



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting October 8, 2023

Members Present

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| Brian Sylvester President | Harry Carlsen | Rex Schadow |
| Lisa Cotton Vice President | Sheila Morris | Rob Weis |
| Lori Carlsen Secretary | Candice Clotfelter | |
| April Poole Treasurer | | |
| Jim Barr Immediate Past President | | |
| Jenna Broom | | |
| Shelley Vaughn | | |

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm

Approval of minutes from September 10, 2023- Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes, Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report- see printed copies. April went over the financial reports. Jim made a motion to receive and file for audit treasurers report. Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Membership

Brian reported that he is almost done with the membership presentation. When complete, he would like to set up a date for the executive council and any others who might be interested to watch the presentation and let him know of anything else that should be added.

Social Media

October is LGBTQ history month so Brian stated that the committee is posting a historical event conducted or involving CORAL each day of the month concentrating on the years 2020 and 2021. These were the years that included

the COVID pandemic and coming out of the quarantine so they have been interesting to review.

Brian reported that the Facebook page has 17 new followers in the past month bringing our total to 821. There was a 40% increase in visits to the page this month as well. Our most popular posts have been the APL event announcement at 155, the first post recognizing Bisexual week at 138, and the first history posting of the Ritz cancellation at 132. The Facebook group has 12 new followers for a new total of 800 members. The most popular posts were the Phoenix Center's new book club at 354, the announcement of the celebrity bartending event at 290, and the post pictures of the bartending event at 266. The website saw no change in number of site visits but an increase in the time spent on the site by 44%. There was also a big jump in number of visits from decaturilpride.org of 83%.

Activities

Lisa reported the APL event went great. There were 9 people that attended including 2 new people. We got a lot done for them. Lisa reminded everyone to save plastic jugs, paper towel cardboard tubes, toilet paper tubes and caps from medicine bottles for the next event. Also, she stated people can drop off supplies to the APL if they don't want to store them.

Finance

April reported the finance committee had met.

Committee approved to move \$1,250.00 from the 2023 Ritz line item to the 2024 Ritz line item for the deposit to the Crowne Plaza for the 2024 Ritz Gala. The committee also approved movement of \$5000.00 from 2023 Ritz line item to the 2024 Ritz line item which is the amount needed should we need to cancel the event. Jim made the motion to move the 2 amounts from the 2023 Ritz to the 2024 Ritz line item, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

April also proposed moving remaining funds in the 2023 Ritz line item to the General Fund. April also added that there is only one outstanding advertiser/ticket purchase remaining that will be deposited when payment is received. Jim made the motion to move remaining funds from Ritz 2023 to the General Fund, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

April reported that there is \$960.00 in the AgeLinc line item from the 2023 Mardi Gras/2023 Ritz reciprocal agreement that Coral were given 2 tables for their

event. Coral members that attended paid for their tickets to those tables, which accounts for the \$960.00 in the AgeLinc line item. Finance committee would like this money moved to the General Fund. Jenna made the motion to move the \$960.00 to the General fund, Rex seconded. Motion carried.

April proposed moving \$50.00 from the Parker/Harris fund to the Mexican Scholarship fund. Lisa made the motion, Rex seconded. Motion carried.

Further discussion regarding the amount needed for the Mexican Scholarships. Lisa made a motion to table the discussion until the next membership meeting, Rob seconded. Motion carried.

Harry made the motion to accept financial reports and file for audit, Lisa seconded. Motion carried.

April reported that she and Jane have had discussions regarding the Parker/Harris fund. They are talking about doing 2 scholarships for local LGBTQ youth. one scholarship for a college, and one for a trade school. They will report their decision later.

Partners & Supporters

Brian reported that we have been contacted by Haley Wilson, Director of Communications for the mayor, about a new organization that she has established as of March of this year called "The Culture Experience." They strive to create access and representation for minority members or anyone who has felt marginalized when wanting to gain new skills and experiences within spaces that lack diversity. She would like to make a presentation to our board at some time so Brian will be reaching out to her to set that up.

Brian also reported that an email was received from the Levitt AMP Springfield group thanking CORAL for sponsoring the concert on 7/13/2023 with the Kings and the Associates. This was the most well-attended concert of the series with 1,625 in the audience that evening. They will be meeting on 11/8/23 to discuss the 2024 season schedule and invited CORAL to join their committee. If anyone is interested in taking on this invite, please let Brian know and he will pass on the information.

The Springfield Jaycees are preparing for their 2023 Holiday Lights parade and are looking for sponsorships with early-bird pricing. The entry fee is \$15.00 and are good until 11/1/23. CORAL is also being invited to have an entry in the parade as well. Jenna stated that they don't have the sponsorship levels out yet. Harry made

the motion to table the discussion until the next membership meeting, Lisa seconded. Motion carried.

Jim made the motion to accept all committee reports, Lisa seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

United Q&A- Brian asked for everyone's opinion of the last meeting. Candice felt it was rushed while Brian thought each group should have had a spokesperson from the churches to keep the breakout groups focused. April stated that Pastor Jon Borman from HMCC is talking about taking on more of a leadership role in the group.

PCASA Golf Outing- Shelley stated the outing was very successful. They were at capacity. She thanked CORAL for their sponsorship.

Jaycees Celebrity Bartending Event at Clique- Jenna reported it was a great day. Brian stated he gave the owners of Clique a framed picture from the PCASA Red Shoes photo shoot that CORAL posed for at Clique. Owners were very appreciative of the gift.

Lucky Horseshoes Friends Gathering- April stated that she, Rex, Bert, Lee, and Randy attended. They were able to hear about future plans for the stadium.

Habitat for Humanity Raise the Roof - The CORAL table for the event is full, and paid for by the attendees. Event will be on November 3, 2023 at 6pm.

Out of the Darkness Walk- Brian reported the Walk is on for 10/14/23. We only have four members signed up for our team at this point so we need to bring on more. Our current members are Brian Sylvester, Lisa Cotton, Candice Clotfelter, and Marc Willman and we have raised \$400.00 for the cause and are currently ranked at 13 out of 196 teams based on our donations. We will be reminding everyone of the event on FB for the next few days.

Phoenix Center Fall Gala- Brian reported that CORAL will have a table for the event on 10/13/23 at 5:30 p.m. at Erin's Pavilion. The following people will be attending: Brian Sylvester, Rob Weis, Lisa Cotton, April Poole, Jenna Broom, Jim Barr, Marty Wilson, and Rex Schadow. For all those attending, please get your \$50.00 payments to April as soon as you can.

Campout for the Homeless Veterans- The event will be held on November 4, 2023 at 4pm. Rob submitted an invoice for CORAL's Gold Sponsorship to April.

Sponsorship comes with 2 camping sites. Rob stated CORAL can use the sites or donate them to a department of Fifth Street Renaissance.

New Business

Rural Harmony Update- Brian reported that the cervical study may have begun already but we are not sure as he is waiting for a response from Meaghan on this. It was noticed that the Phoenix Center had already begun advertising the study on social media even though CORAL has not received any correspondence to this effect. Two postings have been made on CORAL's social media of the study but in looking at the latter posting, some of the links are not yet working. Brian will continue to attempt to get a confirmation.

SIU School of Medicine Lung Cancer Study- Brian was contacted by Wiley Jenkins about a new study that they are beginning to work on that would concentrate on lung cancer in the LGBTQ community. They are asking if CORAL would be willing to assist in advertising the study and obtaining candidates. CORAL has agreed to assist in return for \$2,500.00 annually.

Wiley also discussed a health needs assessment study to be sponsored by the Pritzger Family Foundation. The topic is to perform a downstate LGBTQ+ needs assessment. As envisioned, they're looking at 3 phases to be accomplished in 2 years.

- Phase 1 is a series of 10 focus groups to identify a common set of themes/needs.
- Phase 2 is a region-wide survey of LGBTQ+ individuals regarding those needs, experiences, and potential solutions
- Phase 3 is another round of focus groups to discuss the survey results and potential actions/policies/implications in detail.

To date, we've discussed our involvement as consisting of two discrete items:

1. Advertising the focus groups and surveys among your participants and social networks (similar to as you've done in the past)
2. Having one agency member work with use throughout the process (essentially attending 1 meeting/month and emails; providing input into project design and implementation)

Wiley has offered CORAL \$5k for our participation and \$5k for the agency member (Brian) to work with the group study annually for the two years. Brian has already signed the contract agreeing to these terms.

Thanksgiving Dinner- Brian reported the dinner has been scheduled for 11/18/23 at Lincoln Park Pavilion for 6:00 p.m. We will not be allowed into the facility until 5:00 p.m. so we will need to work quickly once we get in. Advertising for the event has already begun but will be ramped up in the upcoming weeks. Brian and Lisa have discussed the supplies and it is believed that we have enough tablecloths, plates, cups, napkins, and silverware for the event. Lori stated she has the centerpieces.

2. Who is bringing what food staples –

- a. Turkeys- Lori, Lee
- b. Ham- Brian, Jim, Amanda
- c. Mashed potatoes- HMCC
- d. Stuffing- Lori, Marty
- e. Pies- Cool whip Shelley
- f. Beverages/Ice- Jim lemonade, Lee tea, Lori coffee, creamer, sugar/sweetener
- g. Gravy- Amanda

April stated that the Ritz committee will be meeting and we will be discussing the theme as well as pricing to announce at the Thanksgiving Dinner.

CORAL will be doing a food collection as usual at the dinner.

Rainbow Café Gala- Brian reported that he has already reached out to Carrie Vine at the Rainbow Café to make her aware that we will not be attending the event this year on 11/4. However, as stated in our minutes from last month, it was approved to pay for the quarter page ad for their program at \$150.00.

Ritz meeting- April stated the committee has not met. Lori will schedule a meeting within the next 2 weeks. April stated there is an increase in food prices from last year. Options will be discussed at the Ritz Committee meeting.

Hockey Team Sponsorship- Rex stated that he received information on sponsorship from Jennifer Dowell AJR Blues Hockey. Company Promotional Night Sponsorship- is \$750.00 which includes 75 tickets. Sponsorship giveaways is \$400.00 right to distribute promo items, mention in media ads, website, etc. CORAL will discuss this at the next membership meeting.

Springfield Cares- April reported they send care packages over seas to those serving in the military. She spoke with Alice Bech and they would love CORAL to volunteer, donate items, etc. April made a motion for CORAL to attend and donate \$525.00 for postage. Jim seconded for discussion purposes only. Motion carried. Rob amended previous motion to CORAL attend, bring items to donate, and to table the \$525.00 donation for postage, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

Jenna made a motion to adjourn, Lisa seconded, Motion carried meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.