# Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting October 11, 2026

Members Present and on Zoom

Brian Sylvester President
Lisa Cotton, Vice President
April Poole Treasurer
Francine Turner Secretary
Rex Schadow Board Member
Lauren Wilder Board Member
Liv Gray Board Member
Bob Immel Board Member Absent
Candice Clotfelter Board Member
Mike Johnson
Roger Ruth
Rob Weis
Kathryn Devinue

I. Meeting called to order at 4:01 pm
II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests
III. Approval of minutes from September 13, 2026. Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes, Candice seconded, motion carried.
IV. **Officer's Reports:**
    A. **Treasurers Report:** April Poole provided a written and verbal report. Candice made a motion to accept and file for audit, Rex seconded. Motion carried.

**V. Committee Reports:**

**A. Membership Committee:** Liv Gray reported that the membership committee did not meet. Brian received volunteer forum emails and will forward those emails to Liv.

**B. Communications Committee:** Brian reported the activity on social media pages which included Facebook. There were 38 new followers added for a grand total of 2,317. There were over 3,000 views on the pages and 2,800 viewers. Also, 48 posts for the month, with the most popular being the announcement to buy tickets online for the barn dance with

1,847 hits. The Parkway Christians fall fest was 473 hits, and the Habitat for Humanity's showed 354 hits. The webpage saw an increase as well: there were 376 sessions for the month, an increase of 80%. There were also four articles written for the month, with Paint the Street and Ainsley's Murder Mystery gaining popularity, and an increase of 825%.

**C. Activities Committee:** Lisa reported to the committee that the Coral Barn Dance was successful. The next Coral event will be the Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 22, 2026.

**D. Finance Committee:** April reported that the committee did not meet this last month. She is still researching Zeffy, reviewing recent changes on the platform. April feels it would still be a good 'fit' with Coral's non-profit financial model. Additionally, there were prior discussions on providing grants to other organizations. Clean Slate Associates has approached Coral in regard to this and would like to come in and give us a presentation

E. **Ritz Committee:** Lisa reported that the last meeting discussed planning sponsorship solicitations, ad sales for the program. Committee to meet on Nov. 8 at 3:00 (before Coral meeting) for further coordination and trifold 'stuffing' into Ritz thank you letters.

**E. Partners & Supporters Committee:** Brian reported that he was contacted by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation regarding carousel horse stickers that Coral donated in the past that need to be refreshed/replaced. Jim Barr mentioned that the Foundation might be interested in an old float decoration of a gatehouse and/or an arrow that is stored in his garage.

Rex made a motion to accept the committee reports, Liv seconded it. Motion Carried

**VI. Old Business**

**Event Wrap-Ups:**

1. **AFSP Suicide Prevention Walk:** Brian reported there were 36 teams, 245 walkers, Coral raised approx. $250 and finished 16th. April stated that she thought the CORAL logo was missing from the AFSP website as a sponsor. Brian stated that he would check this.
2. **Barn Dance:** Lisa reported a total intake of $2,550 (Online sales $390, checks $180, cash door sales $1,480, AgeLinc sponsor donation $500). Total expenses $1,375 (DJ $500, Pole Barn Chic venue $875). Net proceeds: $1,175. Attendance estimated at about 66–73 people. It was decided to consider smaller, less-

expensive venues (authentic barn, community barn, park barn, or farm setting); investigate rentable alternatives and rental costs; schedule and budget earlier to avoid calendar conflicts.

3. **Pridetober Street Event:** Brian reported: attendance was down from previous events (that had good weather). The drag show attracted later-in-the-day attendees; Witch's Market and nearby events may compete for attendance
4. **Grace Lutheran Induction (Open & Affirming):** Brian reported Grace Lutheran officially became Open & Affirming; Coral representatives (Brian, April, and Rex) attended and spoke with positive reception reported.
5. **Adopt-a-Street Cleanup:** April reported 8 volunteers removed 66.5 pounds of trash + 4–5 chairs, approx. 175 small bottles, and about 557 cigarette butts.
6. **Phoenix Center Fall Gala:** Coral table confirmed with 8 seats filled (Mike, Rex, Lou, Francine, Brian, Rob, April, and Lisa). Brian created and will deliver a silent auction gift basket.

**VI. New Business**

- **Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser — Raise the Roof (Oct 30 at Knights of Columbus Hall, Meadowbrook): Motion passed to sponsor at the $300 level.** Vote carried with some abstentions. Candice made the motion, Rex seconded it, Jim abstained (wanted $500 sponsorship).
- **Veterans & Holiday Meal Initiatives:** Rob reminded members regarding the Veterans Day Soup fundraiser by 5th Street Renaissance on Nov. 11. Another 5th Street Renaissance fundraiser will be the 9th annual Campout for unhoused veterans. It will be a Virtual Event on 5th Street's Facebook page (Nov 5, 8am-8pm).
- **Queer Halloween Bash:** Brian reported the event from 6pm-10pm at the Pasfield House. $25 in advance or $30 at the door. Event sponsored by The Joy Initiative.
- **Holiday Meals (Thanksgiving & Christmas):** Motion passed to donate $500 to support holiday meals (packaging/delivery for seniors, Phoenix Center residents, Springfield Housing Authority referrals). Jim made the initial motion, Rex seconded. Rex volunteered to coordinate pick-up/use of funds April asked for CORAL to organize a volunteer bag-decorating and meal assembly session in November; Chatham United Methodist Church suggested as a venue for prepping/dishwashing if reusable items are used. **The dates are: Weds, Nov. 25, 6pm (Cold Prep), Thurs, Nov. 26, 9am (Hot Meal Prep)**. April is the contact

person for this event.

- **Coral Thanksgiving Dinner (Nov 21 at First Presbyterian):**
    - Assignments: Mike (ham), Roger (turkey/carving), Rex & Jim (desserts), Francine (vegetables/ranch dressing), Bert/Lee (drinks/ice].
    - Venue Rules: First Presbyterian prefers recyclable/earth-friendly supplies; clarification required on acceptable dishware/utensils.
      ***Action****:* Lisa to confirm rules with venue contact (Aziza) and report back; collect final sign-ups and menu assignments at next meeting, coordinating politely to avoid duplication.

Rex made a motion to adjourn, Lisa seconded it. Motion carried.