



## **Coalition of Rainbow Alliances Monthly Meeting November 10, 2024**

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

Brian Sylvester President  
Lisa Cotton, Vice President  
Sheila Morris Treasurer  
Jenna Broom, Member at Large  
Lori Carlsen Secretary  
Jim Barr, Ex-officio  
David Yankee Member at Large  
Mike Yankee

Mike Johnson  
Roz Stein  
Bert Morton  
Lee Korty  
Candice Clotfelter  
Christina Newton  
Tiffany Lapp  
Harry Carlsen  
Rex Schadow

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

Approval of minutes from October 13, 2024 Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes, Rex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurers Report-** Sheila provided printed reports and gave a verbal report. She reported that the fee for the Jaycees Holiday Parade has been paid. Lee stated he has a \$100.00 donation check for the Mexican Scholarship Fund that he will give to Sheila. Lisa made a motion to accept and file for audit, Jenna seconded. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership-** Brian stated there is nothing to report at this time.

**Social Media-** Brian reported the Facebook group had 45 posts for the month and 23 new members joined, bringing the total to 886. The most popular posts were the Wakery meet and greet event with 354, the response to the election with 295, and the recognition of Asexual Awareness Week with 222. The Facebook page had 38 posts and 11 new followers bringing the total to 939. The most

popular posts were the response to the election with 140, the response to the election by RuralHarmony with 127, and the recognition of Asexual Awareness week with 100. The website had 224 visits, a 14% increase, and 66 blog views (a 10% increase). For the first time, direct traffic was the highest with 83 visits and a 41% increase. Average time on the site was 3 m, 30 s.

**Activities**- Lisa reported she is working on a possible activity for February.

**Finance**- Sheila reported the finance committee met on October 22, 2024. She reported that the CORAL account is earning interest monthly not quarterly. Sheila also stated there was some confusion with Chatham United Methodist Church regarding them sponsoring the Holiday Meal Program. She did send a check for CORAL's donation to pay for the paper products needed for the meals. Harry asked if stamps had to be purchased from the Post Office. Brian stated Sheila may purchase them from where ever she would like as long as they are Forever Stamps.

**Partners & Supporters**- Brian reported he wanted to thank Rex for extending CORAL's information to Sangamon Triad. Sgt. Amie Robinson contacted CORAL after that meeting to let us know that they would love to work with us in the future and will add us to their email listing for upcoming activities and events. Lisa stated that she is talking with Lou Bart from the YMCA about working together.

**Ritz Committee**- Lori reported the committee met today. The end of year letters have been printed and are being signed by the committee members. She will mail them out tomorrow. The committee voted on award recipients for the 2025 Ritz but they are not announcing it at this time. She also reported that Gracie Tierany stated that she'd love to do the photography for the Ritz. Also, the final unpaid advertiser from the 2024 Ritz has paid. 2024 Ritz books are closed.

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

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

**The Wakery**- Brian reported While there were two events held for our drink of the month, the latter date was better attended. For the record, Brian made clear that this was not necessarily designed to be a fundraiser as CORAL probably made \$50.00 maximum with the drinks sold, but it was a nice idea to get people out

and see what CORAL was about. While the drink was on the Wakery's menu, we group/page.

**UIS Speaker Series-** Brian reported CORAL co-sponsored this event with UIS to have Dr. Nathan Todd speak on open and affirming faiths. Dr. Todd showed the results of his studies on the topic and presented material that would help various faiths in displaying this to their LGBTQ communities as well as how to get their congregations onboard with the idea. This event was also part of UIS' speaker series that often is a required viewing for students in some of the classes so it was definitely a full house in the Brookens Auditorium that evening.

**Habitat for Humanity Raise the Roof Trivia Night-** Jenna stated it was fun, she even did some dancing. Jim stated it was a good time. Jim Leech was the emcee. Sheila stated that she and Sam volunteered and served food.

**APL-** Lisa stated we had a good turnout for the event. It went very well, there was 1 new person that attended, Christina Newton's mom.

**Lincoln Library Resource Fair-** Lisa stated that she and Lori worked CORAL's information table. There were about 10 vendors there. Not many people attended the event.

**Coffee with a Cop at Whimsy Tea-** Lisa reported we had 10 officers come to the event and talked with everyone there. They did great engaging with Sam. The Chief of Police gave Sheila his number to talk about Sam and training that needs to be done regarding special needs kids.

### New Business

**CORAL Sweatshirts-** Lisa reported that the sweatshirt order is here. Jenna stated Miles T-shirts will be having a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary open house on November 13, 2024 from 4 to 7pm.

**Phoenix Center Response-** Brian wanted to take a moment to thank the Phoenix Center for their acknowledgement of the error with the CORAL ad that was sized incorrectly in the Fall Gayla program. Teresa Silva's social media response was definitely more than was expected for a response but genuinely appreciated. Brian wanted to take a moment to thank the Phoenix Center for their acknowledgement of the error with the CORAL ad that was sized incorrectly in the Fall Gayla program. Teresa Silva's social media response was definitely more than was expected for a response but genuinely appreciated.

**SIU/Pritzker Study Updates-** Brian reported that the first round of ad materials and surveys have been designed and awaiting approval by all the partners involved. These will be discussed at the November meeting at the end of the month for mutual agreement. It is hoped that the ads might be agreed upon soon as we can get them out with our Ritz program this coming March.

**Jaycees Holiday Parade Sponsorship-** Brian reported that the candy for the parade has been ordered and received. He also brought up an opportunity to sponsor the parade this year and provided the price levels offered. Brian reviewed sponsorship levels. Jim made a motion to sponsor at the \$400.00 Silver and Gold level, Rex seconded. Motion carried. Brian will check with the Jaycees and have the money that we paid for the Capitol City Event that did not happen applied to the sponsorship. The Parade is on December 7, 2024.

**Acorn Equality Fund Breakfast-** Will be held on December 7, 2024 in Peoria. Lee stated that he will have 2 tables if anyone would like to go. They can purchase a ticket from him at a reduced price.

**Thanksgiving Dinner-** As this is the last meeting before the dinner, Brian wanted to make sure that all food items on the menu had been assigned. He also stated that turkeys have been slow to get out at the markets so if you find a good deal on them, snatch them. The only thing that still needs purchased for the event are the round tablecloths, which Brian will be purchasing soon at GFS. Roz suggested that we do the program during the meal, that way people can eat while the food is hot.

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.

**World Aids Day-** Will be on December 7, 2024 Brian reported that at this point, no organization appears to be planning anything for the event. Brian will keep an eye out for anyone that might plan something but wanted everyone to know.

**Brothers and Sisters Together Holiday Dinner-** Lisa reported that it will be at Mario's in Chatham on December 14, 2024. Bring a \$15.00 gift if you wish to participate in the gift exchange. Rob and Lisa will be meeting with Mario's to nail down the menu. She thinks they will be able to accommodate 35 people. Get your seat reserved.

**Logan County Pride Safe Zone Training-** Brian reported that Logan County Pride is conducting Safe Zone training free of charge on 11/14 at 6:00 p.m. at Heartland CC Lincoln Center, Ste 400. As Logan County as always been supportive of CORAL, he is hoping to attend if anyone else would like to go.

**City of Springfield Holiday Planter Decorating Contest-** Brian has signed CORAL up for the holiday planter decorating contest in Springfield this year. There was no cost for the event. CORAL has been assigned the pot #82 at the northwest corner of 6th Street and Washington. We will have from 11/16 to 11/29 to decorate the pot and they will be judged on 11/30.

**MLK Breakfast-** Will be on January 20, 2025 Bert forwarded an email received from Springfield Frontiers International Club for the MLK Breakfast, which will take place at the Crowne Plaza at 8:30 a.m. They have offered the opportunity to advertise in their program as well as purchase a table. Rex made the motion to purchase a table and a 1- page advertisement, Jim seconded. Motion carried.

**Election Results-** Brian presented an idea for a post election program that would include a panel discussion to cover all the topics that our community are concerned with as a result of the past election. He was hoping that the panel would include representatives from several stand points such as legal, religion, health, political, etc.

**APL Greenery-** Lisa stated that the APL is selling Christmas Greenery orders due by November 17, 2024

**Trans Day of Remembrance-** Will be held at the Phoenix Center on November 20, 2024 at OUT on 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.

**Springfield Junior Blues Hockey-** Rex suggested CORAL plan a Pride Night event for January. Discussion has been tabled until next meeting.

Candice made a motion to adjourn, Harry seconded, Motion carried meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.