

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 20, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 25

### 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 7:36 PM EST and review of last meeting – Group  
The 8/6/2024 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, to create contact lists and reports, and to learn how it pertains to our functionality as an advocacy group. A Civi review meeting is scheduled for 8/27/2024.
3. Advocacy Participation (AP) Team – Kim H.
  - Kim worked with Sharon and Rita to review and confirm our practices for new membership requests.
  - Kim has been working in the Civi training module to test the processes for importing member data. She is documenting her findings and sharing with Shawn L., Sharon M., Art L., and Andy S. She will work with Art to create the import data to use in a modified script to populate 100 test members.
4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.
  - Member Brenton T. has an annual parole requirement to fulfill shortly. Looking on the Tennessee SOTB website to learn more about the organization, he noticed the site did not include as stakeholders those who are the focus of the board. He plans to contact them to discuss including registrants as stakeholders.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 8/26/2024 at 7:00 PM EST. The agenda includes a discussion on the team direction.

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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 DV.
  - The team will assume responsibility for replying to and documenting correspondence that is received by UV4SOR from those who are incarcerated, and Shawn L. has forwarded the letters received. Sharon M. has developed a spreadsheet to track from whom, the facility it comes from, and the requests made by those who have reached out to the group. The team will identify themes and respond accordingly.
  - A team meeting will be scheduled in the next few weeks.
7. Call to Action (CTA) Campaigns – Shawn L.
  - Shawn and Sharon M. mailed a letter from UV4SOR to various BOP directors and legislators addressing the problem of the federal TRULINCS 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 has been revised for use by individual members and will be made available to them along with a list of suggested recipients, with a CTA to be posted and emailed to members soon.
  - 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!
  - Laura M. addressed 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 would like to head up a CTA to educate targeted political officials about person first language and make them aware of how hurtful these terms and labels are to impacted persons. She will gather information and plan to implement this after this election cycle.
8. No More Silence Project – Betty B.
  - Betty has received responses from several members who have offered to help with reviewing the stories that have been submitted.
  - Shawn is reviewing the introduction letter that will be sent along with the stories that have been collected.
9. Social Media Team – Rita B.
  - The team met on 8/13/2024 with the AP team regarding FB membership procedures and processes.
  - The SM team encourages productive advocacy posts and comments that are helpful to members.
  - Future meetings will be held quarterly.

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### 10. Fundraising Team – Rita B.

- Rita encourages anyone who shops at Kroger brand stores to sign up to have UV4SOR as their designated rewards recipient.
- A question was asked about how to donate to the organization and Rita addressed some of the many expenses that are incurred by non-profit organizations in general and ours in particular. Donations can be made through our [website](#).

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

- Amber Vlangas from Restorative Action Alliance will share her [Restorative Art Circle](#) at our meeting on 10/1/2024.
- 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.
- Jenny was contacted by Illinois Voices and invited to participate on a committee for Long Term Care. She will update when she has more information.

### Other Business

No other business tonight.

### Roundtable

#### 1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

The group welcomed Mary C. from NV and Stephen G. from NY. Introductions were made and questions were asked and answered by the group with discussion on various issues relating to lengthy sentences and the value of advocacy groups.

#### 2. Share Something Good

One person shared that she didn't cry today. Another person shared enjoying the beauty of the full moon last night.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

8:43 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.