**Monthly Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2022 at 5 pm (via Zoom)**

**PACG Civil Rights Issue Forum**

*Present:* Loxi Hopkins, Alta Price, Margie Mejia-Caraballo, Allison Ambrose, Caryn Unsicker, Susan Leuthauser, Sharita Lacy

Allison mentioned that we had quite a few people express interest in our forum on the Holiday party interest sheet and that she had invited (via email) all of these people to this meeting. Sharita, in attendance, was one of these new people! Welcome Sharita! It was suggested that **we call these people (who?)** to personally invite them to a meeting.

Members moved, seconded and approved the November Meeting minutes.

Action Item Updates:

***ACTION ITEMS from11/14 Civil Rights Forum Meeting:***

**Allison:**

* call potential places to hold our immigration summit, starting with St. Paul’s—Done, see notes
* share information with the broader Civil Rights email distribution list and get information into the PAU about how to reach out to legislators re: DACA--Done
* follow up with Miller-Meeks’ Washington Chief of Staff, re: our Immigration asks—Done, see notes
* call Ken Croken to find out more about the process of replacing the vacant seat on the board of supervisors—Done, see notes
* get the petition for community ID into the PAU--Done.

**Immigration Summit:**

We have two requests out for places to hold the summit (downtown EICC building and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church). **Allison will inform members as soon as we have a confirmation of date and place (Since then, we have scheduled EICC for 2/25 from 10:00 am to noon).** Once we have a date and place, Allison will ask members to reach out to potential panelists to secure their participation. **Panelist assignments are as follows:**

* **Margie---Summer A (Immigration attorney)**
* **Susan---someone from ICIRR (Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights), the resource organization in Illinois that understands the laws governing refugee entrance along with what’s needed legislatively.**
* **Loxi--someone from the diocese who works with family re-unification and Mayra from QCI**
* **Alta--Laura Fontaine from World Relief**
* **Allison--Miller-Meeks' staffer who works with those seeking visas and Catholic Worker house of Iowa City**

Susan mentioned that QCAir had secured a grant, of which part will allow them to establish the QC Immigration and Refugee Council, which will allow groups who are working on immigration to meet regularly and coordinate efforts. We thought that our summit would be a great place/way to announce and kick off this council. Allison also mentioned that One Human Family has agreed to be a co-sponsor.

We discussed the various immigration issues that panelists should be discussing at the summit: information about immigration laws and changes/potential changes, challenges with these laws, updates on the laws, problems and potential solutions/actions**. Allison will develop a description of the summit** (see below). From this discussion, we developed the list of potential speakers, which appears in the assignments above.

We also, have since, developed a description of the summit and envision that our audience would be those that would like to understand more about the laws/policies and the related challenges (ie: those who don’t understand the difficulties could really benefit from this information).

**Immigration Summit Description**

*The purpose of the summit is to inform participants of the various laws and regulations that affect immigrants and refugees, including VISA processing, granting asylum, entrance quotas, available resources, protections, etc.  Updates on current legislation as well as challenges with implementation will be discussed.  Panelists will inform the audience from their unique perspectives and experiences. Participants will engage in Q&A to identify specific problems with the current laws in order to identify potential solutions that can be acted upon.*

We discussed how to market the summit and other groups that might want to co-sponsor (QCI was mentioned as they would be able to effectively advertise to various churches). **Need to ask QCI (who?)** Marketing to schools was another idea suggested. We could do some kind of digital ad, like our health care group did. **Allison will call Diane Trix regarding how this works.**

**Other Immigration Issues-**--QCI is holding a press conference on immigration at the Diocese on Wednesday (12/14) at 2. Alta and Loxi both indicated that they think they can go. If so, they will inquire about what we can do to help.

Allison did talk to Caroline from Miller-Meeks’ Washington office regarding Miller-Meeks’ stance on immigration. She is a staunch proponent of comprehensive immigration reform and has actually been involved in a few bills on immigration. She supports legal immigration. For the future, based on this information, we definitely need to stay in touch with her office regarding any potential immigration issues and stay informed on her activity on immigration.

Allison indicated that there has been a flurry of activity on immigration due to the way the end of the year appropriations processes work. The Value our Families organization that Allison is in contact with has a lot of information regarding what is happening. This information has been shared (along with link for making easy legislative calls) with the broader civil rights distribution list (and in PAU). We agreed that as a new legislative session starts, we need to stay aware of anything federally going on with immigration in order to be aware of how we can make a difference. Also, we want our summit to end with suggestions on how people can take action.

**Quad City Sanctuary Coalition**—Margie informed us that the coalition is discussing changing meetings times in order to get better attendance and that they may meet only quarterly (vs. once a month). Their main issues is money and fundraising for the legal fees for our asylum seeker (Anna), who has a job and is living OK on her own. It was noted that she is really sponsored by the UU church, which is having some problems of their own. Thus, any fundraising efforts should not conflict with the church.

***Coalition Partners Update:***

* **MLK Interpretive Center:** No one to report.
* **NAACP:** No one to report**.**
* **LULAC:** No report
* **QCAIR:** (included in information regarding the Summit, above)

Note: (we work in coalition with the above groups and that we like to hear reports during out meetings so that we can be informed about what these groups are doing to potentially identify ways that we can support their efforts)

**Gender Equity Forum Update:** Alta indicated that there was nothing new to report. The group will re-convene in January.

**BLM Responses and Actions / Project Now:** PBS is interested in the PACG video that was prepared last year with local civil rights leaders (name?). YAH!. The equity now rally continues to be held every Saturday at from noon to 12:30 pm at John Deere Rd and 16th St. in Moline. ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Juvenile Justice Coalition:** Someone (who?) reported that they had been to the most recent meeting and that there were some new people and the meeting was good. There were discussions about some potential guest speakers and a lot of good ideas for the future emerged. This group meets on the 3rd Fridays of the month at noon on Zoom. Grant Tietjen and Bryce Schmidt (Scott County Jail) are the leaders of this group.

**Miscellaneous:** Allison had communicated with Ken Croken and Ken Beck about how the replacement on the Scott County Board of Supervisors would be selected. There was a bit of unclarity. Our group is of the opinion, that there should be an election. Members will keep their ears open, especially after the new session starts on what the process will be. (Since, we have found out that there is a petition process out for holding an election, versus having the replacement appointed).

Loxi brought up a concern based on a post she saw on Facebook about some gay bullying at Assumption. She is concerned that the administration there won’t do anything about it. We wondered what other schools would do if such bullying occurred. **Loxi was going to look into that.**  It was suggested that One Huan Family or Quad Citizens affirming Diversity could be good resources.

Those involved in the Community ID initiative being led by QCT were going to meet with the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday (12/14). We need to keep up with what is happening with this initiative, so we can know how to help. Allison did get information about this initiative, along with a petition that people can sign into the PAU.

**Monday, February 13th at 5:00 via ZOOM is the next meeting.**

*Notes taken by Allison Ambrose*

***ACTION ITEMS from 12/12 Civil Rights Forum Meeting:***

**Allison:**

* Confirm time and place of Immigration Summit and inform members.
* Write a description for the Immigration Summit
* Talk to Diane Trix about digital ad for Immigration Summit

Loxi:

* Call other high school to find out about processes they use for handling gay bullying

Committee Members:

* Contact potential panelists about speaking at the Immigration Summit

Anyone:

* Ask QCI to be co-sponsor of Immigration Summit
* Call people interested in our forum and personally invite them to join.