

# UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 16

### 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 7:35 PM EST and review of last meeting – Group  
The 10/1/2024 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 processes and applications to be implemented in the first quarter of 2025.
  - Team leaders are continuing to review CiviCRM in practice mode to get familiar with the functionality. Date options will be sent out for the next meeting by the end of the month.
  - The next board meeting will be on Sunday, 11/3/2024.
3. Advocacy Participation Team (APT) – Sharon M.
  - The Social Media Team is being incorporated into the APT.
  - The team processes new requests for membership to the UV4SOR organization received through FB and from the website.
  - The team monitors FB group posts and comments, promotes information and support for issues that advance our advocacy efforts and encourages members to comment and participate.
4. State Coalitions Team (SCT) – Shawn L.
  - Kim H. reported that state leaders who attended the last meeting discussed advocacy direction to explore in their states.
  - The next team meeting is Monday, October 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
5. Welcome Team – Shawn L. for Ann & Shep S.  
The team will reach out to all new members. Shawn L. will forward the email addresses of those new members who attended tonight’s meeting.

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### 6. Communication Team (CT) – Kathy DV.

- Member Brenton T. wrote a letter responding to an interview with Senator Whitehouse (RI) on “[Democracy Docket](#)”. The senator discussed the need for the Supreme Court to use facts and research to make rulings. Brenton’s letter presents the harmful effects of rulings on sexual offenses based on emotional fears and not on research. The team is reviewing the letter, will work with Brenton on editing and sharing the letter, and it will also be mailed under the UV4SOR umbrella.
- The team is working on email and letter inquiries that come to UV4SOR from those who are incarcerated. The goal is to have a variety of templates to choose from depending on what is being requested.

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

CTAs were explained and encouraged. Past CTAs can be viewed on the website.

- UV4SOR received a letter from the BOP in response to our CTA regarding TRULINCS. Shawn is working with the Communication Team to draft a response letter to the BOP.
- Sharon M. discussed an email response that she received from a BOP Support Coordinator from her inquiry for clarification of the BOP’s new policy on phone minutes. All members who have a federally incarcerated LO are encouraged to contact the Support Coordinators with any concerns, issues, and questions. Emails can be sent to: [BOP-RSD-SupportAndAdvocacy-S@bop.gov](mailto:BOP-RSD-SupportAndAdvocacy-S@bop.gov)

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

The project’s introduction letter is finished, and Betty is reviewing suggestions for the list of recipients. Betty invited anyone to contact her with any additional names to receive the stories.

### 9. Holiday Greetings Campaign – Rita B.

The group has a total of 22 volunteers for the 2024 Christmas Letters and Season Greetings campaign who will mail greetings to 54 incarcerated loved ones. All the instructions and information were emailed to the volunteers on 10/14/2024.

### 10. Fundraising Team – Rita B.

- The fundraiser with Tupperware is running for two more weeks. Emails have been sent to members and announcements have been made in the FB group.
- Rita’s consignment check has been received and she will drop off more items in November.
- The Tru-Earth fundraiser campaign is offering a 20% off sale and UV4SOR receives a 20% commission.
- UV4SOR received a check from Kroger/King Soopers from member’s purchases. Questions were answered regarding signing up through the Kroger app.
- Donations can be made to UV4SOR through our [website](#).

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

- [Dr. Tolliny Rankins](#) is our next guest speaker on 10/29/2024.
- Possible future guest speakers can be referred by members through the [referral form on the website](#).
- Jenny L. is attending the [Illinois Guardianship Association Fall Conference](#) next week where she and Dr. Stephanie Jerstad will be speaking about “Individuals Forced to Register – Obstacles to Housing”.

### Other Business

- UV4SOR is involved in forming a national coalition along with approximately 20 other organizations. The coalition now has an official name: National Coalition Against Conviction Registries (NCACR). The coalition will work with a common goal to abolish the registry and address issues with incarceration, sentences, and treatment of those accused and convicted of sexual offenses.
- Shawn L. announced that Kimberly H. is resigning from her leadership roles within the organization. Kimberly has been a pivotal force within our organization from the very beginning. It was her shared ideas, along with others, that laid the foundation for UV4SOR, and her leadership and vision have been instrumental in shaping who we are today. Although Kimberly has decided to step down from her formal leadership role, we are thankful to know that she will continue to lend her support when needed. Her dedication, passion, and insight have left a lasting impression that we will strive to honor as we move forward. While filling her shoes will undoubtedly be a challenge, we are committed to doing our best to carry on the work she so lovingly helped create.

### Roundtable

#### 1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

Angela G. and Lewis W. introduced themselves and were welcomed by the group.

#### 2. Share Something Good

- Betty B. and Shawn L. shared that they had traveled and spent time with family members.
- Jenny L. got a new car – her dream car!
- Lewis W.'s [Our Journey](#) nonprofit group in SC received a state grant to provide cell phones for those who are newly released from incarceration.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

8:37 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.