

## **ICRME Monthly Zoom Meeting Notes July 15, 2020**

Anna Rexik and Star Kirkland began with an overview of the agenda and housekeeping items.

### **Guest Speakers Reggie Grove, Lamar Cooper and Jazzy Person (Wild Cherry Quartz) were asked two questions:**

1. How did you get your start in the community?
2. How can we as individuals, organizations and businesses become better allies to our BIPOC community?
  - a. Reggie Grove got his start in the ICRME by attending Coronation 7 with Billy Burgess – Cassandra which was held in a movie theater. He mentioned that costumes and gowns were made by hand and was impressed by this. He was able to see Gary and Stephanie crowned at Coronation 7.
  - b. We need to be more open and understanding and to let the BIPOC community know who the ICRME is and what we do. We need to reach out to the community and get young people involved via phone or computer for virtual meetings.

A question was asked of Reggie: What kept him going to be a part of the organization? Overall, he kept going thru the good and became friends with several people within the organization.

A second question was asked of Reggie: What was a memorable moment during his reign? At BJ's Carousel, there was a Thanksgiving dinner for people with Aids. He was involved with making pies for the event. Someone came up to him and thanked him and the organization for being there. The person mentioned that they would not have had a Thanksgiving without them. This memory kept Reggie going.

Lamar Cooper, Emperor 32 got his start in Reign 30. He also was asked to run for Rocky Mountain Shining Star by John Lowe. Lamar had run for the title keeping in mind he did not want to win the title. After runner up #1 was announced, he realized he had won the title. It took a week for Lamar to go from disappointment to excitement on his title win.

Lamar's answer to the second questions was to open our hearts and see what other individuals have to bring to the table. The black community didn't understand Lamar being involved and the white community needed to be shown what he could bring to the table as a performer.

Lamar was asked what was the hardest issue being a black male. Tracy Edwards and Brandi Roberts supported Lamar as he was a young black person be shunned by the black community and was told he wouldn't be worth anything joining a white community.

An important point Lamar brought up is to stand behind your words. Some situations can turn for the worst if you do not as people remember what you say.

Our next guest speaker was Jazzy Person (Wild Cherry Quartz). When asked how she got started she said she was on the OKCupid app and started dating someone which led to Jazzy becoming more involved with the drag community. They attended shows and started performing with the guidance of Ladycat. They became involved with charity work with ICRME, Gay Pride, and Majestic Hearts and enjoyed the fact that these organizations raised money for charities.

To support and become more involved with the BIPOC community, we need to have more representation at shows in the community (not just ICRME events) and not just there with the pretty crowns and gowns, but also in plain clothes with nametags to show support. Community outreach may be lagging and there is too much drama. Even after a reign, past emperors and empresses need to be involved and support the community. Also unite and march to show support.

One question came up for Wild Cherry Quartz: What recommendation would you have for past Monarchs? Cherry mentioned going out in groups from ICRME for marches, and for that matter, any and all titleholders to the streets and to continue worked with organizations such as Feeding Denver's Hungry and shelters.

One comment came up about how each pageant is segregated and how we do not as a community raise a lot of money for one charity with several titleholders from across the board – all pageant titleholders.

### **Monarch / PR Updates:**

#### **Star and Drew**

- ICRME monthly meetings are returning.
- We are proud to have a diverse line of succession

### **Community Events:**

- Please let us know about any upcoming events. Email [curtes\\_bowden@yahoo.com](mailto:curtes_bowden@yahoo.com) and he will get the event written down.
- Drag Bingo Every Wednesday at Mile Hi Hamburger Mary's from 7pm-9pm- Make your reservations
- Visibility **Every Thursday** with Bella La Cher- Tracks from 9pm-11pm
- **7/18/2020**- A Night of Royal Affair at # VYBE- Doors at 6pm- 7pm- Reservations required from Michael Vrooman
- **7/19/2020**- Ratchet Hosted by Felony Misdemeanor at Dazzle- 7pm till 9pm \$15.00 ticket
- **7/21/2020**- Manifest Drag Troupe at Pride and Swagger- 8p.m.
- **7/25/2020**- Trans & Enby Drag Show and Protest- Flash Mob at Union Station then a Show at Blush n Blu from 1:30 p.m. till 4:30 p.m.
- **8/1/2020**- Touch of Class hosted by Star Kirkland at # VYBE Doors at 6p.m. shows at 7p.m. Benefiting the Center on Colfax and ICRME
- **8/15/2020**- Kiss your 20's Good By Hosted by JEstvez Count 47 to the Empress. Facebook Live event. Benefiting the White Rose Scholarship and ICRME.
- **8/19/2020**- ICRME Monthly Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom.
- **Every Saturday**- Brunch with the Brunch Bitch- Mile High Hamburger Mary's- 11am till 2pm

- **Every Saturday-** Drag Brunch- at Mile High Hamburger Mary's- Shows at 11am and 2pm- Reservations required.
- **Every Sunday-** Babes and Beer Hosted By Coco Bardot at Tracks from 3pm-6pm
- Beer Bust **Every Sunday** at the Denver Triangle from 4pm till 8pm
- **1st and 3rd Sunday-** Drag Queen Brunch Featuring Denver's Premier All Ages Drag Kidz hosted by Lala Shearz at Wild Corgi at noon.

#### **Anna and Freddy**

- Due to Covid 19 we are navigating new territory in holding shows in bars and virtually
- The PR Picnic has been moved to Labor Day weekend due to COVID and the PR's are exploring options of a location to have the picnic ensuring all in the community are able to attend.
- Hosting monthly meetings (will be through Zoom until we can meet in person) send ideas for topics to Princess Royale 47.

One comment made by Brandi Roberts:

Black Lives Matter and this is now the Revolution for the current generation. If more attendance is needed by the older generation, as some people are not as healthy, they are getting older and are not as mobile, then reach out to them. People are still here to support from a distance, you just need to be in contact with the older generation.

#### **Board Updates:**

The Board has implemented the following splits when raising money from shows:

- 60/40 split is no longer used
- 80/20 split is now used – 80% for the charity and 20% for ICRME
- 70/20/10 split is used for the White Rose Scholarship – 70% White Rose, 20% White Rose Affiliate and 10% ICRME

Travis thanked the hosts for the new format and appreciated them. He thanked the guest speakers and appreciated the participation.

Sydney Andrews gave an update to how much money we have given to 501(c)3's - \$12,500.

She also recommended that visiting the ICRME website is a great tool for learning more about the organization. The first newsletter will be coming out in August and an additional 3 newsletters will come out throughout the rest of the year.

Josh asked about how we can get the Latinx community more involved. We spoke about reaching out to organizations in the Latinx community to help that community bond.

**Our next monthly ICRME Meeting will be August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm via Zoom.**