



## **Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting October 13, 2024**

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

Brian Sylvester President  
Sheila Morris Treasurer  
Lori Carlsen Secretary  
David Yankee Member at Large  
Mike Johnson  
Sam Forestier  
Bert Morton  
Candice Clotfelter  
Tiffany Lapp

Lisa Cotton, Vice President  
Jenna Broom, Member at Large  
Jim Barr, Ex-officio  
Mike Yankee  
Rob Weis  
April Poole  
Lee Korty  
Christina Newton

Meeting called to order at 4:04 pm

Approval of minutes from September 8, 2024 Jenna made a motion to accept the minutes, Harry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurers Report-** Sheila provided printed reports and gave a verbal report. Lisa made a motion to accept and file for audit, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership-** Brian reported we had three new volunteer requests this month with one of them attending our Barn Dance this past weekend. A recording of the membership orientation will be created and placed on the website in the near future.

**Social Media-** Brian reported the Facebook group had 33 posts this month which were viewed by 1,865 individuals. There were 14 new members added for a total of 871. The top posts were the CORAL sponsored UIS speaker, Nathan Todd with 1,287, the Dr Seuss "Be Who You Are" with 243, and the UIS 5K non-binary run with 171.

The Facebook page had 31 posts this month viewed by 1,194, 312 follows, and seven new members for a total of 930. The top posts were the National Coming Out with 298, the article on the Out of Darkness Walk with 290, and the proclamation announcement for LGBTQ+ Veteran's Day with 250.

The website had 220 site visits (increase of 62%) and 166 new visitors (increase of 71%). Most of the traffic is coming thru Google search. Second would be direct and last would be via Facebook. Post/Blog views were also up this month at 591%.

A project was undertaken in October to merge all of our partner's and allies' online calendars with the CORAL website calendar. This was recently completed and announced. There needs a few more tweaks to the layout before it's done.

**Activities**- Lisa reported the next activity will be at the APL on November 3, 2024 from 10am to 12pm. She is also working on doing Coffee with a Cop at Whimsey Tea, date to be determined. Lisa stated the YMCA Gala is coming up and she made a motion to do a \$250.00 Ad in their program for the event, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

**Finance**- Sheila set up a committee meeting for October 22,2024 at 6:30pm via zoom.

**Partners & Supporters**- Brian reported that Shelley Vaughan, our own board member, reached out to us from LLCC to see if CORAL would like to have a table at their Coming Out celebration with their GSA. Unfortunately, our schedule was pretty full at that time so I'm hopeful we can have future activities with them.

The Rainbow Café annual Gala was held on 10/5/24, which was a full weekend for CORAL as well. However, we did have a half page ad in their program and donated \$300.00 to their function.

The Springfield Area Association has invited CORAL to their Art Synergy Gala to be held 11/2 at 5:30 p.m. at Paul's Paradise at Paul Tree Farm in Pleasant Plains. For those unaware of how the event works, they have paired fifteen local personalities with professional artists and challenged them to create a work of art in a variety of media to be auctioned off at this event! Those personalities are all competing to be crowned the Art Synergy Champion by raising the most money, which can be done by purchasing a ticket in their name, voting for their piece in the Viewer's Choice Contest, or bidding on their piece at the Live Auction. CORAL knows two of the personalities well as they are Douglas Pope of Broadgauge and

Jonna Cooley of The Phoenix Center. The evening will begin with a cocktail hour bartender battle led by two local personalities and their chosen team. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres by Cured Catering and cheesecakes by Bunn Gourmet throughout the evening. You can also vote for your favorites while engaging in the raffle and silent auction. They will present this year's Golden Palette Awards, followed by the Live Auction with emcee comedian Larry Smith. From there the band comes for dancing by Aileana Rawlins Band. Tickets are \$65.00 each.

DSI has invited CORAL to their annual Dinner & Awards on 10/30 at 5:30 p.m. to be held at the Wyndham. This year's theme is Frighteningly Fancy. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner/awards run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., which includes their awards of excellence and a state of the downtown address by Mayor Buscher. Tickets are \$125.00 each for the cocktail hour and dinner and \$100.00 for just the dinner and awards.

**Ritz Committee-** Lori reported the committee has had their first meeting. This year's theme is "Words to Live By." The committee decided on food choices for the event. The DJ will be Jeremiah (Air Ricky DJ Services) the contract has been signed. Brian will be contacting Gracie Tierney Photography to check her availability for the Ritz. David asks that the committee come up with suggestions for the Ruth Ellis Award, and Community Service Award nominees. The next Ritz Meeting is on October 15, 2024 at 6:30pm via zoom. Lori stated that this will be the last meeting via zoom, all future meetings will be in person.

April made the motion to accept committee reports, Harry seconded. Motion carried.

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

**Decatur Illinois Pride-** Jim stated attendance numbers were down from the year before, possibly due to several other events taking place at the same time in Decatur. Jim stated that Sally the Clown was a big hit, doing face painting for the kids, and even some adults. She was busy the whole time but not overwhelmed. Jim states the event needs to be publicized better next year.

**AFSP Walk-** Brian stated due to inclement weather they couldn't actually walk, but that there was a small program that was held instead. Several CORAL members attended.

**Fifth Street Renaissance/SARA Center Campout for the Homeless Veterans-** Rob stated that it was a great event. He thanks CORAL for our participation, and

donating hotdogs, chips, hot chocolate. Rob stated the event raised more money than ever before. They had a good number of people attend the event, but were down in numbers of actual campers. He is pleased that there is more focus on educational aspect, rather than the whimsey. Rob stated that Fifth Street is currently doing a rebuilding of their board of directors, and told CORAL if we know of anyone interested to let Rob know.

**Phoenix Center Fall Gala-** Brian stated there was a good turnout for the event. Several members that attended stated that the food was good. Jenna stated there needed to be increased hype to get attendees excited about the auction, and Fund-a-need. The woman doing the auction did a good job. Brian suggested that CORAL members when attending an event to not all sit together, so we have an opportunity to meet new people.

**CORAL Barn Dance-** Lisa stated it was a great time, and she got several requests to do it again next year. The raffle was a big hit. Jenna stated that the event needed to be better advertised. Lee suggested it should be put on Illinois Times Calander of Events.

**The Wakery Signature Drink-** Brian stated our signature drink has commenced at the Wakery. If you forgot, it's the Caramel Apple Cider, served hot or cold. Elizabeth has offered us two Thursdays for the month – 10/17 and/or 10/24 during Happy Hour 6pm.

**Habitat for Humanity Raise the Roof-** The event will be held on November 1,2024. It is a trivia night, with Jim Leech as MC. Included in our sponsorship are 5 seats to the event. Tickets are \$25.00 each. Brian will send our ad to Habitat.

### **New Business**

**UIS Speaker Series-** The UIS Speaker Series with Nathan Todd on 10/23/2024 at Brookens Auditorium: Brian stated this is a CORAL co-sponsored event with OA United, thus as many of us as possible should be present that evening. Nathan will be presenting on how faith communities approach the subject of being open and affirming to the LGBTQ demographic.

**Community Resource Fair-** Will be held on November 6,2024 from 11am to2pm at the Lincoln Library. Jim and Lisa volunteered to do the event.

**Thanksgiving Dinner-** While there will be one meeting prior to this event, Brian wanted to make sure that we had the event covered early as there is much to be done for it. List of people bringing food:

MCC- Mashed Potatoes

Bert & Lee- Turkey, Gravy, Tea

Harry & Lori- Turkey, Stuffing, Coffee, Creamer

Jim- Ham

Mike Johnson- Ham

Brian- Turkey

Tiffany- Ham

Amanda- Gravy

CORAL will be doing a nonperishable food collection the night of the dinner per usual.

**CORAL Sweatshirts-** Lisa reported the sweatshirts can be screen printed or embroidered. Embroidered would be more expensive. Members decided on screen printed. Pricing is as follows:

Sizes small to Xlg ¾ zip- \$35.00, Hooded- \$32.00, Crew neck- \$15.00 for larger sizes add \$1.00 for each size above Xlg, Ball caps- \$12.00 each. Lisa stated we need 12 items to complete an order. 12 plus people placed orders, she will be submitting the order to Miles T-shirts.

**Holiday Meals-** April reported the cost of Turkey has gone up to \$11.00 per pound. Paper products costs have increased as well. April made a motion to have CORAL donate \$500.00 to Chatham United Methodist Church Holiday Meals to cover the paper products, Bert seconded. Motion carried. April stated that they will be doing the cold prep for Thanksgiving meals on November 27, 2024 at 5:30pm at the church, and cold prep for Christmas meals on December 23, 2024 at 5:30pm at the church.

**Jaycees Holiday Lights Parade-** Jenna reported the parade will be on December 7, 2024. Registration is \$25.00. Brian will order the candy for the parade.

**Decatur Illinois Pride Pet and People food collection-** Jim stated the next food collection will be on November 9, 2024 at the Unitarian Church in Decatur from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Jim stated Adam Kitzinger spoke at Millikin University. Jim stated it was very interesting and that Adam did a great job.

Lisa made a motion to adjourn, Jenna seconded, Motion carried meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.

