian had the pleasure of meeting the chaplain of Memorial Hospital who was hoping to get more involved with CORAL in the future.

ACLU Gathering – Brian, Lisa, and Jim attended the legislative update, and it was very informative. Jenna expressed interest in attending the next event.

SBJ, April Issue Brian reported an amusing story from the Springfield Business Journal's issue of non-profit organizations in the Springfield area. He stated the president of the bank that he used to work at reached out to him after reading the issue to let him know that she was proud of his accomplishments and knew all along that banking might not be his true calling.

CORAL Sweatshirts- No order form was created. At this point we will push to have ready for sweatshirt season. Will check other booths at Pride to see what is being charged for similar items.

Logan County Pridefest- Sam reported event will be on June 8, 2024, from 3pm to 8pm on the square. CORAL is sponsoring the music. Lisa and Sam encouraged members to attend and support as it is a family friendly event making great connections in the downtown community.

Springfield Pridefest- Brian reported that social media advertising for Springfield Pridefest has been very well received and CORAL should be pleased with the recognition Phoenix Center has been given to our sponsorship of the entertainment.

CORAL will have two booths again this year, based on a conversation that Bert Morton had with Jonna Cooley. While we have not received the map of our location as of yet, Brian spoke with Tom Wray of the Illinois Eagle, and he stated he had received his map and we are located next to him at nearly the same location we were last year. Bert has also spoken with Solutions Printing and believes we will have a new banner similar to the one we had for our last Ritz with the new logo.

We have a lot of new merchandise for the Pridefests this year. We will again have our bags, but we will also have the cling-on decals and buttons that we can

pass out. The buckslips have been updated with new photos but we will go through all of our old ones before we begin to use the new ones. We also have 1,500 flyers for the upcoming Pride Night.

Unfortunately, we only had one person volunteer to assist with staffing for the event as I was hoping we might be able schedule people for 2-hour shifts for the day. This will make for a long day for some of us. We will probably begin set up around 10:30 am and tear down will be around 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. If anyone can help with at least the set up and/or the tear down, it would be greatly appreciated. We will also be looking for people to walk in the parade with CORAL. I know we don't ordinarily throw candy or the like, but maybe this year some of us could pass out the buckslips along the route.

Bert and Lee are making a (\$125) donation to the Muni Band in CORAL's name.

Jenna, Mike, Bert, and Lee will meet at the storage unit at 6pm on Friday to collect everything needed. Setup will start at 8:30am sharp on Saturday so that everything can be unloaded in time.

Jacksonville Pridefest Brian has spoken with Blaize Stewart of Jacksonville Pride about participating in this year's event of theirs. Last year, we sponsored their first event with \$250.00 and he would like to see us possibly double that this year as we will be present. Blaize told Brian they do not have a formalized sponsorship process in place as of yet but are hoping to have one for next year's event. CORAL will be recognized as a sponsor at the event and in their online advertising for it.

There is no booth rental fees and tables and chairs will be provided for the booth. It will be held on June 1st at Twisted Tree Music Hall (1601 E Morton Avenue) from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. We can set up at 11:00 am.

Brian doesn't believe we will need the volumes of merchandise and information that we will have at Springfield so it would seem we could get by with the lower number to take. Brian would recommend that we take our shirts for sale as this could be an opportunity to sell a few.

Rex made a motion to sponsor \$500. Mike seconded. Motion passes.

New Business

Perspectives of Pride - Rob reported on two events with OA United. Perspectives of Pride will be an educational session at ALUUC on May 30th. On October 23rd, Dr Nathan Todd will discuss his studies of psychology, faith, and being LGBT at UIS.

BLM Car Procession Brian reported that this will be taking place on May 25th, Saturday a little after noon at the County Building. Many members have been

involved with this in the past and while the traffic can be a little crazy at the start, it's usually a quick event.

Agelinc Anniversary Party Brian reported that AgeLinc/PrideLinc will be holding their 50th Anniversary Party on the roof of the Crowne Plaza from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 28th. There will be appetizers, water, tea, and coffee as well as a cash bar at the event. They do ask that you RSVP for the event by either emailing or calling Scott Linde so they can have a good head count of those attending.

Pride Night As has already been stated, the flyers for the event will be circulated at two Pridefests before the event takes place so it is hoped it will get out. Brian is also reaching out to Tina at Capital Radio Group to see if we might get some PR time with the radio station before the event as well. Melissa asked if she could get the email addresses for the sponsors and advertisers of the Ritz so that she might send them correspondence about the event too. We agreed that we would both follow up on that.

Brian and Bert met with Melissa this past week to discuss some options for the event. In response to that meeting, Brian reported that he will be adding a few more ads for the event involving a discount for the 1st year t-shirt and we are considering raffling off the Tito's Vodka gift of a wine tasting for 12 with a value of \$300.00 that evening as well. Brian has also purchased 50 baseball themed stress balls that will be thrown out between innings. The special Pride Night shirts have been ordered as well. If you haven't seen them yet, the front is the same as our CORAL shirts and the back has "Pride Nite" across the top and Broadgauge's logo below it. An email went out to the board members and Pride Night committee for anyone who might wish to order one of the shirts for that evening. Brian also ordered two of these shirts specifically for Douglas and Ryan Pope of Broadgauge.

The meeting went quite well but Melissa was very forthright that the future of CORAL's sponsorship may be changing and while nothing is definite at this point, it is possible that the Lucky Horseshoes may take on the event on their own. It is not actually a bad idea that she presented, and Brian would like CORAL to consider the possibility of helping her pursue it.

Martha Miller Book Launch – Will be on June 8th at Stella Café.

Juneteenth Sponsorship Brian reported that O & A United has asked if they can walk with CORAL in their parade which he has agreed with.

Brian has also received their sponsorship packet and it appears that the most appropriate level for CORAL would be the Green sponsorship for \$500.00. It would provide the following:

- Parade entry fee waived for Corporate Entry (Saturday)
- 2 reserved seats for Future Leaders Breakfast (Juneteenth Day, 6/19)
- Recognition on Juneteenth social media sites and website (Continuous through FY24)
- One Juneteenth T-shirt or Yard Sign
- Logo on Outdoor backdrop (Various Days)
- Informational vendor booth at Outdoor Festival at Comer Cox Park (Saturday-Sunday) **Possibly give space to another org (OA United) on Saturday and we use Sunday

Lisa made a motion for the Green sponsorship and Rex seconded. Motion approved.

AFSP Sponsorship Brian spoke with RaeAnne Dutz, the chair of the Out of Darkness Walk Springfield. The Walk has been scheduled for September 21st at UIS this year.

At last year's event, we discussed sponsoring the event as we were unaware that they were accepting sponsors. Brian received the sponsorship packet and the smallest sponsorship level for the event is \$1,000.00. The sponsorship would provide the following:

- Two Walk T-shirts
- CORAL's logo on the t-shirts
- CORAL's logo on the web page
- CORAL's logo on sponsor signage
- Event day announcements

Olney Pride - Jim announced that Decatur PFLAG has been invited to Olney, Illinois (home of the White Squirrel) for their first Pride celebration on June 15. It is quite a distance away and CORAL has multiple competing events that day, but he hopes to attend.

Annual Reports: Brian explained that our by-laws state that we will present an annual report on all of the activities that CORAL has either conducted or participated in the last year in June of each year. A small change was made to this process last year in that we simply had individuals write up the reports and they were attached to the minutes for that month. Brian is recommending that we continue to do this. The following activities took place last year and need to be assigned:

- Juneteenth 2023 – Lori
- Pride Picnic 2023 – Lisa

- Pride Night 2023 – Bert
- Levitt AMP Concert 2023 – Brian
- BCBS Food Drive Bingo Hall – April
- Phoenix Center Harm Reduction Kits – Jenna
- Decatur Pridefest – Jim
- Jaycee’s Celebrity Bartending – Jenna
- APL – Lisa
- Out of Darkness Walk – Brian
- Fifth Street Camp Out for the Homeless – Rob
- Thanksgiving Dinner – Lisa
- World AIDs Day Memorial –
- Acorn Equality Breakfast – Bert
- Jaycee’s Holiday Parade – Candice
- Crime Stoppers Trivia – April
- AgeLinc Mardi Gras – Lee
- Jr Blues Hockey Night – Rex
- Poor People’s Walk – Rob
- The Ritz 2024 – Bert
- Logan County Pridefest = Lisa
- Pridefest 2024 – David
- Jacksonville Pridefest 2024 – Brian
- Pride Night 2024 – Rex/Bert

Pride Picnic, June 15th at Lincoln Park: Brian reported that we can begin set up for the picnic at 4:30 p.m. Brian will bring the plates, silverware, napkins, and cups. The following people will be providing the essentials –

- Chicken – Brian
- Potato salad – Lori
- Beverages – Lee/April
- Ice – Lisa
- Slaw - Lee

Fifth Street Annual Meeting – Rob reported that the annual meeting will be on May 29th at 6pm at Erin’s Pavilion (food provided!) and encouraged everyone to attend.

Elections - Rob presented the following uncontested positions which were voted in by acclamation:

Vice President - Lisa Cotton; Member at Large B - Jenna Broom; Member at Large C - Shelley Vaughn

Rob presented two candidates for the office of Treasurer: April Poole and Sheila Morris. Elections were completed via secret ballot. Sheila Morris was elected as Treasurer as verified by the Elections Committee.

The outgoing Treasurer presented issues with account transfers that Rob motioned to table and Jim seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Meeting – Brian noted that the board needs to hold a meeting and will set one up via email.

Announcements, Updates, and Communication from Other Organizations

Jenna had a couple of announcements – Levitt AMP Springfield starts at the end of the month; the Jaycees will be emailing about the Community Partner role. The Family Service Center – a LGBT+ supporting foster and adoption agency – is holding their Bags and Brews cornhole tournament fundraiser on Saturday, June 2nd at Buzzbomb downtown. Teams can sign up for \$20 just to play or \$35 for the tournament and food and drink. Tickets on sale now. Open to the public. The Springfield Jaycees are fundraising with Nancy's Pizza on Thursday 5/16 from 5-8pm with 10% of sales going to the chapter. Capital City Celebration is coming June 29th – Jenna will check on the sponsorship from last year that was to carry over due to the derecho. Will need volunteers – updates to come.

Lisa announced that Nicole Fortman with Bookhearts – a community literacy program – has been giving away books via events and free little libraries and hopes to give out LGBT books at Logan County Pride. Lisa motioned to support her with a \$150 donation. Rex seconded. Motion passed.

Events Coordinator – David has been looking at our organization schedule and we need an event for August. Trivia and other events were brought up – Pole Barn Chic would like to hold an event for us so that could work. Jenna suggested working with a partner organization, to which Lisa suggested the YMCA. More info to come.

Jim reminded everyone of Habitat for Humanity's upcoming Car Show on May 29th from 5:30-8:30pm. CORAL will be sending some volunteers, and all are welcome.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, Rex seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm