



C.O.R.A.L. Monthly Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:06pm

Present: Jim Barr- President, Brian Sylvester- Vice President, April Poole- Treasurer, Lisa Cotton- Activities Coordinator, Carolyn Austin- Member at large, Harry Carlsen – Member at large, Molly Harms – Intern, Bert Morton, Lee Korty, Rob Weis (Zoom). Mike Johnson, Rex Schadow, Tom Wray

Minutes were reviewed from January 8, 2023. Motion to approve minutes was made by Rex and seconded by Lisa. Minutes approved.

Treasury report – April submitted printed copies. April went over expenditures and balance as of February 11, 2023, Rex made motion to accept and Mike seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Meeting Board– Jim reported the next meeting will be March 12, 2023 at 3 PM at Agelink.

Committee Reports

Ritz- Bert reported that the first printed ad posted in the Illinois Times this week. The radio ads began February 1st WMAY and sister stations. The first radio ad with NPR began this past Thursday. We have 23 sponsors and 2 new sponsors: Landmark Ford and Illinois Eagle. The next Ritz meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday February 15, 20223 at 5PM at Agelink. Brian will contact Nick at Solutions Printing to send the Illinois Times ad to Tom Wray at Illinois Eagle.

Membership- Brian reported that while we haven't received any new membership forms from the website since the last meeting, the meet & greet saw several new faces from the social media group. Brian thanked everyone for how welcoming and attentive that everyone was with our new guests.

Social Media – Brian reported that the Facebook page has 14 new followers since our last meeting and the number of people that we have reached this past month rose by 21% to 1,516. People who have visited the page rose by 63% to 252. We had 79 posts and our most popular posts for the month were the post-article of our Meet & Greet with 451, the use of pronouns posting with 356, and the chameleon cartoon with 271.

The Facebook group has 15 new followers and the number of people we have reached rose by 19% to 2,788. We had a total of 83 posts with our most popular postings being the Meet & Greet at 495, the posting of Gladys Bentley at 371, and the Rainbow Café renovation at 366.

The website has seen a 22% rise in visits at 366 and a rise in new visitors of 84% at 188. Most of our new visitors are coming through social media while only 44% are coming into it through Google, Bing, and Yahoo. The amount of time they have stayed on the site has fallen a bit to 6 minutes. Our most hit blog was the 'CORAL goes International,' while the one on the Meet & Greet was read the most.

The Ritz has been set up as a Facebook event this year. Brian asked everyone present who has a Facebook page to go into the event and send invites to their personal friend list. The reason for doing this is that this invite will overwrite Facebook parameters for those friends that may not be receiving our announcements for lack of activity. Brian and April have already done this and we are seeing those friends respond to those invites.

This month is Black History Month and we are recognizing a Black LGBTQ icon each day. Brian reported that this has been very well received thus far.

Activities- Lisa reported that next Sunday February 19, 2023 CORAL will be volunteering at APL (Animal Protective League) at 10 a.m. The APL Building is on the north side of the fairgrounds.

Also, Friday, March 3, 2023 at the Prairie View Reception Hall there will be a APL fund raiser. Tickets are \$20.00 per person. The concert will be at 8865 State Rte 4 in Chatham Illinois.

Finance- April reported that there has been no meeting.

LGBTQ History- Jim reported no meeting has been held.

Partners & Supporters - Brian met with Wiley Jenkins and Kyle Miller of ruralHarmony to discuss another study they have received a grant for that they would appreciate CORAL's assistance with advertising. The study is on cervical cancer awareness and would run over a two-year span. They would like CORAL to advertise this study on social media at a minimum of quarterly and they are offering funding each year in return of our work with them. Brian has already signed the letter of participation and submitted it.

Brian also reported that we are seeing an uptick in the number of organizations joining our social media pages and giving us compliments on the work that CORAL is doing in the area. He would like to reach out to some of these organizations to see if we might work closer with them in the future as well.

Old Business

Agelink – CORAL has two tables at Mardi Gras or 16 people. Agelink has raised over \$28k for its fund raiser. Ticket sales end this Thursday at 8 PM. February 16, 2023.

Lucky Horseshoes – They have a Silver Shoes program for persons over 60 years old. It is \$50 dollars which gets you into the ballpark each Wednesday home game plus opening night with a free coke and hot dog. Harry reported that the CORAL Banner at Lucky Horseshoes has been paid in full. Bert requested to partner with Lisa to provide activities between innings at the June Pride Night event. April has the full amount for the Pride Night event, which is due in full by March 15, 2023. Rex and Jim will be attending the first game of the season on June 1, 2023, and ask all members to come and join them.

Elder Financial Exploitation Presentation - Brian reported that unfortunately he had to postpone the presentation due to his husband's surgery on the same date. However, he will be meeting with Carolyn or Scott to reschedule the event.

Spring Intern – Brian introduced Molly Harms, who will be interning with CORAL over the Spring months. Molly will be studying CORAL's processes and procedures and making suggestions and recommendations for best practice methods that we might use in the future.

Meet and Greet - Lisa reported we had about 20 persons attend. Sam from Lincoln came and Alyssa Haaker running for Ward 6 Alderwoman. The event was held at Stella's Coffee and Tea downtown.

New Business

Puerto Vallarta Outreach – CORAL had a fund raiser at Linda and Jean's in November of last year for Lee's birthday to raise money for the school (Magesterios) in Pitall, Mexico. A total of \$320.00 dollars was raised. A total of \$219.00 dollars was spent on items for schools. The remaining \$101.00 was put on scholarships.

The scholarships in question were awarded to two students attending the University of Guadalajara for 2023.

*Lee made motion that we fund the 2 students for the next three years with membership approval and final approval by the board. Rob seconded and the motion passed.
April will set up a line item for the scholarships.*

Equal Rights Amendment- Brian stated that Heather Dykes of Resistor Sisterhood reached out him about CORAL endorsing a resolution affirming all Constitutional requirements were met to pass the amendment even though the Trump administration would not certify the last state that would have allowed it to be passed.

Brian proposed that we endorse this resolution and give our support to Resistor Sisterhood for passage. Harry seconded and the motion passed.

City of Springfield Visitor and Tourism Advisory Board – Brian reported that Melissa Dunbar passed on his name to Jean Bruner Jachino, the chair of the advisory board, to be considered to join. Brian met with Jean on January 27th to discuss the requirements of this position and completed an application for consideration to the City of Springfield. On February 7th, Mayor

Jim Langfelder recommended Brian be appointed to the board to the city council for approval, which should take place on the 14th.

Black History Month- Rob reported that there will be an event at the Black History Museum at Oakridge Cemetery February 26, 2023 from noon to 3 pm. He encourages all CORAL members to show up and wear their blue shirts.

Black Lives Matter – April reported that BLM is having a fundraiser with Café Moxo for scholarship awards. The scholarships are \$1500.00 each. You can pick up the meal choices downtown, but they must be ordered by Tuesday February 14, 2023.

Decatur Pride. – Jim reported that Decatur Illinois Pride is having a dinner fundraiser on April 15th at the Bistro near Richland College from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$25.00 and includes salad, chicken ragu, portabella mushroom, carrots, and peaches and cream short cake, coffee and tea.

Brian made motion to adjourn, Lisa seconded, Meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm