



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting July 14, 2024

Members Present (Zoom)

Brian Sylvester President
Sheila Morris Treasurer
Lori Carlsen Secretary
Lee Korty
Bert Morton
Sam Forestier
Sam Downs
Mike Johnson

Lisa Cotton, Vice President
David Yankee Board Member at Large
Jim Barr, Ex-officio
Mike Yankee
Rex Schadow
Harry Carlsen
Kathy Bauman guest

Meeting called to order at 4:04 pm

Approval of minutes from June 9, 2024. Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes, Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report- Sheila gave printed copies of the report, and gave a verbal report of the account. Rex made a motion to receive and file for audit, Lisa seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Board Meeting- Brian stated the Executive board met on 6/10/24 via Zoom for a brief meeting as required by the by-laws after the annual meeting. Due to the nature of the results of the election, there was a brief discussion on how this was handled and the changes that we might make to satisfy some of the negative impacts. Some of those changes will be made to our by-laws, which was discussed next and we'll be setting up a meeting with the by-laws committee to discuss those. The new treasurer, Sheila Morris, was introduced to the board and an appointment was set for June 12th at the bank to establish new signatures for her, Lori Carlson, and Brian Sylvester to be signers. All corporate documents,

records, and checks were passed over to Sheila at this time. Brian discussed CORAL's year to date goals, which are:

1. Increase active membership
2. Activities with partners/allies
3. New funding sources
4. Advancing technology
5. Adding another core event

Shelley also stated that she would like CORAL to work with Lincoln Land College in the future as well.

Committee Reports

Membership- Brian reported that we'll be having a new member joining us at the meet & greet on July 24th . He is coming from Jacksonville and is excited to be coming out, sharing his story, and hearing those of others. Brian took this opportunity to share that members come in many ways to our fold. As we go about our daily routine, we need to remember that CORAL isn't just an activity for those of us who have gained the comfort of knowing who we are, but also for those who may still be on the journey.

Social Media - Brian reported the Facebook group page had 57 posts this month, a 250% increase, which were viewed by 2,482 individuals. We have 14 new followers bringing the total to 864. The top posts were the Phoenix Center announcement of their new East side group with 3,239, the Pride, Pride, Joy event at Douglas Avenue Methodist with 549, and the Pride Walk announcement with 262. The Facebook page had 31 posts this month, which reached 1,400 individuals and was visited 237 times. We have 701 likes to the page and gained 3 new followers for a total of 921. The top posts were the Blm-Nml Pridefest announcement with 322, the announcement of Tractor Supply's DEI changes with 287, and the blog for Petersburg Pride with 281. The website had 251 sessions with 187 visitors. The average session lasts 3.30 minutes and entails the visitor viewing at least two pages per session. The blog posts were read by 97 visitors, an increase of 162%.

Activities- Lisa reported she will cover this during the new business section of our meeting.

Finance- Brian reported that the Finance Committee needs to meet. Meeting date was set up for July 22, 2024 at 6pm via Zoom.

Partners & Supporters- Brian will be attending The Sage Project's bi-monthly meeting on July 28th in Jacksonville to learn more about their organization and see if CORAL can find ways to work with them in the future. Brian also attended the ISBE LGBTQ history curriculum meeting on July 11th . They are in desperate need of more volunteers from the educational side of the community to assist with the creation of a LGBTQ history lesson plan for teachers in the K-12 schools. This will be a focus of the volunteers at this time. Brian also wanted to thank the Phoenix Center for their recognition of him as a LGBTQ leader in the community this past month.

Juneteenth- Lee stated CORAL had 5 volunteers working the tent both Saturday and Sunday. Lori said it was a great turnout. Rex stated that the Parade was bigger than last year, but CORAL had less people walking in the parade this year.

Pride Picnic- Brian was slightly disappointed in the overall turnout for the event but we did see many new faces this year that was nice. Caroline Kionka, the woman who conducted the Pride Walk, attended as well as some individuals from O&A United so it's my hope that we continue to attract new people to the event.

Petersburg Pride- Brian stated that CORAL should feel honored to have been allowed to be the only outside organization to be allowed at the Petersburg Pridefest event. While it appears that there may have been very few LGBTQ individuals there that evening, everyone present did have a great time and Douglas did appreciate that we provided merch for the evening as well. The Pride Nite shirts were also big hit and many of the attendees were asking where they could get one.

Pride, Pride Joy O&A United- Brian stated the event at Douglas Avenue Methodist Church on the anniversary date of their first meeting last year at First Presbyterian. While the event was more of a sermon and had only a third of those who showed up previously, it was a quaint evening to mingle.

SAA's Paint the Street – Brian wanted to take the opportunity to thank Roz Stein and Bert Morton for providing the design and templates that made painting it relatively easy even if it did take nearly five hours to complete. Brian was very pleased to see that everyone present added their touch to painting the design and the finished product was one that all of us could be proud to leave on the pavement.

Bylaws Meeting- Brian stated a meeting needs to be set up to review current bylaws and make necessary changes. Meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2024 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting.

Rural Harmony Position- Brian stated the chair of the advisory board has reached out to Brian to ask that he remain on the board for another year but they are looking for new members at this time. Rex Schadow and Lisa Cotton have completed their applications at this time.

LevitAMP Concert- Brian reported that CORAL's partnership with LevitAMP's concert will be this coming Thursday on July 18th . We will need to be at the Y-block by 5:15 p.m. for set up and the first act of the concert will begin at 6:00 p.m. Brian recommends that we pass out our buckslips, small pins, and bracelets. We will also need a table, chairs, and any décor we might want to put up in the tent. CORAL will also need several volunteers to do some duties for LevitAMP that evening as well. We will need two people to pass out flyers and two others to count attendees. Brian asked who would be present for the evening.

OUTsafe Directive- The program for the OUTsafe directive that AgeLinc/PrideLinc was working on is now completed and a press conference is supposed to be scheduled for July 16th to announce its completion. Brian was going to be there but has another engagement that day and will be out of town.

PrideLinc Presentation- Brian was unable to get the presentation scheduled for July but is hoping he can get in touch with Scott Linde to get something scheduled for August. We will be presenting the membership orientation.

Meet and Greet- Lisa stated that CORAL will be having a meet and greet at Whimsey Tea on Adams St. on July 24, 2024, from 5:30 to 7pm. Lisa would like members to arrive at 5:15pm.

Barn Dance- Lisa stated that CORAL will be holding a Barn Dance on October 12, 2024 at 8pm at Pole Barn Chic. This will be a Tribute to the SALO Barn Dances from the past. Tickets will be \$30.00 each, you will receive a wristband upon arrival. Wristband will show you have paid and are 21 years old and above. Chips, Cookies, and S'mores, fixings will be provided. There will be a cash bar, music and bon fire for making your S'mores. Smokers are asked to please use the receptacles provided to dispose of your cigarette butts, do not throw them on the ground as CORAL will be charged \$50.00 per butt that Pole Barn Chic has to pick up. Please be thoughtful of the property.

Food/Blood Drive September with Impact/Phoenix Center- Brian is meeting with Dr. Jonna Cooley to discuss collaborating on a food drive for the Phoenix Center's micro pantry. He has also been speaking with Impact Life about the possibility of having a blood drive at the same event. He will provide more information after his meeting.

Ritz 2025- Brian ask the Ritz committee if a date has been nailed down with the March 22, 2025. Lori will call to confirm tomorrow. David gave possible alternate dates of March 15th, but that date would conflict with the St. Patrick's Day Parade, or the date of March 29th.

Phoenix Fall Gala October 11, 2024- Brian asked who will be attending from CORAL so we can get a head count for number of tables needed. Currently there are possibly 10 people going.

Kathy Bauman from Holy Family Inclusive Catholic Church ask CORAL for a donation of \$250.00 to help a Transgender members family to off set food expenses while staying in a hotel while their family member recovers from surgery. Lisa made a motion make a check out to Holy Family Inclusive in the amount of \$100.00, and they can disburse the money to the family, Sam Downs seconded the motion. The vote was 13 yea, and 1 abstention, motion carried. Mike Johnson stated he would send a \$100.00 check to the church; Lee will send a \$50.00 check to the church as well.

Lisa stated that Experience Beauty Bar are giving a portion of their profits to different organizations. CORAL was the first chosen. They donated \$125.00 to CORAL.

Decatur Illinois Pride People/Pet food drive- Jims states the event was very successful this month. They received press coverage from the Herald & Review as well as WAND TV. The next event will be held on September 14, 2024 at the Decatur Illinois Pridefest event at Fairview Park, Decatur.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, Lee seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned at 5:21pm