



C.O.R.A.L. Monthly Meeting Minutes September 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:09pm

Present at the meeting were:

Jim Barr- President
Brian Sylvester- Vice President
Lori Carlsen- Secretary
April Poole- Treasurer
Bert Morton- Events Coordinator
Lisa Cotton- Activities Coordinator

Rob Weis
Rex Schadow
Harry Carlsen
Mike Johnson
Lee Korty
Sam Downs

Minutes were reviewed from August 14, 2022. Rex made a motion to accept the minutes, Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasury report – April submitted printed copies. Motion to receive and file for audit was made by Lisa and was seconded by Brian. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Treasurer- Printed copy received

Membership -Brian reported that we've had one volunteer form completed this month from Abigail Ivancicts who stated that she was hoping to join to get more involved with the community. We will be in touch with her soon. We are hoping to work with the Activities committee to consider an event centered around simply having members meet and greet.

Social Media-

The FB page had 27 posts in the last month with the top performing post being the APL which was read by 264 members for a 514% higher reach than usual posts, which is typically 43 members. Our engagement percentage with members rose by 41% this month to 289 members. Our visits from members fell slightly by 9.7% or 56 members. However, our number of members grew by 33% with eight new members joining this month. Our audience continues to be mostly women at 66% with the men being at 34%.

The FB group page had 30 posts in the past month with the top performing being the APL which was read by 231 members. After this post, the next top performing posts were the State Fair with 192 and our post on the UIS Expo at 191. Commentary responses fell to 9 for the month but reactions grew to 175. We had a total of 1,430 views on the page this month with our most popular day being Saturdays. The website has seen the most improvement this month with site sessions growing by 41% at 218 members going there for the past month. Post views also grew by 289% with 35. Our most active page is the calendar with an increase of 94% with 31 visitors and the page about partners/supporters had the longest sessions at about 5 minutes.

For those who haven't seen the website since last month, additions have been made to the partners/supporters page. We changed the page to include our supporters since the last meeting and a sliding presentation page is presented for each monetary supporter of our events has been added to the top of the main page. We also added a section at the bottom of the About page which shows the committees that CORAL has, a brief description of the purpose of the committee, and who the

committee chair is at this time.

On a side note, on August 18th, our FB group page was momentarily frozen that evening from approximately 4:30 p.m. to midnight that evening. FB support (Meta Support Team) investigated the matter and found that several groups were having similar issues on that date. While the reason for this was not disclosed in their correspondence, the issue was fixed by 1:05 a.m. on the 19th.

Ritz - April reported that she and Bert will meet this week about Ritz money and sponsorship. There will be a meeting the end of September regarding the theme.

Activities- Lisa reported on CORAL activity at the APL on August 28, 2022. She stated that 8 members attended and made feeding puzzles for the animals that would last about a week. CORAL gave a \$125.00 check to the APL from the Stetson Memorial Fund. Stetson will be getting a brick out at the APL. Jim asked if the APL still needs supplies for the puzzles, milk jugs, paper towel/ toilet paper cardboard tubes, single serve water bottles.

Finance- Finance committee has not yet met.

LGBTQ History- Interviews are still a work in progress

Old Business

Partners and Supporters:

Our partner, PCASA, has reached out to us to see if CORAL would like to participate with their annual calendar. Three to five men will be needed to pose for a picture wearing red high heel shoes for the "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" event. They are suggesting that we might have the shoot take place at Clique. We will be looking for volunteers for the shoot soon as Brian needs to reach back to them on who will be doing it and when time will be available.

James Bengfort of the Illinois Times contacted CORAL about considering any events for their annual Fall guide. I believe Bert also received this correspondence and was wondering if there were any events that we might want to have included in their guide for this period.

Rural Harmony:

The group met recently and they have ceased accepting applicants for the study even though they only received 84 approved recipients.

The group has been asked by WashU if the group would be interested in collaborating with them on a cancer study. They are awaiting more information on how this might work. Also, WashU has what is called a Pitch Partner program where organizations can pitch study ideas and they will assist in funding the study. The group discussed several ideas that could be suggested for assistance.

Out of the Darkness Walk:

The event is still scheduled for October 15th and we still don't have any volunteers to join for the walk. A mass email was sent out to our volunteer base on September 4th to see if we could get some interest. Barb Oakes responded to her email and stated that she would recommend it at the next PrideLinc meeting. We also have been posting gentle reminders of the event on the FB pages with additional information on how suicides hit the LGBT community.

Decatur Illinois Pride Fest:

The event will be held on September 17, 2022 at Fairview Park 11am to 8pm, The drag show will be at the conference center. Jim reported that Decatur Illinois Pride Fest is the first to have the Audubon Society as a sponsor. Bert stated we always need volunteers for the event. Jim stated T-shirts have been ordered.

UIS Expo:

Lori reported that she, Bert, and Lee attended representing CORAL. It was a successful event, many students stopped at the table to get information. We had 6 people write down their information, inquiring about membership, and possible internships. Lee will provide Brian with those people to add them to the volunteer list.

Fifth Street Campout for the Homeless:

Rob is working with Solutions Printing regarding logo and advertising in the Illinois Times. Campout is October 8th and 9th. They need volunteers to help with display of banner, also with tear down on the 9th. Lee made a motion that donations made by CORAL members go to April and she will then write a check to Fifth Street. Harry seconded the motion carried.

Governor's Breakfast:

Bert and Jim attended the event and both said it was a good event.

Horseshoes Legend Classic:

Bert stated the game was a good time. They received a warm welcome from Jamie and Melissa. They will settle up with CORAL after the season is done.

New Business**Kendra Day, Memorial Health:**

Brian is in communication with Kendra regarding working with CORAL.

Paige/ Paul:

Brian states this is a transvestite individual inquiring about CORAL and our level of acceptance. Brian assured Paige/ Paul that all are welcome, and he is free to be who he wants.

Phoenix Gala:

Brian made a motion for getting a table at the event for CORAL. Lisa seconded the motion, Vote was taken 10 yea, 1 nay. Motion carried.

Thanksgiving Dinner:

Plans will be put together at the next Executive Board Meeting on the 9/18/2022. Lee says he will supply a turkey for the event. Everyone will still need to bring a dish to pass.

IL Times Best of Springfield

Brian nominated CORAL in several of the categories (Non-profit organization and event) this year. If there were enough votes received for us in those categories, we should have received something in the mail stating this as he is aware that the mailings have gone out. If we did not, the social media committee should place this on the calendar for next year to place a strong push to our member base for this next year.

First Church of the Brethren:

April stated that First Church will not be doing holiday meals this year. She asked if CORAL would be interested in taking this over. We discussed several churches that may be interested in letting us use their facilities to do this event.

Brian made a motion to adjourn. Harry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.