**Monthly Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2023 at 5 pm (via Zoom)**

**PACG Civil Rights Issue Forum**

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

Members did not have time to read last month’s minutes. We will approve them next month..

Action Item Updates:

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

**Allison:**

* Confirm time and place of Immigration Summit and inform members—Done, **Downtown EICC, 2/25 from 10:00 am to noon.**
* Write a description for the Immigration Summit—Done

**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.*

* Talk to Diane Trix about digital ad for Immigration Summit—Still need to do.

**Loxi:**

* Call other high school to find out about processes they use for handling gay bullying—Loxi had made a few attempts, but was unable to talk to anyone. She informed us that the superintendent of Catholic Schools and the Bishop are aware of the issue. She also talked to Rich and Henry about One Human Family reaching out to Assumptions, but both indicated that they were too busy at this time.

**Committee Members:**

* Contact potential panelists about speaking at the Immigration Summit—Work in progress; see notes below

**Anyone:**

* Ask QCI to be co-sponsor of Immigration Summit—not done; **Allison will do** before nest meeting
* Call people interested in our forum and personally invite them to join---Not done; still a good idea (ask Caryn to do)?

**Immigration Summit:**

Members discussed their success with speaker contact:

* **Margie---Summer A (Immigration attorney) –** Still trying to get a hold of. Ian Russel or Dan (someone?) from Iowa City were mentioned as other possibilities.
* **Susan---someone from ICIRR (Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights), --**Susan has a contact that **Allison will follow up with**. They may need to speak viaAllis Zoom as they are in Chicago.
* **Loxi--someone from the diocese who works with family re-unification and Mayra from QCI—**Mayra is in and yes to someone from diocese (Allison needs a name)
* **Alta--Laura Fontaine from World Relief—**Laura is not available that day, but will find someone else. They would like to speak on the Afghan Adjustment Act.
* **Allison--Miller-Meeks' staffer who works with those seeking visas and Catholic Worker house of Iowa City---**Josh from Miller-Meeks had changed job but has given Allison the name of two possible others. Emily, from Catholic worker house, was going to ask around there to see if anyone can do it.

We decided that **we would all follow up** with our contacts and secure firm commitments by Friday (1/13) so we can start publicizing. Allison wants to be sure we have enough panelists before we start publicizing. Everyone is to send contact information to Allison. **Allison will try to organize a Zoom call** with the panelists so we can all be on the same page.

Loxi mentioned that there are many people who don’t know what’s going on with the laws and in particular, if there are Hispanics in attendance, we may need a translator. She thought the there might be people from Iowa City (Worker Project?) that may want to come so they can better understand their rights.

We discussed the structure of the panel. Margie mentioned that she has bee working on a piece that includes facts about longevity of the process and we all agreed this may be anice way to start the event (vs. just stating a bunch of facts, which we thought will emerge organically as the speakers talk). We thought panelists would all have stories to tell that can lead into information about specific laws. We think that all if this will reveal a broken system and leave the impression that something should be done. We decided that panelist should speak for 15 minutes each and there would be a welcome and introductions (also need QCAir**; Susan will ask;** to discuss the new Council), then there would be plenty of time for Q&A at the end). We also want a discussion of potential actions at the end.

We discussion publicity. We will ask co-sponsors to get the word out to their lists. We will ask Maggie to start working on a flyer and will use the regular PACG avenues for publicity. **Allison will also get information out to** diocese social action people and in the two feet newsletter. We agreed that “refugee” should also be included in the name. We toyed around with some catchy phrases like “working within a broken system”. **Allison will share our ideas with Maggie.** We also will want a press release to go out. **Margie will get info into the local bilingual newsletter.** Sisters of Humility also may be a good group to ask to share publicity.

**Other Immigration Issues-**--Nothing to Report

**Quad City Sanctuary Coalition**—Nothing to report.

***Coalition Partners Update:***

* **MLK Interpretive Center:** No one to report.
* **NAACP:** No one to report**.**
* **LULAC:** No report
* **QCAIR:** No Report

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 had been in touch with Jael Simpson, who mentioned the upcoming planned Trans Summit as well as the smaller sessions (Trans 101) that she is involved with. Alta thought both of these things would be of interest to Gender Equity and will pursue PACG involvement.

**BLM Responses and Actions / Project Now:** Alta brought up the Project Now book club. They are discussing the New Jim Crow on 1/25 at 6:30 pm. They have a new model, where they discuss a book one month and have a speaker the following month. The February speaker is to be from Fully Free, and will talk about reintegration after incarceration. This is a really good group. We might want to consider working with them more (or Project Now as an organization.)

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:** Nothing new to report; Next meeting should be on 1/20 at noon.

**Miscellaneous:** Allison noted that the Community ID proponents had met with the Board of Supervisors, but no one knew what the results of that were. We need to keep informed on this initiative.

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

*Notes taken by Allison Ambrose*

***ACTION ITEMS from 1/9 Civil Rights Forum Meeting:***

**Allison:**

* Talk to Diane Trix about digital ad for Immigration Summit
* Contact Amber about QCI being a co-sponsor
* Talk to Maggie about publicity
* Follow up with speaker contacts (Miller-Meeks staffer, Iowa City Catholic Worker house, ICIRR)
* Get summit information out to diocese and sister of humility.

Margie:

* Get summit information into local Bilingual Newsletter

Susan:

* Ask someone from QCAir to be at summit to introduce the new Council

Committee Members:

* Follow up with speaker contacts and send Allison the contact information---by Friday, 1/13!

Anyone:

* Call people interested in our forum and personally invite them to join.