



## Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting February 8, 2026

### Members Present and on Zoom

Brian Sylvester, President	April Poole
Lisa Cotton, Vice President	Bob Immel
Sheila Morris, Treasurer	Nico Moon
Francine Turner, Secretary	Jim Barr
Liv Gray, Board Member	Mary Ann Lange
Rex Schadow, Board Member	Kennedy Gray
Lamar Walls, Board Member Absent	Michael Johnson
Candice Clotfelter, Board Member	

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

Approval of the minutes from January 11, 2026. Rex made a **motion** to accept the minutes and Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurers Report**- Sheila gave a verbal report. Lisa made a **motion** to accept and file for audit, Rex seconded. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership Committee:** Brian reported that two volunteer forms were received this month – Lawrence and Susan. Brian spoke with both of them. Another prospective member, Bea, was talked with as well.

Brian will be scheduling an online volunteer orientation via Zoom on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to see if we can get anyone to join us for more involvement.

**Communications Committee:** Brian reported that there were 44 posts to the Facebook pages for the month and 14 new followers total. The top posts were the “CORAL Gives Back” article with 1,442 hits, the slide stating CORAL has given \$14K for the year with 275, and the announcement that anti-trans riders were removed from bills with 265.

The webpage has also been busy with 328 site visits for the month. Top pages on the site visited were the partners page with 667 views and the Ritz with 285 views. However, the calendar has the biggest ratio increase at 57%.

**Activities Committee:** Lisa reported that she will be meeting with Sheriff Crouch to discuss mutual issues that affect the LGBTQIA community and sheriff’s department.

**Finance Committee:** Sheila reported that she wrote the checks that were approved for the last meeting. Brian indicated a meeting of this committee needs to occur in the near future. The next meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Partners/Supporters Committee:**

##### **UIS Health & Wellness Fair**

Brian reported that the UIS Health & Wellness Fair has been scheduled for 4/21/26 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and, as it has been in the past, will be outside on the campus. They have reached out to CORAL for our presence so we have until 4/3 to let them know if we’ll be coming.

##### **Springfield Pridefest/Phoenix Center:**

Teresa Silva, Phoenix Center Director, reached out to us about their upcoming Springfield Pridefest sponsorships. They have changed significantly since last years. They are as follows and which do we prefer:

#### **THE PRESENTING PARTNER – \$10,000**

(Limit: 1 Partner)

- “Springfield PrideFest Presented by [Company]” on ALL marketing, press releases, and media.
- Social Media:
- “Meet the Partner” Video Feature: A dedicated video reel on our social channels highlighting your support.
- 3 Dedicated Posts: Solo feed posts during Pride Month.
- Story Takeover: Optional “Day in the Life” or “Why We Pride” story takeover.

- Digital Dominance: Your logo permanently fixed on the Home Page Header and the Footer of every page of our website.
- The Season of Pride Pass: Private VIP Table (8 Tickets) at Pride Prom in April + “Presented by” rights for the Prom Photo Booth.
- The Velvet Rope: 10 All-Access VIP Passes for PrideFest with dedicated wait staff
- The Exclusive Shirt: Your logo is the ONLY corporate logo on the sleeve the Official Pride T-Shirt.
- Main Stage: 3-minute speaking slot to kick off the festival.
- Parade: Lead Parade Position (First unit in the parade).

### **THE LEGACY PARTNER – \$7,500**

(Limit: 2 Partners)

- Named Asset: Exclusive Naming Rights to The Main Stage OR The Entertainment Lineup.
- Social Media:
- 2 Dedicated Posts: Solo feed posts highlighting your specific contribution (Stage or Talent).
- Cover Photo Feature: Logo included on our official Facebook Event Cover Photo.
- Digital: Large Logo on the Home Page (Just below Presenting).
- The Season of Pride Pass: 4 Tickets to Pride Prom.
- The Velvet Rope: 6 All-Access VIP Passes for PrideFest.
- Merch: Large Logo on the back of the Official Pride T-Shirt.
- Parade: Premier placement (First 5 units).

### **THE VISIONARY SPONSOR – \$5,000**

(Limit: 3 Partners)

- Zone Ownership: “Powered By” signage for The Parade, The Family Zone, or The Cool Down Tent.
- Social Media:
- 2 Dedicated Posts: Solo feed posts announcing your zone sponsorship.
- Live Stream Shout-out: Tagged acknowledgement during our day-of live streams.
- Digital: Logo on the Home Page (Partner Section).
- The “Season of Pride” Pass: 4 Tickets to Pride Prom.
- The Velvet Rope: 4 All-Access VIP Passes for PrideFest.
- Merch: Large Logo on the back of the Official Pride T-Shirt.

### **THE TRAILBLAZER – \$2,500**

- Social Media:
- 1 Dedicated “Spotlight” Post: A solo post thanking your business with a link to your pages.
- Digital: Top placement on the Sponsors Page (with active link).
- The *Season of Pride* Pass: 2 Tickets to Pride Prom.
- The Velvet Rope: 2 All-Access VIP Passes for PrideFest.
- Merch: Medium Logo on the back of the Official Pride T-Shirt.
- Stage: Two live “Shout outs” from the MC during the festival.
- Booth: Prime Corner Booth (10×10).

### **THE ADVOCATE SPONSOR – \$1,000**

- Social Media:
- Group Feature: Inclusion in the “Advocate Sponsors” Group Feed Post & Story.
- Digital: Logo on the Sponsors Page.
- The Velvet Rope: 2 All-Access VIP Passes for PrideFest.
- Merch: Small Logo on the back of the Official Pride T-Shirt.
- Booth: Standard 10×10 Booth.

#### **THE ALLY SPONSOR – \$500**

- Social Media:
- Story Highlight: Name listed in our “2026 Allies” Instagram Story Highlight.
- Digital: Name listed (Text) on the Sponsors Page.
- Merch: Name listed (Text) on the back of the Official Pride T-Shirt.
- Booth: 50% Discount on a standard vendor booth fee.
- On-Site: Name listed on the “Community Allies” signage at the Info Tent.

There was a group discussion on which sponsorships would be best for CORAL in terms of booth location and size. It was determined that the Trailblazer \$2500.00 sponsorship would be the best choice, with some extra cash, if that was needed, to get a second booth.

Lisa motioned to vote for the \$2500 sponsorship, with the extra cash (if needed). Lee seconded the motion. **Motion** was passed.

#### **Ritz Committee:**

Bert shared information about costs of the Ritz Gala with the membership to explain the need for everyone to ‘pitch in’ with fundraising in terms of ad sales and sponsorships.

There was also a discussion about the need to sell **more** tables as there are only 22 tables sold at this time (176 guests). We need to focus on bringing in more guests (400 guests, 50 tables).

The group was also informed that the table payment should be an envelope with the money in full (\$600 - cash, checks, etc.).

Currently, 18 sponsors are signed up and there are 39 advertisers. There were 88 pages of advertising last year, but right now, there would be only 34 pages.

Bert motioned to accept the committee reports and Lisa seconded the motion.

## **Old Business:**

## **Wrap-Ups:**

### **Gratitude Reception**

Brian reported that he was invited to the MLK Gratitude Reception on January 17<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church. There were about 60 other activists and organizers present. The focus of the meeting was to discuss how we're dealing with the current environment and staying motivated. Brian stated that it was very gratifying to see everyone come together and rally for each other's goals. The group will stay in touch.

### **MLK Breakfast:**

Brian said he was happy to see that we had both of our tables full for the event. Thankfully, the event wasn't as long as last year and the speakers for this year's event were fantastic. Dick Durbin's acceptance speech was informational and the guest speaker's discussion on bullying was very appropriate.

### **Community Engagement Roundtable:**

Brian reported that CORAL was honored to be included for a community engagement session organized by the Springfield Coalition on Dismantling Racism and Springfield Police Department with assistance by UIS. The purpose of this session was to discuss the relationships with local law enforcement and the possibility of creating an advisory partnership with the community to address issues arising with those relations.

Fourteen other organizations were involved: NAACP, Urban League, Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network, Massey Commission, Black Lives Matter, One in a Million, Ministerial Alliance, Faith Coalition for the Common Good, Springfield Police Department, Greater Springfield Interfaith Association, Mayors Youth Council, Junior Frontiers, Heartland Housed, and Neighborhood Associations.

### **Donations Photoshoot:**

Brian congratulated Lisa for the work that she did in putting together the presentation of the donations to eight community organizations that took place

on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at AgeLinc. Of the eight recipients, we were able to have six organizations present for the presentation. The following organizations were present: Boys & Girls Club, Garvey Tubman Center, Helping Hands, PBJ Springfield, Senior Services, and Springfield Immigration Advocacy Network. Lisa was also able to have the Illinois Times there for photos and an announcement on their media page and WICS Channel 20 conducted an interview with Brian after the shoots were completed.

### **Lunar New Year Celebration:**

Brian stated while the event was very interesting, it was more for young people than adults. The dragon dance was enjoyable though.

### **CORAL Presentation to Grace Lutheran Church**

Brian spoke at Grace Lutheran Church about who CORAL is and what it does for the community in Springfield. They are currently working to become open and affirming and enjoyed hearing more about the LGBTQ community.

### **New Business:**

#### **Vacant Board Member Position:**

Candice Clodfelter has expressed interest in joining the board as a member at large. The Board voted on the motion to accept her, and she is now on the board.

#### **Vetting Committee:**

Brian requested that the vetting committee begin their work for the upcoming elections in May. This year, we have the following positions up for consideration:

Vice President, Treasurer, two board members at large.

A discussion of which board positions need to be filled, and in which order (A,B,C,D), continued for about 5 minutes. It was decided to have a Zoom meeting on Monday (Feb 9) to continue the discussion and evaluate alternatives.

#### **Black History Ball:**

Brian reported that we still have two seats available for the event. The Ball is on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the BOS Convention Center at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$55.00 each.

## **Decatur Community Information**

Reported by Jim Ball

**Decatur PFLAG** - Sponsors a game night at the Public Library on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 5-8pm, everybody welcome (gay, straight, whatever...). Also, at the library, there are afternoon games on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 1-4pm.

**Decatur Pride Dinner and a Drag Show** - on April 11, 2026 at 5:30pm. Tickets are \$40/person. See Decatur Pride Facebook page for purchase information.

YOUR CHOICE OF 3 ENTRÉES:

3 Traditional Beef Skewers (beef, bell pepper, onion, mushroom)

3 Asian Chicken Skewers (chicken, bell pepper, mushroom, onion, & soy marinade)

3 Hawaiian Chicken Skewers (chicken, pineapple, yellow bell pepper, and teriyaki sauce)

Roasted Broccolini, Rice Pilaf with Asparagus and Peas, Lemon cheesecake Tart with Blueberries

### **Decatur Illinois Pride/Decatur PFLAG Booth at Comic-Con 3**

April 11-12th at the Decatur Civic Center. \$10 admission, free parking.

Come by and visit with fellow community members while having a great time!

### **End of Meeting:**

Rex Schadow made a **motion** to adjourn and it was seconded by Liv Gray.  
Meeting ended at 5 p.m.

