



## **Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting April 14, 2024**

### **Members Present (Zoom)**

Brian Sylvester President  
April Poole Treasurer  
Lori Carlsen Secretary  
David Yankee Member at Large  
Rex Schadow  
Bert Morton  
Candice Clotfelter  
Mike Yankee  
Mike Johnson

Lisa Cotton, Vice President  
Jenna Broom, Member at Large  
Jim Barr, Ex-officio  
Shelley Vaughn Member at Large  
Lee Korty  
Sheila Morris  
Colby Hall  
Martin Woulfe  
Rob Weis

Meeting called to order at 4:02 pm

Approval of minutes from March 10, 2024. April made a motion to accept the minutes, Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurers Report-** See printed copies. April gave a verbal report, corrections were made to February report. Lisa motioned to receive and file for audit, Jenna seconded. Motion carried. See printed copies for March report. April gave verbal report. Jim made a motion to receive and file for audit, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership-** Brian reported the first membership orientation presentation will be this next week on April 17 th at 6:00p.m. The Zoom invite has been posted on the Facebook pages and website. So far, eleven people have expressed an interest in attending and 326 people have read it.

**Social Media** - Brian reported the Facebook page got 33 new followers bringing the total up to 907. There were 2,200 persons reached, a 56% increase and 1,300

visits, a 204% increase. There were 26 posts this month and our most popular posts were Transgender Day of Visibility at 682, the Quincy PFLAG event for 4/14 at 261, and the listing of advertisers for the Ritz at 222.

The Facebook group got 20 new followers, bringing the total to 832. There were 2,969 persons reached and 423 reactions. There were 43 posts with the most popular posts being the PBJ event with 523, the WMAY interview with 513, and the Juneteenth announcement with 482.

The Instagram account is very new but already has 8 followers and we have not even advertised it as of yet.

The webpage is still going fairly strong with 959 visits (101% increase) and 490 visitors for the month. Google and direct is still the two largest traffic sources but Facebook is rising. The average session length is 4 ½ minutes and the most popular page is still the Ritz page.

**Activities-** Lisa reported we will be doing the APL activity on Sunday April 21, 2024 from 10am to 12pm, we need 10 to 12 volunteers. There is also a plan for an activity on May 25, 2024, from 2pm to 5pm location will be announced at a later date.

**Finance-** April stated the committee has not met, but will be meeting Thursday May 9, 2024, at 6:30pm.

**Partners & Supporters-** Brian reported that Krista Jiroutek of ImpactLife Blood Center has contacted CORAL about the possibility of collaborating on an event or blood drive as a result of the FDA changes allowing the LGBTQ community to give blood. Brian will be meeting with her to discuss some ideas.

Ken Page of the ACLU has extended three free invites to their Illinois Legislative Reception on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Maldaner's on the second floor at 5:30 p.m. to CORAL. Brian asked who would like to attend along with him. Lisa stated she would like to go. Jim stated that he had also received the email for CORAL and had already RSVP'd for the event so there were only two invites available at this point. Thus, Brian, Lisa, and Jim will be attending.

**Ritz Committee-** Lori reported that money collection is going well. There are only around 5 to 7 people/business that still haven't paid. April reported on the amount of money that is still out standing from ads, tables, tickets. Lori set up a Ritz wrap up meeting for Sunday April 21, 2024 at 3pm at AgeLinc. Brian will contact AgeLinc to use the building for the meeting.

**Vetting Committee-** Rob reported the current board positions up for election are, Vice President- Lisa Cotton reprise, no other candidates for this position, Treasurer- April Poole reprise, Sheila Morris candidate for Treasurer, Member at Large B- Jenna Broom reprise, Member at Large C- Shelley Vaughn reprise, Rev. Martin Woulfe candidate for member at large.

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

**Old Business/Event Wrap-Ups:**

**Ritz-** Brian reported that the evening went very well and people enjoyed the food very much especially the Salmon. Lori reported that check in went very smoothly there were never more than 3 people deep. Approximately 400 people were checked in within 1 hour 20 minutes. Rex stated he thought having the dinner cards on the table ahead of time was a great idea. Program was very touching. Candice stated she was very happy to be a part of the Ritz Committee this year and will do it again next year. She is also proud to be a recipient of the Community Service Award.

**CORAL Sweatshirts-** April will email Brian the order form.

**PB&J Springfield-** April reported 600 sandwiches were made. Several CORAL members attended to make the sandwiches. April and Jane distributed 325 sandwiches to the Bread Line, 200 to Helping Hands, 75 to Inner City Mission. They also distributed Cutie oranges. The cost was \$330.00, Holiday Meals Fund paid \$300.00, April proposed CORAL pay the \$30.00 remaining. Jenna made the motion to pay the \$30.00, Rob seconded. Motion carried.

**Dinner at the Bistro-** Jim reported it was a fun evening, 5 people from CORAL attended. The drag show was very good. Seduction Carrington as well as 2 additional performers did 3 songs each.

**Parkways Christian Church Trivia Night-** April stated CORAL came in second, 5 people attended.

**The Boy Who Would Become a Queen-** Rex stated it was a very emotional show. People enjoyed it.

**Logan County Pridefest-** Lisa reported event will be on June 8, 2024 from 3pm to 8pm on the square. They are looking for food vendors. Lisa made a request to April for the \$1,000.00 Sponsorship check that was approved at the membership meeting in March. Lisa will get a list of available events to be the sponsor of.

**OA United-** reciprocal, program will be Thursday May 30, 2024, at ALUUC time will be announced at a later date. Lee state that St. Johns Lutheran may want to join OA United.

### **New Business**

**Springfield Business Journal April Issue-** Brian reported that the upcoming issue of the Springfield Business Journal will be featuring non-profit organizations in the community. He updated the time of CORAL's meetings for the issue.

**Speak Out Illinois-** Brian reported that the event scheduled for April 20th at the Lincoln Library has been cancelled. They did not give a reason for the cancellation but they did the same thing with the event scheduled in Lincoln.

**Springfield Pridefest-** Brian reported the event has been scheduled for May 18th and the Phoenix Center has begun to post their sponsors for the event. We need to make some decisions in preparation for the event. Lee made a motion to give \$3,000.00 for a sponsorship. He stated that CORAL needs to do this to show a strong support of our community, Jim seconded, discussion was had by many members. 3 members abstained during the vote. The rest were in favor of the motion. Motion carried. David stated that he would relay the message to the Phoenix Center board meeting this week. Lee also stated that the Springfield Municipal Band will be playing at Pridefest. Rex inquired about walking in the Pride Parade entry is \$15.00, April stated it is \$10.00 to sell merchandise.

**Merchandise Needed for Events-** Brian asked what merchandise we currently have and what needs to be ordered. Bert stated we have a full box of tote bags, Lisa stated she has about 20 of them, Bert stated we need to order buck cards, Rex suggested we order bumper stickers, Jenna suggested clings instead.

**Events Coordinator Vacancy-** David Yankee stated he would like to be the events coordinator. He was welcomed to the position, Bert stated he would work with David to help him transition to the position. David would like a list we've done in the past, and events for the future.

**Jacksonville Pridefest-** Brian reported that Jacksonville's second Pridefest is scheduled for June 1st at Twisted Tree Music Hall from noon to 5:00 p.m. and it currently appears that CORAL has nothing scheduled for that date. Last year, we made a donation of \$250.00 to the event but perhaps this year we should make our presence known at the event. Lee made a motion to table the discussion, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

**Springfield Art Association-** Brian reported that the Paint the Street event will be on June 29, 2024. The fee is \$40.00 for a 6x6 square. Lee will call Roz regarding painting. Rex made a motion to purchase a square, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

**Habitat for Humanity Car Cruise/Show-** Jim reported the event will be on May 29, 2024, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Restore. They need volunteers to take tickets, parking attendants.

**Acorn Equality Fund Down & Derby-** event will be on May 4, 2024

**OA United-** Rob stated that they will be at the Public Library on June 1, 2024 at 10am for a discussion on Pride and Rainbow.

**Jaycees Lawn Mower Clinic-** Jenna stated the event will be on Saturday April 20, 2024 from 9am to 12pm at the O'Reily's next to D'Arcy's Pint.

**Equality Illinois Advocacy Day-** Brian reported that Equality Illinois Advocacy Day has been scheduled for May 8th at the State Capitol. Registration information is on Facebook.

**Springfield Post Office-** April asked that everyone do the survey to keep our mail distribution in Springfield. Also send letters to your Representative.

**Erin Conley-** has shown interest in working with CORAL. She will be doing a shred event she has offered to pay half in the event and would like CORAL to pay the other half. Will discuss at a later date.

**Amasong-** Jim stated that the event will be on Saturday April 20, 2024 at 4pm. The concert will be held at First Presbyterian Church 204 W. Prairie Ave. Decatur. Amasong is from Champaign/Urbana and is a Lesbian/Feminist/Non-Binary Choir.

Jenna made a motion to adjourn, Rex seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm