



C.O.R.A.L. Monthly Meeting Minutes October 9, 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
Bob Immel

Minutes- were reviewed from September 11, 2022. Rex made a motion to accept the minutes, Harry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Executive Board Updates- Jim reported that several items were discussed at the last board meeting. The Ritz, T-shirts, and Activities- the APL, Brian had several suggestions as well as Carolyn asked if CORAL would like to work with Agelinc to do a Drag Bingo event. April stated that Sunshine Clemens would like to work with CORAL on Gender 101 training for the Springfield Police Department. Carolyn said she'd talk with the person doing Pridelinc's Gender 101 training. We also talked about our storage unit, and attending the Rainbow Café Gala. The decision was made by the executive board to end all reciprocal agreements with the Phoenix Center and not to work with them unless they approach us for involvement and, then, it will be brought up for discussion. Bert Morton tendered his resignation from the board as well as Events Coordinator. It has been reluctantly accepted. Bert assured us that he will continue to work on the Ritz and other events and remain a strong member.

Committee Reports

Membership – Brian

We have received two volunteer forms this month – CJ Sarff and Elizabeth Kling. CJ expressed an interest in joining the Events Committee while Elizabeth was hoping to work with empowering young members of the LGBTQ community. We also received an email from a student at UIS – Mila Muhammad. Mila wants to learn about the resources that CORAL has and any volunteer we have. All of them have received a reply requesting an opportunity to talk by phone at their convenience.

Social Media - Brian

For the Facebook group, we had 61 posts since our last meeting, which have been viewed 2,227 times, an increase of 182% from last month. Our most popular posts were the Decatur Pridefest event with 315 views, the Interurban Merchant supporter post with 230 views, and the Out of the Darkness Walk mentioning Trans-gendered with 184 views. Our top member contributors were Susan Phillips, David Clodfelter, and Don Gray; each with two postings.

The Facebook page had 45 postings for the month. Our reach fell by 34% at 444 members but the page was viewed 76 times which was an increase of 41%. We also had 10 more members join the page this month. Our top posts were the Decatur Pridefest with 162 views, the Buzz Bomb supporter post with 147 views, and the most recent posting of the Camp-out 4 the Homeless Veterans with 50 views.

The website is seeing a slight decrease in activity with sessions falling by 17% to 182 and new visitors by 15% to 107. However, the time they are spending on the site has increased by 6% to 7 minutes. Ironically, most of our visitors are actually entering our web address to access it with Google coming in at second most used. The most popular page this month was the "About" page. This was probably due to the ad campaign we did on our committees.

Our ad campaigns for this month continue to be a weekly presentation of our partners and supporters. We also did a smaller campaign at the beginning of the month on the availability of our committees for volunteers. Since this is LGBTQ History month, we are currently posting a daily slide on the history of CORAL going back to our beginnings in 2002 which will run thru the end of the month.

Proposal: As executive members of CORAL, many of us from time to time may attend events and functions on our own but will represent CORAL as well. As such, if you would like to forward any information on those outings to the Social Media committee, with an explanation of what you did, we can post these on our media so that members can see that we're out and about. It was decided that we will do this going forward.

Ritz – April/Bert

April and Bert have asked for Themes for this years Ritz. They received 3 suggestions 1. Together Building a Stronger Community, 2. Coming Together, 3. Communities Coming Together. All are saying the same type message, which is perfect looking at all the partnerships we made this year and the many types of events we participated. April found 8 different Clip art styles. The favorites were #4,7,8.

Activities - Lisa

Lisa set up another event with the APL on October 23, 2022 at 10am. We need 8-10 volunteers. April asked if Brian can put a list of supplies needed for the event on CORAL's page.

Finance – April

Finance committee has not yet met. April will be sending out an email for dates/times to the committee to meet

LGBTQ History – Jim

Interviews are still a work in progress. Jim suggested doing partner interviews.

Partners and Supporters - Brian

As was mentioned in a previous meeting, PCASA is finalizing their calendar shoots for their "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" campaign and still would like CORAL to be in it. They have requested our shoe sizes, which they will provide. Brian will be reaching out to Josh Delcour of Clique to see when we might be able to use his business as our background and finalizing a date and time. They have also requested that we bring our CORAL banner for the photo as well.

Jenna Broom from the Jaycees reached out to us to see if we might have anyone available to participate in their Celebrity Bartending event at Clique on October 13th. We would be asked to serve drinks for about 30 minutes that evening with shifts available between 6:00 p.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m. We have a lot going on that same week so it could be a tight fit but if anyone is interested in working this event, I will need to know quickly.

Brian attended the Trans Rally with Resistor Sister on October 1st and spoke with Rachel, who is the chair of their LGBTQ Task Force of the group. She has invited him to attend their October 27th meeting. He will report on what was discussed at our next meeting.

Old Business

Decatur Pridefest : Jim reported that the event was a success, 34 vendors attended. They cleared \$2,900.00 after expenses. Next years Pridefest is scheduled for Sept. 9, 2023, and are looking at doing it again at Fairview Park. Jim asked for suggestions regarding what was good, or could be improved.

Out of the Darkness Walk:

Brian reported that we currently have four members signed up to participate in the event and are still looking for more. The event, scheduled for October 15th at 2:00 p.m. on the UIS campus. We were going to reach out to the UIS student group to participate with us but it appears they will be having a team already. If anyone needs instructions on how to join the CORAL team, they have been posted on both Facebook pages and Brian can walk them thru it as well.

Fifth Street Campout for the Homeless:

Rob stated it was a successful event, they think they hit their fundraising goal. He thanked April for staying the night in the box that CORAL made, and for our support. CORAL's cardboard box took 2nd place and won \$250.00 prize which we donated back to Fifth Street. First Presbyterian Church entry took 1st place. Judging was done by Veterans that were previously homeless. The Art Association's President was present and helping throughout the event.

Gender 101:

Will be held on October 11, 2022 from 5:30-6:30 pm at Agelinc, also on Zoom. CORAL will be donating cider and donut holes from the Apple Barn, and cookies for the in-person portion of the event.

Phoenix Center Fall Gala:

Brian reported that we are still looking for another member to join us for the event on October 14th at 5:30 p.m. The ticket will be \$50.00. Dinner choices are Pork Loin, Crab Cakes or Portobello Mushroom. We do have an ad for their booklet of the event which we will post on social media after the event has taken place. This was part of a reciprocal agreement that we had with the Phoenix Center. The ad concentrates on what CORAL is and has done for the community and provides information on how to get involved with us. A mark-up of the ad was presented to the executive board before it was forwarded to the Phoenix Center.

On another note, a formalized line of communications was presented to the Phoenix Center contact and executive director at the time the ad was forwarded. All future communications will be sent to our primary email address so that all parties involved may be notified of any necessary contact on the matter.

Thanksgiving Dinner:

Brian reported that we should have enough napkins, silverware, tablecloths for the serving tables, and possibly cups. However, we may need to check our plate supply. We will need to check with Rodney Shoemaker about the centerpieces for the dinner tables and we will need to buy new tablecloths for them as well. The ads for the event will start on October 15th and the event is scheduled for November 19th. We can begin set up at 4:00 p.m.

Sign up for bringing food: Jim- Ham, Mike- Ham, Lee- Turkey, Gravy and Tea, Jean- Turkey, MCC- mashed potatoes, Brian- Turkey, Lori- Stuffing. Lori to ask Rodney about center pieces. Lori and Harry to provide Press pots with coffee. There will be a can food drive. Brian will advertise the event/food drive.

New Business

Shoetoberfest:

Will be held at the Lucky Horseshoes stadium on Oct.15, 2022 at 1030 am. Non drinking tickets are \$8:00 per person, there are giveaways. Harry asked Bert to talk to them and clarify if we will have the same promo code as this year's Pride Night, and if it is good for season ticket sales.

Rainbow Café Gala:

Brian has been in contact with Carrie Vine of Rainbow Café and they are excited that CORAL will be attending their event. They will be reaching out to us with the food choices, there are five entrees on the list, as soon as they receive our reservations. Some of us attending have already made reservations for hotels in the area with a few staying at the Comfort Inn in Marion and another staying at the Baymont. The Gala is on Nov. 5, 2022

Fifth Street Aids Memorial Committee:

Rob reported the proposal he drafted has gone through to create a sub-committee to work on the Labyrinth. Charla, Rob and the former Chairperson will meet to decide when the committee will meet.

Announcements, Updates, and Communications from Other Organizations

Camelot- will be participating in the Parent Place Walk on Oct. 29, 2022 at 7pm. Harry asked if any CORAL members would like to join him and his co-workers in the event.

Holiday Meals- April reported that Chatham Methodist Church is available for CORAL to do the meals. First Presbyterian may also be available. April will talk with the Senior Center. We will need money for supplies. Rob proposed that CORAL take the lead on the Holiday Meals. Harry seconded. Motion carried.

Potential Book Banning- Brian reported that we have been contacted by someone with the Women's League of Voters in regards to an incident at the last Lincoln Library Board meeting when someone approached them about the LGBTQ section of the library and display that was presented for LGBTQ History month. This individual was not affiliated with any group and was speaking entirely alone. Nothing was done as a result of her commentary. However, we have been contacted by a reporter from WICS Channel 20 for an interview on this subject as there is a teacher at Lanphier High posting suggestions to banned books on her Tik Tok account. Brian will be meeting with her on Monday, October 10th to be interviewed on the subject.

Kenneth Scarlette, SPD Chief of Police is interested in speaking with CORAL about outreach and diversity training for the department. He seems interested in the upcoming Gender 101 training that is being presented by Pridelinc on October 11th and has asked for a meeting with us after that date to discuss it. Brian will be reaching out to him after the training to make arrangements for that meeting. April has requested to be a part of this meeting.

Brian had a conversation with Andy Lee, member of the Trans Men group at the Phoenix Center about the possibility of partnering with their group in the future. Andy stated that he would bring this up at their next board meeting for discussion.

Lisa made a motion to adjourn. Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.