

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 23

### 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 7:33 PM EST and review of last meeting – Group  
The 8/20/2024 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, 9/29/2024.
  - A dedicated team, consisting of Kim H., Art L., Sharon M., and Shawn L., have been exploring the features and capabilities of the CiviCRM in our “playground” environment and learning how this tool can help us operate more efficiently as an organization.
    - Thanks to the efforts of Kim H. and Art L. we are now ready for team leaders to explore UV4SOR Civi playground and to get familiar with the database.
    - Meeting dates will be finalized soon to review Civi with the team leaders and discuss the next steps.
3. Advocacy Participation (AP) Team – Kim H.  
Kim worked with Art L. on Civi to successfully delete and load the membership test data.
4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.
  - A meeting was held on 8/26/2024 to discuss the team direction.
  - The team decided to focus on collaborating with similar groups and building relationships with government officials and law enforcement/probation officers at all levels where they are comfortable doing so. They aim to gain state knowledge and plant seeds where possible.
  - They discussed initiating CTAs as an option when the need arises.
  - The team will continue to meet on the 4th Monday of every month except during the Christmas holiday.

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### 5. Welcome Team – Ann & Shep S.

The team is reaching out via email to new members after they attend their first meeting, offering to answer questions and provide information if needed. So far, no one has responded other than to say, “thank you”.

### 6. Communication Team – Kathy DV.

The team finalized the CTA for the federal TRULINCS email issue (see below). It has been posted in the FB group and an email was sent to all members with instructions. The CTA is posted on the [website](#).

- Sharon M. explained the purpose of the CTA and encouraged all members to participate by sending a letter to one or more of the BOP or legislative leaders.
- Mike L. discussed how email access was handled at Englewood FCI and noted that those with a sexual offense who were allowed to use the system are subject to “enhanced monitoring” which entails having a prison official review all incoming and outgoing correspondence.

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

- The CTA which addresses 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, was completed by the Communication Team. The letter was revised for use by individual members and has been made available to them along with a list of suggested recipients. There has been positive feedback from members who are mailing the letter, even those who are not directly impacted by federal issues but are concerned with fair and just treatment for all incarcerated persons.
- 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!

### 8. No More Silence Project – Sharon M. for Betty B.

Betty has finalized the introduction letter that will be sent along with the stories that have been collected and is working on a list of recipients.

### 9. Social Media Team – Rita B.

The SM team encourages productive advocacy posts and comments that are helpful to members.

### 10. Fundraising Team – Rita B.

- The Tru-Earth campaign has a 30% commission to UV4SOR for purchases made between September 3rd through the 9th. Rita will post details in the FB group.
- Rita has more consignment items to drop off and pick up on October 3rd.
- Donations can be made to UV4SOR through our [website](#).

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### 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.
- [Dr. Tolliny Rankins](#) is confirmed for her 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 was invited to be a guest on the [Amplified Voices](#) podcast that was recorded on 8/24/2024. The podcast will air in October.
- Jenny was invited by Illinois Voices to participate on a committee for Long Term Care. She will update when she has more information.

### Other Business

- Rita B. brought up our annual Christmas/Holiday greeting campaign and asked if there are currently any plans or teams to lead this effort. If anyone is interested in heading up this campaign, please contact a board member.
- Ken B. explained how he is required to register in any state that he travels to for work and that background checks reveal his registry status in each state. Questions were asked and answered regarding various state registry requirements.

### Roundtable

#### 1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

The group welcomed Patricia L. from WA. She provides several housing opportunities for those reentering society after incarceration. Questions were asked and answered by the group with discussion on various issues relating to residency restrictions and the need for housing, with many thanks to Patricia for the service that she is providing.

#### 2. Share Something Good

One person shared that he attended a prison ministry event with a guest speaker who is an inspiring advocate. Another person shared the need for support groups and the benefits of them.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

8:40 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.