



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting , January 12, 2024

Members Present (Zoom)

Brian Sylvester President
Lisa Cotton, Vice President
Sheila Morris Treasurer
Lori Carlsen Secretary (zoom)
David Yankee Board Member
Jenna Broom Board Member
Jim Barr

Brendan Brown (AgeLinc)
Rob Weiss
Mike Johnson
Candice Clotfelter
Christina Newton
Harry Carlsen
Rex Schadow

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

Approval of minutes from December 8, 2024 Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes, Mike 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 stated there is nothing to report this month.

Social Media- Brian reported that the Facebook Group page had 44 posts for the month which were viewed by 2,112, an increase of 440%. There were 7 new members added bringing the total to 895. The most popular posts were the announcement of Smokey's bartender, Tinker, passing with 321, Phoenix Center's Career Coaching seminar with 287, and CORAL's Christmas Eve wish with 265. The Facebook page had 15 posts for the month which were viewed by 2,400 members, an increase of 16%. There were 4 new followers bringing the total to 956. The most popular posts were The AFSPIL webinar with 348, Brothers & Sisters X-mas Dinner with 344, and Happy New Year from CORAL with 124. The webpage had 391 site visits, an 11% increase, and 318 post views, a 94% increase. The top post was the retirement of Cooley at the Phoenix Center at 212 views, a

459% increase. There were 214 new visitors to the site and the most frequent traffic comes through Facebook..

Activities- Lisa reported we are currently focusing on the Ritz event.

Finance- Sheila reported we are gearing up for the Ritz. She will set up a committee meeting for February.

Partners & Supporters- Brian reported Prairie Pride Coalition is bringing the traveling exhibit The Harlem Renaissance: As Gay as it was black to B/N for a series of displays during January and February. We would like to invite you to join us for the opening reception - sponsored by PPC and Jazz Upfront - from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16 at Jazz Upfront in downtown Bloomington. Other showings of the exhibit are still being scheduled, but here is what we have lined up so far: Saturday, Jan. 11 - B/N Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Luncheon (Bone Student Center)

Thursday, Jan. 16 - Opening Reception at Jazz Upfront

Saturday, Jan. 25 - Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Student Summit (BHS)

Jan. 31 - Feb. 1 - ISU LGBTQIA+ Alumni Reunion Weekend

Saturday, Feb. 1 - IWU Black History Month Cabaret (Evelyn Chapel)

Early February - event at the Bistro

Saturday, Feb. 15 - ISU Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner (Bone Student Center)

Third week in February - display at Bloomington Public Library Late February - concluding event featuring poetry and music from the Harlem Renaissance.

Ritz Committee- Lori reported the committee met today. She stated we currently have 4 Presenting Sponsors, 1 Platinum Sponsor, 5 Bronze Sponsors, Giganti & Giganti are a 2 page advertisement again this year, Springfield Police Department are a 1 page ad, Logan County Pride are a half page ad, Decatur Area Audubon is a Business Card ad. Mike Noga & Neil Thompson are a table/donation, Gail Wasmer- LPT Realty bought an additional ticket with her Bronze sponsorship. Lori and Lisa met with Audrey at Pole Barn Chic to discuss decorations. Lori stated awards are being worked on. The giveaway gifts are also being worked on.

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

Old Business/Event Wrap-Ups:

Brothers and Sisters Together Holiday Dinner- Lisa stated the evening went very well. Everyone had a good time. Service was great.

City of Springfield Holiday Planter Competition- Brian reported that CORAL's planter sadly did not win in it's first year of competing. The following were the winners:

1. Springfield Fire Department
2. J. Stover
3. United Way of Central Illinois

If you would like to see the planter, please go to the website under the tab for News to see the pictures.

Holiday Meals- Rex said it went well, although they were short drivers.

MLK Breakfast- Brian stated the breakfast is being held on 1/20/25 at 8:30am at the Crowne Plaza. CORAL's 2 Tables are sold out. If you bought a ticket please pay Sheila.

MLK Peaceful Protests- Brian reported that this is a CORAL sponsored event scheduled for January 18th at First Presbyterian Church from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00. Registration is required for the event and as of 1/6, there were only four spots still open so if you're interested, you better register quickly.

Springfield Call 2 Action Resource Fair- Jim stated this will be held on 1/25/2025 at 11am at the Lincoln Library. Set up of CORAL's table will be at 10:30am. Volunteers are needed to help man the table. Mike made a motion to accept new business reports, Lisa seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

PFLAG Dissolution- Brian reported that on 12/13, Rex Wyatt, the president of the local chapter of PFLAG, messaged him to let CORAL know that the chapter would be disbanding and because of this, they would be donating the remaining funds they had to CORAL. While saddened by the news, we appreciate the donation and support. After more conversation, there is a strong likelihood that Rex may be joining CORAL in the near future as well.

UIS Health and Wellness Fair- Brian reported that CORAL was contacted on 1/3 by Jordan Killen, UIS Asst Director of Fitness and Wellness about their upcoming Health and Wellness Fair to be held on 4/22 at 1:00 p.m. on the Quad (outdoors) at UIS. The date of the event is a Tuesday and it will be outdoors. Do we wish to attend?

Good as Gold Nominations- The UIS Good as Gold nominations are due for submission by 2/14/25. There are six categories to nominate for:

1. Distinguished Award
2. Heart of Gold Volunteer
3. Youth Volunteer
4. Organization of the Year
5. Star Student
6. Star Staff

The website to use for nominations is <https://www.uis.edu/volunteer/good-gold>
Brian would like to nominate CORAL for the organization award but wanted others to consider nominating individuals as well. CORAL has had members win these awards in the past as Bert Morton won the Distinguished Award a few years back.

American Family Insurance Donations-The Illinois Times has been advertising that David has begun a 30 day donation campaign for January when he will be donating \$1,000.00 each day to different non-profit organization in the Springfield community. Brian stated that he completed an application for CORAL to be considered for one of these donations and will be keeping an eye out to see if we are considered.

AgeLinc/PrideLinc Mardi Gras- Brian wanted to remind everyone that the AgeLinc/PrideLinc Mardi Gras event will be on 3/1 at the Crowne Plaza and CORAL has two tables for the event. Tickets are \$75.00 for those who would like to attend.

AgeLinc Project- Brian provided a brief update to the AgeLinc Harm Reduction project. He and Carolyn Austin discussed the suggested support groups, which are currently the Living with HIV older and Trans-support over 50.

Pride Picnic and Thanksgiving Dinner Reservations-Lisa asked Sheila to reserve the Pavilion and Shelter at Lincoln Park for the Pride Picnic and Thanksgiving Dinner for this year. Pride Picnic will be held on June 14, 2025, and Thanksgiving dinner will be held on November 22, 2025.

CORAL 2nd Annual Barn Dance- Lisa stated the Barn Dance will be held on October 11, 2025 at Pole Barn Chic.

Rex asked if there is going to be a Pridefest and a Pride Night at the Ball Park this year. Rob stated that Phoenix Center has started plans for Pridefest. Lori will check with Melissa from the Lucky Horseshoes regarding Pride Night.

Phoenix Center Trivia Night- Lisa stated it will be held on 2/22/2025 at 7pm at the Fire Club. Tickets are \$15.00 each for a table of 10. Let her know if you would like to attend. We will need 10 people for the event.

Jenna made a motion to adjourn, Mike seconded, Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.