

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 24

### Overview for General Meeting

- Group Discussion
  - Call to order, review, and approve the last meeting minutes
  - Non-profit update
  - Team Updates
    - Three-minute updates with additional time for Q&A
    - Please use “Raise your hand” function to ask questions
    - Refrain from discussing political agendas, issues, or opinions unless it is in direct alignment with our advocacy mission
- Other Business
- Roundtable

### Group Discussion

1. Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM EST and review of last meeting – Group  
The 7/23/2024 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
2. Non-Profit Updates – Shawn L., Executive Director  
Board members meet monthly and are working on current and previously tabled projects.
  - The next board meeting will be on Sunday, 8/25/2024.
  - A training module has been uploaded for the CiviCRM program to get familiar with the applications and how it pertains to our functionality as an advocacy group. A Civi meeting is scheduled for 8/14/2024.
3. Advocacy Participation Team – Kim H.  
UV4SOR hosted a Michigan Adopt-A-Highway cleanup event on 7/13/2024, collaborating with the [Michigan Citizens for Justice](#) support group on this project. They filled nineteen garbage bags and then had a picnic together.
  - The Adopt-A-Highway signs were received and installed on 7/29/2024. The Michigan members have discussed the potential of negative feedback or comments and are prepared to address any inquiries and questions that may arise from the signs being posted.
  - Questions were asked regarding implementing this program in other states and Kim explained the process and rules that are followed for MI.
4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.
  - The team forwarded a flier to our Illinois members for Karen Spataro who is organizing a new support group called Family of Registrants Growing Everyday (F.O.R.G.E.)
  - Monthly meetings were on hold in June and July. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 8/26/2024 at 7:00 PM EST.

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### 5. Welcome Team – Ann & Shep S.

The team is reaching out to new members after they attend their first meeting.

### 6. Communication Team – Kathy D.

- The team revised the UV4SOR Myths and Facts document to reflect current and accurate information and it is available on the [website](#).
- A team meeting was held on 7/22/2024 to discuss the present and future direction and goals of the team to determine how to best serve the mission and vision of UV4SOR. The next meeting date will be scheduled soon.
- A FB post was made to gauge what members need. Issues that were raised included employment opportunities, states that are more accepting and tolerant, and housing. A follow-up question regarding advocacy handouts was posed but was left unanswered. Based on the responses to the post, a survey or FB poll will be considered.
- The team will assume responsibility for replying to and documenting correspondence that is received by UV4SOR from those who are incarcerated.

### 7. Call to Action (CTA) Campaigns – Shawn L.

- Shawn and Sharon M. mailed a letter to various BOP directors and legislators addressing the problem of the federal CorrLinks email system being denied to those with a sex offense based solely on their charges, which is in violation of the BOP's program statements. The letter will be revised for use by individual members and made available to them along with a list of suggested recipients.
- All members are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings and bring forth issues that they feel are important. Bringing information to the group for discussion and suggested action shows that advocacy starts with one person getting upset and wanting to do something about it!
- Member Laura M. will attend the next meeting and address the issue of political rhetoric in this campaign cycle where elected officials brag about jailing “sex offenders” and use fear triggering words to sway a vote towards a candidate. She will share a video of a national press conference as an example of this and will head up a CTA to educate targeted political officials and let them know how we, as impacted persons, are made to feel when hearing comments such as this.

### 8. No More Silence Project – Betty B.

- Betty has received responses from several members who have offered to help with reviewing an introduction letter and the stories that have been submitted.
- The team is doing research to find legislators who have been outspoken in looking for solutions to injustices in the criminal justice system, especially for those with a sex offense. If anyone is willing to do research in their state, please contact Betty ([bbrand@uv4sor.org](mailto:bbrand@uv4sor.org)).

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### 9. Social Media Team – Rita B.

- The team is meeting on 8/13/2024 and will continue to meet quarterly or as needed to review UV4SOR’s FB media presence. The team encourages productive advocacy posts and comments that are helpful to members.
- A question was asked, and discussion ensued about using FB as a social media resource since many people forced to register cannot access social media and FB’s [official rules](#) exclude those with a conviction of a sexual offense from using the platform.

### 10. Fundraising Team – Rita B.

- Rita has received a check for items she collected and put on consignment, with funds to be donated to UV4SOR.
- Rita encourages anyone who shops at Kroger brand stores to sign up to have UV4SOR as their designated rewards recipient.
- Jenny L. has made some progress with contacting Fetch Rewards. She and Rita will work on getting UV4SOR listed as one of Fetch’s charitable organizations so that people can designate their rewards to UV4SOR.

### 11. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L. and Jenny L.

- There has been positive feedback from our last meeting on 7/23/2024 when we welcomed member Madeleine Vache who shared her presentation about the registry and engaging in hard conversations with those who have opposing perspectives.
- Amber Vlangas from Restorative Action Alliance will share her [Restorative Art Circle](#) at our meeting on 10/2/2024.
- Shawn is working with [Dr. Tolliny Rankins](#) for her secured guest speaking date of 10/29/2024.
- Laurie Jo Reynolds from the [Chicago 400](#) group has agreed to speak at a meeting; Jenny is working with her to secure a date.
- Possible future guest speakers can be referred by members through the [referral form on the website](#).
- Shawn has been invited to be a guest on the [Amplified Voices](#) podcast that will be recorded on 8/24/2024. Shawn will update when the podcast will air.

### Other Business

No other business tonight.

### Roundtable

#### 1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

The group welcomed John C. from NC. Introductions were made and questions were asked and answered by the group with discussion on various issues relating to the registry and the impacts of restrictions imposed on those required to register.

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### 2. Share Something Good

- Rita and her husband have been sending instructions and processes for Pokémon to their son and his friends who are incarcerated. They have been receiving letters of thanks and gratitude for their kindness and help.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9.07 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.