



## Coalition of Rainbow Alliances

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2020

Attendees: Brian Sylvester, Roz Stein, Gary Rogers, Bert Morton, Buff Carmichael, Ann Engel, Rex Schadow, Jim Barr, Timothy Bill, April Poole, Rob Weis, Ramona Boston, Randy Kaw, Paula Harris, Gary Kessler

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Jim Barr.

### **II. Introduction of Guests**

Ann Engel and Gary Rogers introduced themselves to the group.

### **III. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from January were submitted by Timothy Bill. April moved to accept the minutes. Rex seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. Treasurer Report**

Brian provided reports for the previous two meetings. He reported the December and January monthly balances and the remaining pledges CORAL has made. \$2,103.99 is pledged to the Support the Children Project. \$2750 is pledged for the Ritz. \$1500 is pledged to the Junior League grant. Brian explained what pledged amounts are in terms of CORAL's budgeting process. Roz asked if we get a report about what is spent on each project. Brian explained that we have to produce a report for the Junior League to explain what our expenses were. CORAL also do this for the Ritz. April said that the committee for Lincoln Prairie will do the same thing. Rex moved to accept Brian's report. April seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **V. Old Business**

#### **A. PRISM Update**

Tim reported that PRISM hosted a Sculpt Workout/Yoga event in January. Thirteen people attended and had a good time. PRISM may host another event like this in the future. Blake Denherder represented PRISM at the community forum on Saturday and PRISM made some new connections. Future events for PRISM include a Speed Networking Event, an Out Professional Panel, and a celebration right before Pridefest. The written report is included at the end of these minutes.

B. Social media

*Rodney was not present to present a report.*

C. Decatur Pride Update

Jim reported that the Decatur Pride committee will be meeting a week from tonight. Decatur Pride attended the Community Forum yesterday and was represented by August Francis. Decatur Pride is continuing with hosting Drag Queen story hour each month. The organization will be hosting a bake sale to raise additional funds soon.

D. Insurance Update

Paula reported that she has still not heard back about insurance for the organization. Jim and Brian have not heard back from their contacts either.

E. Junior League Grant Update

Jim thanked Rob and Tim for their work hosting the Community Forum yesterday. Rob shared an update (included at the end of these minutes) that there was an interest in hosting these forums again in the future. The next steps are evaluating the information we received (including at today's meeting) and compiling a report for the Junior League.

Jim noted that ten people from CORAL attended the trivia night held by the Junior League. Jim thanked Rex for arranging this event for CORAL. Jim talked with multiple people from the Junior League and told them at least 15 organizations participated, people had a good time, and that they should share this information with the rest of the organization.

In the afternoon, the permanent council met to discuss the conversations that happened in the morning. The council has narrowed down the discussion to three primary areas to focus on. The first was to increase our outreach to other organizations we have not reached out to in the past. The second was to look into a website that would be a common website for LGBT organizations in the community with an ability for all organizations to share events. The third was to focus on leadership development.

Paula asked if we satisfied the grant. Rob noted we had \$99.91 remaining from the grant. There was a discussion of what to do with the remaining funds. Those funds could be used to pay for supplies including books or to reimburse Rob and Tim. April asked if we could purchase a web domain with the funds. Tim said it was probably not acceptable since it wasn't training related. Buff suggested we give the money back to the Junior League. Paula asked about when the report is due. Brian said the report is due at the end of

February.

Roz motioned that CORAL subtract what is needed for thank you cards, postage, and other minor expenses and return the rest to the Junior League. Buff seconded the motion.

Paula asked if we can do this? Brian said the Phoenix Center has returned grant funds in the past. April made a friendly amendment to include if it is possible to return those funds. If not, she suggested purchasing the software Constant Contact to connect with the participants. Roz and Buff accepted the friendly amendment. Jim noted that government grants are usually fully spent. Ann spoke to her experiences as a grant writer that most organizations would want the funds spent. Rob asked about reaching out to the Junior League to see what they would like us to do. Buff spoke to the impression returning funds would have on CORAL's reputation. Jim asked April about the software program. April said yes, this could be used in the future as well.

The friendly amendment passed unanimously. The motion carried with one negative vote. Jim thanked Rob and Tim again for their work.

F. Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health

Rob passed out a report about the project (included at the end of these minutes). April noted she has picked up the rug, but it won't fit in her vehicle. We will need to move the carpet from April's house to Lincoln Prairie with someone who has a bigger vehicle. Roz said we could use her vehicle. Roz noted that she wished she would have been included more in the project. April noted that if it is raining, using a truck will be difficult.

April noted that some sample fabrics we selected with the interior designer. They are working on light fixtures and benches for the room such as an ottoman. They are in contact with the Phoenix Center about artwork for the walls. There was a discussion of what type of artwork can be attached to the walls. April noted they are using the rug Michael Johnson donated.

Gary noted that the committee might find some furniture and decorations at his place of business. April noted that there are very specific parameters to follow.

G. Ritz 2020

Jim brought a possible centerpiece for consideration for the committee. The Ritz committee will be meeting a week from Tuesday night and has been working diligently on awards and flowers. The award winners have been selected and will remain confidential other than recognizing Governor Pritzker

for his support of the LGBT community during his time in office. The theme this year is Everyone Counts due to the census and the election year. Jim shared a cover of the brochure. Nick at Solutions Printing and Bert have worked diligently on the design of the event logo. We will have buttons again for this year's event with the current logo and higher quality than last year.

Jim has tickets available for purchase, as does the rest of the committee. We will be looking at table captains again this year. Bert noted we have 16 tables commitments with 4 additional tables as maybes. Roz noted we may have another group. \$1800 have been deposited as of this week. For any sponsor to have four weeks of advertising, they must be confirmed by Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> to get four full weeks of advertising. March 20<sup>th</sup> is the final deadline for any advertisements for the Ritz. Bert discussed what commitments we need to get in this week. Awards are priced and flower proposals are nearly ready. The photographer has been confirmed (\$20 for a 5x7 inches with \$10 for each additional photo).

Bert noted we need biographies for the award winners and the PowerPoint presentation needs to be prepared. The ticket books have ten tickets even though the tables are eight placings, but we can accommodate up to ten at a table if an entire book of tickets wish to sit together.

April reported that we have received \$4,150 so far that has been collected from sponsors and advertisers. April would like the person's name, business, and address for anyone sending in a payment. All invoices need to be recorded with April. She needs the check date, number, and amount for all receipts.

#### H. Springfield Call 2 Action

Jim reported Springfield Call 2 Action will be meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>. He will ask them about an ad for the Ritz. Roz asked about the location of the meeting. Jim said it will be at the AFSCME Office Building off of second at 5:00 PM.

#### I. Springfield Sliders Event

Rex reported that we need to know about CORAL's seriousness to do the event. It will cost \$4000 to \$5000 to do the event. Rex and Jim have been working with Equality Illinois and Acorn Equality. Rex is willing to put down \$1000 on the condition that an ad goes in the Ritz booklet with the date of the event and AIDS Walk Springfield.

Rob asked about what we have heard from the other organizations. Jim has reached out to Equality Illinois about the event (and the Ritz) and has

discussed the event with them. Jim will call them on either Monday and Tuesday with the hopes of having something by Friday. Jim has submitted a grant request to both Equality Illinois and Acorn Equality.

April noted the first package was \$3000 without the uniforms and that it would cost another \$1000 for the uniforms. Without commitments from other organizations, she suggested we not do the uniforms. There was a discussion of the advertising banners and how effective they would be for CORAL. April made a motion that we pursue the first package for \$3000 with a \$1000 donation from Rex Schadow and if grants become available, we will move to the second package. Buff seconded. Rex noted we get \$4 back for every ticket we sell.

The motion passed with two negative votes. A confirmation of the vote outcome with a show of hands was requested. Nine individuals voted in favor. Two individuals voted against the motion. The motion passed.

J. Communication from Other Organizations.

Ann Engel noted that she has just opened her therapy practice. She is inexpensive but effective and hopes to primarily serve the LGBTQ community.

Jim noted the Springfield Choral Society has a concert on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

Fifth Street Renaissance will hold its art auction on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Their annual meeting is May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Jim reviewed some of the upcoming dates for upcoming events (included below).

Paula reported, 5:30 PM on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, MCC Church will be hosting a Soul Food event to recognize Black History Month. Paula needs a response for anyone coming by the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Rogers reported MCC's other fundraisers - March 20<sup>th</sup> is a bake sale, April 11<sup>th</sup> is a Pancake fundraiser at Apple Bees on Dirksen.

Gary Kessler reported that next Sunday is chocolate Sunday in Greenview followed by an auction. The event is held at the high school from 2-4 PM.

K. Trivia Night for Junior League of Greater Springfield

Jim noted we previously discussed this event. Rex shared that CORAL's table kept their bonus balloon through all ten rounds and only lost out of the prize on the tiebreaker question. Gary Kessler noted that we were 9<sup>th</sup> in the competition with a score of 94 out of 100.

L. Trivia Night for Phoenix Center

Jim noted that at the last meeting, CORAL agreed to sponsor two rounds. CORAL is sponsoring two rounds at \$100 each and a table at \$150 for a total of \$350. Traditionally CORAL asks that individuals reimburse CORAL for participating. Jim, Marty, Linda, and Roz have signed up so far. The event is February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

M. Habitat for Humanity Home Project

Jim reported that Habitat for Humanity will be having a meeting on Tuesday at noon at 2744 south 6<sup>th</sup> street to discuss the event. This meeting will discuss fundraising events at this meeting including a walking event. They are also looking for people to supply lunches while other people are working. They need people to do the physical labor. Jim will be at the meeting on Tuesday. If anyone would like to go with Jim, they are welcome to attend.

April noted she is participating in the women's build. It costs \$100 to participate. They also hold 'stud parties' to paint some of the lumber used in the build. Buff discussed his past experiences with Habitat for Humanity in Springfield. Rob suggested that Jim bring with some Ritz information to this meeting.

## **VI. New Business**

A. New Business

Jim explained that Chris Boyster is coming up with a form for individuals to volunteer for projects and committees. The committees include Finance, By-laws, and events we host such as the Pride Picnic and the Thanksgiving Dinner. Jim will forward this form out so that people can volunteer once it has been prepared.

## **VII. Dates to Remember**

Jim announced the following dates to remember:

- February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM – CORAL Monthly Meeting – Heartland MCC
- February 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM – Habitat for Humanity Meeting
- February 11<sup>th</sup> – Phoenix Center Educational Series
- February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM – Springfield PFLAG Budget Meeting

- February 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM – RITZ 2020 Committee Meeting
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Phoenix Center Trivia Night
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – Church of the Brethren Pancake and Sausage Breakfast
- March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM – CORAL Monthly Meeting – Heartland MCC
- March 10<sup>th</sup> – Phoenix Center Educational Series
- March 14<sup>th</sup> – GLAD Social (TBA)
- March 17<sup>th</sup> – Primary Election. Please vote.
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Club La Cage
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – Springfield Pridefest

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Buff moved that we adjourn. Rex seconded. The motion passed unanimously.  
The meeting adjourned at 6:42.

Minutes Submitted By: Timothy Bill, Secretary



February 9, 2020

PRISM has the following updates to report:

January Event

In partnership with Ahh Yoga, PRISM hosted a Sculpt Yoga class with a small social following at Bunn Gormet. Thirteen people were in attendance and had a good time. PRISM may look at hosting another event like this later in the year.

Community Forum

Blake Denherder represented PRISM at the Community Forum hosted by CORAL. Multiple other leadership team members were in attendance. PRISM made some exciting new connections at the event.

Spring Events

The following events are in the planning stages for later this spring:

February/March - Speed Networking Event

March/April - Out Professionals Panel

May - Day/Eve Before Pride Brunch/Dinner

Dates and locations for these events will be provided once they have been confirmed.

Submitted by Timothy Bill



## **Junior League Grant Community Forum/Training**

### **Updates**

Roughly 70 people attended the Forum representing at least 18 organizations, 14 of which directly participated in panel discussions throughout the morning. Discussion revolved around possible continued future forums on topics pertinent to the lgbt+ community. Outcomes are on-going. Discussions are continuing regarding next steps; including today's meeting.

### **Next Steps**

Forum Evaluation will be sent to participants via email within the next week. As agreed upon, content from various organizations will be collected and distributed to individuals who participated in

Brian is focusing on generating a report for the Junior League and reconcile expenses.

Submitted by Rob Weis and Timothy Bill  
February 9th, 2020.

## Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center

These are the updates for Lincoln Prairie (LPBH) for the January Board meeting;

Furnishing the LGBT lounge with appropriate furniture, etc. to make the room feel like a place the kids can socialize;

- 1) Floor covering – April
- 2) Furnishings – Tara McVary from AFAR Interiors has agreed to design some bean bag chairs for the space. Fabric samples have been provided to sub-committee for review. Other options are being considered.
- 3) Wall coverings – In review.
- 4) Light coverings – In review.

We hope to have this project reconciled within the next few months

Respectfully Submitted

Rob Weis

Provided 2/09/20

"...an ending, a beginning, a new cloth to weave, a tapestry for tomorrow, a picture that will breathe.

~Tapestries c. 1982



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**Dr. Ann Sarah Engel**

*Under the direct supervision of Gene Brodland, LCSW*

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