



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances

Annual Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2020

Attendees: Bert Morton, Arthur Clark, Ann Engel, April Poole, Jim Barr, Rob Weis, Brian Sylvester, Timothy Bill, Paula Harris, Rex Schadow, Buff Carmichael, Steve Luker, Gary Rogers, Randy Kaw

I. Call to Order

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

II. Motion to Record Meeting

Paula moved to record the meeting. Art seconded. Motion carried.

III. Approval of the March 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Timothy Bill submitted the minutes from the March 8th, 2020 meeting. April moved to approve the minutes. Bert seconded. Motioned carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Brian Sylvester provided the treasurer's report including the account balance for May. There was a discussion of pledged amounts regarding the Ritz. Jim reported that a \$2,910.00 charge will be from the Crowne Plaza if we don't hold the Ritz in 2021. The discussion continued about sponsors and advertisers for the Ritz.

Art made a motion to hold back the money collected in 2019 and 2020 for advertising, sponsorships, and ticket sales in case of possible cancellations pending a final tally from Brian. Buff seconded. Motion carried.

There was a discussion of expenditures that have already been made for the Ritz.

V. Update on Permanent Council Meeting May 10th

Jim provided an update on the most recent meeting of the permanent council. The council accepted Chris Boyster's resignation and Paula has been elected to be the next Vice President. The permanent council also discussed the Sliders Ball Game. A committee has been created to oversee this event for next year including Bert, Rex, Jim, and April. Any volunteers are welcome to join this committee. We are also looking for volunteers for the fundraising committee. The Pride Drive is replacing the Pride Picnic this year. The Ritz has been postponed until March 27, 2021. The annual meeting and a proposed new Junior League grant were also discussed.

VI. Donation to First Church of the Brethren

There was a discussion about making a donation to First Church of the Brethren for the use of their facilities for Ritz meetings, the May permanent council meeting, and the annual meeting.

Bert motioned to pay First Church of the Brethren \$50 for the May 10th meeting and the June 14th meeting. Buff seconded. The motion carried.

VII. Status of Sliders Ball Game Moving Forward

This event will take place in 2021 at the earliest. CORAL does not currently owe anything for this event, and we do not have a commitment to do the event next year. The next step for this event is for the committee to begin pursuing grants for next year.

There was a discussion about the Thanksgiving Dinner. We still have our November date reserved in case the event can proceed.

VIII. Status of the “Everyone Counts” A Pride Drive

Jim and Bert discussed the advertising and promotions for this event. Jim mentioned that if you know anyone in Decatur who would like to donate, contact Jim Barr or Lisa Cotton. They will be collecting donations in Decatur on the Friday before the event. There was a discussion of the preparations for this event and possible guests who may be present.

IX. Any Other Old or New Business

A. Junior League Grant

Rob noted that we have not heard back about our most recent grant application. The grant would be used for board governance training if we receive it. The grant would cover 80% of the expense. The \$60.38 from the previous grant would also be used for this project.

B. Insurance

Paula reported that we have are working towards getting coverage. We should have a quote soon.

C. Award Nomination

Rob reported that Bert has been nominated for an achievement award from UIS. Please send Rob any items worth including in the nomination by the end of this week. The ceremony will take place online on July 20th.

X. Annual Reports

A. Community Forum/Junior League Grant

Tim provided a report on the Community Forum and Junior League Grant. It is included below.

B. Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Project

Rob provided a report on this project. It is included below. April mentioned that there were some communication issues that also slowed down this project.

C. Pride Picnic and Thanksgiving Dinner

Brian provided a report on these two events. It is included below.

D. PRISM

Tim provided a report about PRISM's activities over the past year. It is included below.

E. President's Report

Jim provided the President's Report which is included below.

F. Treasurer's Report

Brian provided the annual treasurer's report. It is included below.

April moved to accept the verbal annual reports. Brian seconded. The motion carried.

XI. Dates to Remember

- June 20, 2020 – Everyone Counts Pride Drive
- June 21, 2020 – Permanent Council Meeting
- June 24, 2020 at 6:30 PM – Pride & Joy Service – First Presbyterian
- July 12, 2020 – CORAL Monthly Meeting
- September 13, 2020 – Habitat for Humanity Walk
Registration is at 1:00 PM, the walk is at 2:00 PM in Enos Park
- September 13, 2020 – CORAL Monthly Meeting
- March 27, 2021 – The Ritz

XII. Adjournment

Brian moved to adjourn. April seconded. The motioned carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Minutes Submitted By: Timothy Bill, Secretary

Junior League Grant and Community Forum

Grant from the Junior League

In early 2019, the Coalition of Rainbow Alliances (CORAL) applied for and received a grant from the Junior League of Springfield to facilitate a communication training Session. This grant was for up to \$1200 to be matched by \$300 worth of expenditure from CORAL for the training session.

Interviews and Summative Report

To ascertain the needs of CORAL and the LGBTQ community in the region, Rob Weis and Timothy Bill conducted interviews with 27 individuals in the community who are stakeholders of CORAL. The results of each interview were combined in a written report which identified the major themes. The interviews were kept confidential.

Seven major themes emerged which were:

1. Need for greater public awareness of CORAL
2. Improved internal communication within CORAL
3. Continue building coalitions in the community
4. The importance of CORAL and the value of serving our community through our annual events
5. Tensions of being an umbrella organization
6. Increasing the inclusiveness and representativeness of the organization, specifically the trans community, people of color, younger members, the faith community, and straight allies
7. Provide greater representation and support to lesbians within the organization

The permanent council has been working to address these themes. One of the first steps was to organize a community forum to begin breaking down the silos between organizations.

Community Forum

Rob Weis and Timothy Bill organized a Community Forum event from 8:00 - 12:30 on February 8th. Roughly 70 people were in attendance representing at least 18 organizations. 14 organizations participated directly in three different panel discussions. The event was a success and multiple individuals representing different organizations expressed interest in hosting this event again in the future. Through a permanent council retreat after the forum and subsequent discussions at CORAL monthly meetings, a further three areas of focus emerged:

1. Creating a community calendar
2. Increasing connections to new organizations and strengthening diversity including lesbians, the trans community, and people of color
3. Providing for more leadership development

Follow-Up after the Forum

After the Community Forum, all of the panelists were sent thank you notes for participating in the event. A survey was sent out to participants in the event and social media and contact information was shared between the organizations.

The event was featured in an article written by Rachel Otwell in the March 5th edition of the Illinois Times:

<https://www.illinoistimes.com/springfield/rainbow-connections/Content?oid=11896474>

The CORAL treasurer is working on completing the grant commitment by generating a final report to be provided to the Junior League of Springfield. The unexpended \$60.38 will be used to help fulfill the goals identified above.

Submitted by Timothy Bill and Robert Weis

June 14th, 2020

CORAL Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center Project - Annual Report

06/14/20

This is the update for CORAL's project to assist the clients / patients of Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center (LPBH) for the CORAL 2020 Annual Report.

In the spring of 2019, CORAL committed to support Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center in Springfield, Illinois (LPBH). CORAL in partnership with LPBH identified the following efforts as a way in which CORAL could assist LGBTQ+ youth in the central Illinois area:

- **Access to undergarments for adolescents transitioning from female to male**
 - A connection was made in the summer of 2019 between the Phoenix Center and LPBH to establish a pipeline for the individual purchase of items for adolescents in need at LPBH. CORAL did not pursue this objective as the need was already met.
- **Ongoing therapeutic support for patients at LPBH**
 - As of the summer of 2019, PFLAG Springfield has been providing group therapeutic support on-site. CORAL did not pursue this objective as the need was already met.
- **Furnishing the LGBT lounge at LPBH to create a welcoming feeling and enhance socialization**
 - This project was divided into two phases: Fundraising and Promotion, and Room Furnishing.
 - **Fundraising and Promotion:**
 - Promotion and fundraising efforts included the following Powerpoint presentations at Heartland Metropolitan Community Church and Church of the Brethren. Additional funds were acquired from First Presbyterian Church, CORAL, and various other donors, generating a total of \$2,700.00. An additional commitment for \$300.00 is outstanding. In the September 19th edition of the Illinois Times, an article was published outlining this effort between LPBH and CORAL:
<https://www.illinoistimes.com/springfield/for-lgbt-teens-lincoln-prairie-cares/Content?oid=11493660>.
 - **Room Furnishing:**
 - As funds were acquired last fall, discussion turned toward furnishing the LGBT lounge room identified by Lincoln Prairie. During early winter, an alternative room was selected and painted in preparation for furnishing. The following items were acquired for placement in the identified LGBT+ community room: floor covering; light coverings; zebra print wall covering; various seating including game chairs, bean-bag chairs, and cubes. Expenses to date total \$2,890.82.
 - **Challenges and setbacks:**
 - Leadership change and communication gaps at LPBH
 - CEO abruptly departed in September 2019, creating an information gap regarding next steps. This resulted in a lack of clarity from LPBH regarding expectations and limitations for purchasing items.
 - Impact of COVID-19: The arrival of the COVID-19 global pandemic presented complications in completing this project this past spring.
 - **Next Steps:**
 - Items acquired for the LGBT+ lounge / community room are anticipated to be placed in the summer of 2020. Communication continues with LPBH to coordinate arrival of furnishings purchased.

Rob Weis
Submitted 6/14/20

Pride Picnic

The 2019 Pride Picnic was held at its usual place at Lincoln Park, Shelter 4, at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 22nd. All the typical accoutrements were available with chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, and beverages; with attendees bringing their favorite side dishes and desserts to complete the festivities. This year, we also asked for donations for the flood victims of Calhoun County.

Even though the day was unusually warm with fans blowing from many different sides of the shelter for a wisp of a breeze, the event was well attended. Fifth Street/SARA Center brought their testing van and had several members of their staff on hand to enjoy and administer tests for those who wished to have them. Other organizations with members present were Prism, Heartland Community MMC, First Church of the Brethren, PFLAG, Phoenix Center, Phoenix Center Youth and Trans group, and many of our friends and allies.

Overall, about 50 attendees came and everyone enjoyed a laugh or two while sweating profusely with new and old faces but no one left hungry.

Thanksgiving:

The 2019 Thanksgiving Dinner returned to Lincoln Park Pavilion on Saturday, November 23rd at 5:00 p.m. with dinner served at 6:00. All the familiar favorites were provided such as Turkey and Ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, and beverages, with everyone attending asked to bring a side dish or dessert as well. As in the past, we asked all attending to donate food items for the local party and this was generously done this year as two car loads were taken to the the Fifth Street/SARA Center that evening.

Approximately 75 to 80 people attended the event this year with several taking the opportunity to announce future events and functions that were being planned. The Phoenix Center filled one table and spoke of their upcoming meetings for Pridefest. Brothers & Sisters filled everyone in on the upcoming Christmas Dinner and exchange. Capital City Men's Chorus announced their Christmas Choral event, and the Aid's Walk was discussed for the first time with everyone as well.

After dinner, everyone slowly mingled from table to table socializing with those who they might not have seen for some time while enjoying dessert and the warmth of being together for the season.

Submitted by Brian Sylvester



PRISM has been active since the previous CORAL annual meeting. The organization held or attended the following events:

Governor's Panel and Reception

On May 15, Equality Illinois hosted their annual LGBTQ Advocacy Day which culminated in a panel discussion and reception at the governor's mansion. Multiple leadership team members were in attendance.

Eve Before Pride Dinner

PRISM hosted an Eve Before Pride Dinner at Papa Frank's on May 17th. PRISM made 45 new contacts and received \$250 in donations at the event.

Springfield Pridefest

PRISM had a booth at Springfield Pridefest on May 18th. The organization made many new exciting contacts and was energized by Pridefest.

Springfield Business Journal Interview

PRISM was featured in an article in the Springfield Business Journal in June. Members of CORAL were also interviewed for this article.

Danenberger Family Vineyards Nine to Wine Networking Event

On July 13th, PRISM hosted a networking event at Danenberger Family Vineyards. At least 30 people were in attendance and had a good time.

Decatur Pride

PRISM had a booth at Decatur Pride and made some exciting new contacts in Decatur.

Cooking Classes

On October 4th and 11th, PRISM partnered with Copper Pot Cooking Studio to host two cooking classes that were well attended.

Holiday Open House

PRISM hosted a Holiday Open House on December 18th at The Incubator. This event went well. In addition to the product donations at the event, PRISM raised \$113.00 to purchase menstrual hygiene products. PRISM voted to match those donations dollar for dollar for a total of \$226.00 raised. These funds were used to purchase additional menstrual hygiene products which were donated to Fifth Street Renaissance.



Sculpt Yoga Class

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

CORAL Community Forum

Blake Denherder represented PRISM at the Community Forum hosted by CORAL on February 8th . Multiple leadership team members were in attendance. PRISM made some exciting new connections at the event.

Illinois Times Article

Co-chair Dustin Patton was interviewed for the Illinois Times article about the CORAL community forum. That article can be found here:

<https://www.illinoistimes.com/springfield/rainbow-connections/Content?oid=11896474>

Virtual Springfield Pridefest

PRISM took part in the Phoenix Center's virtual pride celebration on May 16th by sharing posts on social media throughout the day.

Updated Mission Statement

The leadership team of PRISM approved an updated mission statement.

Professionals in the Springfield Metro (PRISM) is an organization of equality affirming individuals and businesses dedicated to establishing and elevating the Springfield, IL LGBT+ professional community through effective networking, service, and professional development events.

The Future

Throughout the next year, PRISM hopes to be able to host more events within the guidelines of the Restore Illinois reopening plan. The organization is also working on updating its bylaws and recruiting new members to its leadership team.

Submitted by:

Timothy Bill

CORAL and Education Liaison

President's Annual Report May 10th, 2020

Reported June 14th, 2020

During the past year, the Coalition of Rainbow Alliances (CORAL) has been very busy with many projects as well as participating in many events sponsored by other organizations

I want to thank the members of the Permanent Council, Paula Harris, Brian Sylvester, and Tim Bill (and former members, Lee Korty and Chris Boyster) as well as all of those who have chaired a project or worked on a project over the past 12 months. I want to especially thank our Events Coordinator, Bert Morton, for all of the tireless hours that he has spent working on projects and lending advice to chairpersons to help make their project a success.

Some of the events and projects that CORAL has been involved with the past 12 months include a very successful RITZ held in March 2019. The theme that year was "Proud and Strong" We were able to carry that theme throughout all of 2019.

We also participated in Springfield's 9th Annual PrideFest in May as well as Decatur's 2nd annual PrideFest in October. Both events were highly successful with a lot of socializing as well as building connections with other organizations that we hope to work with on future events. We want to especially thank Roz Stein for her work on the Pride Parade in Springfield. She and several workers came up with many signs depicting events in LGBTQ History. She also designed a wonderful t-shirt that we wore proudly in the parade.

In the Spring, we also received "The Community Partnership Award" from Fifth Street Renaissance/SARA Center. In August, we ended up staffing the Equality Illinois Tent at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. It was a good time and many of our members stepped up to help out with the outreach program.

The Fall brought about changes in the Permanent Council as Tim Bill came on board as our secretary. We want to thank Lee Korty for all of the years that he served in that capacity. Lee has taken on the position as our Historian and we certainly want to thank him for that.

Besides Decatur PrideFest on October 5th, we participated in the Phoenix Center's Fall Gayla. As always, it was a good event, attended by many. We also joined with a large group of community members and organizations at the dedication of the Aids Memorial in Lincoln Park. Prominently on the west side of the memorial is the bench that was donated by CORAL. As you walk around, you will notice many blocks that have been sponsored by many CORAL Members in honor or memorial to those who lost their lives to HIV/Aids and or were activists in the fight against AIDS.

In December, we began our plans for our next "RITZ" to be held March 28th, 2020. With an able bodied committee, we choose the slogan "Everyone Counts" in recognition of the importance of the 2020 Census as well as the importance of everyone eligible to register and vote in the November election. An impressive logo was designed and then it was selling sponsorships, ads, and tickets to the event. With the COVID 19 Pandemic, we were forced to postpone the event until August of this year. However, that also changed when we realized that we would not be able to have the event as we hoped due to the State, Stay at home directives. We are now scheduled for March 27th, 2021.

In February, we held a Community Forum thanks to a grant from the Junior League of Springfield. It was well received and many attended the event. A huge thank you to Rob Weis and Tim Bill for all the work that they put in on the event.

We also want to make a special note about the youth group room that we are working on at the Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center for LGBTQIA youth. A huge thank you to Rob Weis and April Poole and all the others who donated time and money for this project.

During the past 12 months, we have been involved in so many different events, they are too many to enumerate. We have participated in several Trivia Nights, church breakfast fundraisers, Art auctions, etc. Each and everyone very important to our community as well as the community of Springfield and Central Illinois as a whole.

For CORAL to continue to grow, we must remain involved in the LGBTQ community as well as the entire community of Springfield and Central Illinois. We must be vigilant and dedicated to standing together for what is just and right for all of our members.

With all of my respect and love to all of you and a sincere thank you for all of the work and efforts on behalf of CORAL.

Sincerely,

Jim Barr

P.S. I failed to mention our partnering with Habitat for Humanity for their walk to build another home in Springfield. This was to be held in April, but has now been moved to September.

CORAL Annual Finance Report - 2019

Beginning Balance: **\$8,566.62**

Expenses:

Ritz	\$ 8,156.82
Pridefest	\$ 2,275.00
Fifth Street Memorial	\$ 1,500.00
Prism	\$ 1,000.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 700.00
MCC rental	\$ 675.00
Decatur Pride	\$ 500.00
Phoenix Gayla	\$ 400.00
Phoenix Trivia	\$ 300.00
PFLAG brochures	\$ 300.00
Phoenix Youth	\$ 200.00
PO Box	\$ 92.00
Pride Picnic	\$ 65.00
Fifth Street Trivia	\$ 50.00

Total: \$16,213.82

Income:

Ritz	\$ 18,775.00
Support the Children	\$ 3,710.00
Eq IL State Fair	\$ 1,000.00
Phoenix Gayla	\$ 450.00
Thanksgiving Donations	\$ 230.00
Donations	\$ 210.77
Prism	\$ 100.00
Picnic donations	\$ 68.00
Pridefest donations	\$ 62.00
Fifth St Trivia	\$ 50.00
Decatur Pride donations	\$ 45.00

Total: \$24,700.77

Gross \$8,486.95

Ending Balance: **\$17,053.57**