



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting Dec. 11, 2022

Members Present

Jim Barr President	Bert Morton
Brian Sylvester Vice President	Lee Korty
Lori Carlsen Secretary	Mike Johnson
April Poole Treasurer	Rex Schadow
Lisa Cotton Activities Coordinator	Rob Weis via (zoom)
Carolyn Austin Board member at large	Harry Carlsen

Meeting called to order at 5:01pm

Approval of minutes from November 13, 2022- Brian made a motion to accept the minutes, Rob seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report- (see printed copies) April went over the financial reports. There is still one check outstanding to the APL that has not been cashed yet. Lisa said she would look into it. Lisa asked why the Parker Memorial has not yet been disbursed. April stated she and Paula have not decided where to donate the money to as of yet.

Brian made a motion to receive and file for audit treasurers report. Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Ritz- Bert reported that logo and art work were taken to Solution Printing and Nick did a mark-up of the program cover. Bert and Lori met on December 8th and put together all 45 sponsors and advertisers end of the year letters and sales packets, signed, and sent them out. Next week we will be sending out letters and sales packets to Table Captains. The menu for the Ritz has been nailed down to Chicken, Pork, and Creamy Risotto for the Vegan option. Bert asked that we start thinking of individuals for this year's awards. Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at Agelinc.

Membership

Brian reported that CORAL has been contacted by a new member, Zennia, who is interested in doing podcasts through our network. The podcasts center around inspiration and motivation for those facing adversity in their lives. Brian has not reached out to the member yet as he wanted to be sure this was something we would be interested in considering.

He also received one volunteer form from Kayde who I will be reaching out to soon. As will be mentioned by Lisa with her activities committee report, we are currently working on an activity that might spur some interest with our membership to get to know us better and hopefully get more involved.

Social Media

Brian reported the Facebook group saw an increase of 13.1% in reach since last month, with 3,122 people seeing our posts. There were 72 posts for the month with a 100% increase in the comments posted back and 529 reactions to those posts. The most popular posts were the list of those lost to hate at Club Q at 620. The World AIDs Day announcement at 572. And the initial announcement of the violence at Club Q at 491. Posts, on average, are being seen by 43 members. There were also 10 new members.

The Facebook page saw an increase of 49.6% with 2,623 members reached for the month. However, there was a drop in visits this month to 204 and only 4 new members joined the page. The page had a total of 64 postings for the month with the top three being the post on pronouns at 460, the World AIDs Day announcement at 220, and the post on how the LGBTQ did in election results at 206. On average, posts are being seen by 41 members.

The website has seen a 26% drop in activity for this month with similar decreases in all categories including new visitors and average time within a session. However, our most popular traffic source is still Google with 98 of the visitors coming from there and Facebook coming in second with 74 visitors. In so far as we've seen some decreases, our benchmarking comparisons to other non-profits show CORAL still well over being better than others by 50%.

Brian would also like to remind everyone that if CORAL is attending any event that we NEED to take pictures and forward them to the Social Media Committee so that they may be used for reporting.

Activities

Lisa reported she and Brian have set up a meet and greet at Stella's Tea and Coffee 1135 West Governor Street, Springfield for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Lisa made a motion for CORAL to pay \$50.00 to Stella's for rental of the room. Rex seconded, motion carried. April asked Lisa to forward the email from Stella's about rental so she can write the check. Bert stated that CJ Sarff would like to volunteer to help with the Ritz. Carolyn reported that Agelinc/Pridelinc is having a Christmas Party December 22, 2022 at 11:30 am at Agelinc. If you'd like to attend you need to make you reservations by Tuesday December 20, 2022.

LGBTQ History- no report

Finance

April stated that finance committee has not met yet this month. Meeting will be on Thursday December 15, 2022 at 6:00pm at Lori and Harry's home. Budget will be worked on.

Partners and Supporters

Brian was very happy to announce that we have a new partner. The TransMasc has agreed to partner with CORAL with the sharing of information and activities. They are looking forward to working with us in the future and believe we are a good fit with their ideology as an organization.

Brian has also been working with a UIS student who wishes to work with CORAL as an intern for the upcoming Spring semester. Molly is a political science major who would like to assist CORAL with their outreach goals for now and into the future. Some of these projects may include:

1. Studying the organization's current forms of public material – hard copy and online.
2. Evaluating the current partnerships built and researching their benefits and whether they should be expanded, as well as looking at new partnerships that should be considered.
3. Interviewing current members for their impressions of the organization and how it is viewed in the community.

4. Reviewing board minutes for ideas on projects completed and making recommendations on how they might be performed in the future for better engagement.
5. Examine the present forms of new member orientation. The organization currently does not provide orientation of this nature so creation of a program would be necessary.
6. Look at how the organization performs its outreach to partners and members to evaluate the process and suggest way to enhance and improve on them.
7. Researching relevant policy issues and incorporating pertinent information into different aspects of the outreach process.

Molly has presented her proposal to her advisor for approval and will get back to me with the results. If approved, she would be working with CORAL beginning in January for 12-15 hours a week and would finish up sometime in May.

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

Old Business

Thanksgiving Dinner- Jim reported that the dinner went well, with lots of wonderful food. Attendance was down slightly this year. April stated that a few people stated that they didn't see any posts about the event. Brian stated that it was posted on the CORAL page and our Facebook page. Several suggestions were made to aid in getting the word out such as, phone tree for those who don't have Facebook, adding event to the Illinois Times Calendar, Save the date.

Taste for the Homeless

Lori reported that the scheduled November event had been cancelled. Juneteenth group will be holding a fair and market on December 17th, and a toy giveaway on December 18, 2022.

Training for SPD regarding LGBTQIA issues

Brian has not reached out to Chief Scarlette as of yet.

World AIDS Memorial Day Event

Rob reported it was a great day. They are happy to have re-established the event, and plan to have it as an ongoing event in the future. Rob also stated that there

will be a zoom meeting on January 11, 2023 from 5:30 to 6:30pm for the sub-committee. We will be discussing memorials and events there. Rob stated that Penny's one-woman walk for Fifth Street was a huge success. She received over \$27,000.00 in donations, and more is still coming in. Rob stated that CORAL members generously donated to the event.

Holiday Meals

April reported that we fed 201 people, and the meal prep went well in the new location. She also stated that she has a list of drivers for the Christmas meals that she will be contacting. The notice for the Christmas meals was sent to the Illinois Times. Mike asked about funds needed for the meals, April stated that it is all on donations of food and money. A list was sent around the room of what is needed. Carolyn stated that she would send out a notice to her network at Agelinc/Pridelinc for volunteers. April stated that food donations need to be to her by Friday December 23, 2022.

Acorn Equality Fund Breakfast

Lee reported they had a great turnout for the event. Acorn raised over \$46,000.00. He also stated scholarships went to individuals from Galena, Hillsboro, as well as Metropolis, and other areas.

Agelinc Mardi Gras Gala

Carolyn reported the event will be held on February 25, 2023. She asked if CORAL is planning on being a reciprocal sponsor again this year. Rob made the motion for CORAL to be a reciprocal sponsor of the Mardi Gras Gala for the 2023 event, Lisa seconded, vote- 12 yea, Carolyn abstained. Motion carried. Agelinc is doing a split the pot raffle as part of their event. Raffle tickets are on sale now. Bert stated he will handle the reciprocal agreement with Fifth Street also.

New Business

Jaycees Christmas Parade

Brian reported that while we did not participate in the parade on December 3rd as he had announced at the last meeting, he did share with them that CORAL will be placing this event on their calendar for next year. There were several events planned for that same date and it appeared that we were not well prepared to follow through on our commitment. Brian also realizes that some people were disappointed that CORAL did not participate and we should do a better job of

communicating how prepared we might be to follow through. Lori reported that she, Harry, Rex, Gary, April, Bert, and Lee participated with Camelot walking in this year's parade. The Jaycees also received a monetary donation in CORALS name from Bert, and Lee to pay for candy, etc.

Dr. Judy Fleisher UIS Med

Rob stated he would like to partner with the Trans-Masculine group for Dr. Fleisher to do a training/discussion for CORAL.

Brothers and Sisters Together Christmas Dinner

Rob reported that the evening went very well, with 40 people attending. Fun was had by all.

Lucky Horseshoes

Bert reported that several CORAL members attended the Horseshoes Christmas toy drive. Everyone had a great time, with a lot of good food. Harry reported that friends of CORAL purchased a sign for the outfield. Harry paid for the sign in full at the toy drive. CORAL will only need to pay the \$1,000.00 reciprocal agreement for the Ritz sponsorship.

Decatur Illinois Pride

Jim stated Decatur Illinois Pride will be holding a pet and people food donation drive on January 14, 2023. They will also hold these events the second Saturday, every other month throughout the year.

PCASA Calendars

Brian has received the PCASA calendars and they were sold for donations at the Brothers & Sisters dinner for \$10.00 each with full proceeds to be given to PCASA. Brian sold 16 of them for a total of \$160.00 and we still have 10 more to be sold.

#Giving Tuesdays

Brian reported to the members as to what #GivingTuesday is and how CORAL took advantage of the date to obtain donations for the organization.

Brian made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rex seconded, Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm