



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting June 11, 2023

Members Present

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| Brian Sylvester President | Mike Johnson | Bert Morton |
| Lori Carlsen Secretary | Harry Carlsen | Lee Korty |
| April Poole Treasurer | Rob Weis | Rex Schadow |
| Lisa Cotton Activities Coordinator | Terry Michaels | |
| David Yankee Board member at large | Candice Clotfelter | |
| Jim Barr Ex-officio | Jenna Broom | |

Meeting called to order at 5:06pm

Approval of minutes from May 9, 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. Stated that the storage unit rent has been paid. Deposit from T-shirt sales at Logan Pride will be made this week. Harry made a motion to receive and file for audit treasurers report. Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Board Updates

Brian reported that we will be ordering wristbands and Buck slips. CORAL will be giving away 10 Habitat T-shirts and 5 CORAL T-shirts at the Pride Night Game at the Lucky Horseshoes. Also, Jenna Broom and Shelly Vaughn are interested in becoming board members to fill vacancies. The board also discussed setting up a meeting with SPD, they would like to get to know us.

Committee Reports

Membership- Brian reported that we had three new volunteer forms completed since our last meeting – two at Pridefest and one at Logan County. All three were contacted on June 4th after the events to find out how they would like to participate and will be getting in touch later with their interests.

Social Media

Brian reminded the board that it was reported last month that we are currently featuring Pride flags in honor of Pride month. This has received a very favorable response from our members thus far. The flags have received much conversation as well as compliments.

Brian reported the Facebook Group has seen a 121% increase in reactions to postings for the month and we've seen a 14% increase in viewings. Our most popular postings were the Coffee with a Cop post with 546 views, the announcement of CORAL's involvement with Juneteenth with 362 views, and the Jacksonville Pridefest announcement with 354 views.

The Facebook page has seen a 113% increase in visits for the month and a 50% increase in reactions to postings. We have 23 new followers and 12 new likes to the page. Our most popular postings have been the Petersburg Pridefest sponsorship at 280, the announcement of Fifth Street's annual meeting at 238, and the Philadelphia Pride flag at 209.

The website has seen an increase in site visits of 51% at 363 and visitors at 44% at 236. There has been an increase of 133% of visits coming through Facebook but more exciting is the 57% increase of visitors coming into it directly, which means they used our site address to get to it.

Activities

Lisa reported that the Pride Picnic is on June 17th, it starts at 5pm, dinner is at 6pm. We will have a Port-a-potty (handicap accessible). Lisa also reported that 2 officers will be at Pridelinc luncheon on Thursday June 15th, 2023 at 11:30am. They will be doing a presentation on safety.

Finance

April reported that the Finance Committee has not met. Committee will meet when balance of Ritz money comes in.

LGBTQ+ History

Nothing to report. Jim will be contacting Kate Schwartz to discuss.

Partners & Supporters

Brian stated that he had a very favorable response to our partnership proposals with our attendance at Springfield Pridefest this year.

Brian had a very nice conversation with Lingling Liu, Director of Community Health & Equity, Diversity & Inclusion at Memorial Health. He told her that CORAL had been trying for some time to find a way to work with Memorial over the past years but were unable to find a contact person. She explained that every community that Memorial works with has its own contact but she would be available for us here in Springfield. She has emailed Brian the form that we can use if we should ever have an activity or function that we might like them to work with us in the future.

Brian also was able to speak with Caleb Lay of the SIU School of Medicine GLMA who appeared very excited about the prospect of working with CORAL in the future. Brian passed on his contact information to Lisa Cotton as he had said his group might be interested in participating with the Pride Night event. In those conversations, he has stated that they might have up to 20 members attending the event that evening.

Brian also had Joshua Gavel of Uniting Pride of Champaign County stop by the booth and they set up a time to speak later. They had a Zoom session on June 1st at 6:00 pm to discuss ideas on how our two groups might work together some time in the future. He has forwarded to Brian information to add to our webpage to show them as a partner to CORAL and we will keep each other aware of our activities to see if we might share them at some time in the future.

Brian also stated that we had two pet-related organizations ask how they might get CORAL involved with them in the future – Tails to Remember and Forever Feline. We will need to reach out to them sometime and find out how that involvement might look.

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

Old Business

Lucky Horseshoes- Pride Night Game: The event will be Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 6:30pm Robin Robbins Stadium. Bert has tickets available. Rex stated that his gym is making the game their social night at the ballpark. We need to clarify with Melissa when the parade will be.

Pridefest wrap up- Brian stated it was a great day, CORAL gave out a lot of information to attendees.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Food Drive- April stated that several people volunteered and worked together to set up and distribute 200 boxes of food. Next date will be August 5, 2023 in Ward 4. Still working on a location. April states they would like us to do a farmers market event.

Pride Picnic- The picnic will be June 17, 2023 at Lincoln Park, shelter area #4. Starts at 5pm, dinner at 6pm. Bring a dish to pass. Chicken will be provided. Fifth Street Renaissance has asked if attendees to the picnic will help put together safe sex kits.

Logan Pridefest- Brian stated they had a great turn out. They doubled the number of vendors from last year. It was a great event.

Coffee with a Cop- Lisa stated it was a successful event, 10 officers came, they are looking forward to working with us. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

New Business

Petersburg Pridefest- Brian reported they will be having a concert in the square on June 24, 2023 from 3pm-11pm. Restaurants will be open. They will not be having Tents, Booths, or info. CORAL members are encouraged to wear our CORAL shirts.

Juneteenth Parade- Harry reported that the parade will be on June 17, 2023 we will meet to line up at 9am at the corner of MLK and Brown St. We can decorate Lori's truck for the parade (Celebration of Freedom). Rob stated he has flags and signs. Lee will be purchasing candy to pass out.

Jacksonville Pridefest- Brian stated he told them that CORAL will advertise the event for them on our website, but we would not be able to attend.

CORAL T-shirts- We will be ordering more large size T-shirts, and Polos.

Phoenix Center Pride Drag Brunch- The event will be held on June 25, 2023 at the same place as last year's on Adams St. from 10am-2pm.

LevitAmp Concert- Kings and the Associates will be playing. CORAL will have a tent there. They are asking for 10 volunteers to do surveys, hand out information, security. We are to arrive at 5:30pm. Concert is from 6pm-9:30pm.

Board Vacancies- Jenna Broom stated she is very interested in serving on our board. Lori made a motion to accept Jenna as member at large position for the 1-year term that is left. Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chatham Methodist Church- April states they are working on their calendar, they would like to know if they will be the host church for the holiday meals again. We will need volunteers. Lee made a motion we have a line item for the donations, Rob seconded. Motion carried.

Capital City Celebration- Jenna stated they need Sponsors for the event. Any amount of Sponsorship is welcome. Volunteers are also needed for trash pickup, serving beer, selling tickets, etc. These will all be short shifts. Lee made a motion to do a \$250.00 sponsorship, Jim seconded. Motion carried.

Decatur Public Library- Jim states that speaker Alex London will be at the Decatur Public Library on June 15, 2023

Decatur Illinois Pride Food and Pet Food drive- will be held on July 8, 2023 from 10:30am-12:30pm in the North Walmart Parking Lot.

YMCA - Brian states that Susan Phillips of First Presbyterian Church will be addressing the issues from Destiny Church against the YMCA. Rob states he is writing a letter in support of the YMCA.

Vice President board vacancy- Lisa stated she would like to fill the position. Rex made the motion, Lee seconded. Motion carried.

Bert announced that April is being honored by the Comptrollers office on June 21, 2023, for her work in the LGBTQIA community.

Harry made a motion to adjourn, Rex seconded, Motion carried meeting adjourned at 6:41pm