

UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 26

Overview for General Meeting

- Group Discussion
 - Call to order, review, and approve the last meeting minutes
 - Non-profit update
 - Team Updates
 - Three-minute updates by team leaders 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 11/12/2024 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.
 - The CiviCRM application is installed, and the next step is integrating our current membership data.
 - The next board meeting will be on 1/12/2025.
3. Advocacy Participation Team (APT) – Sharon M.
 - The APT is responsible for new membership requests received through the website and FB group. The team monitors FB posts and comments and encourages member involvement in all aspects of reform advocacy.
 - The procedure for vetting new members has been reviewed and revised.
 - The member spreadsheet is updated in anticipation of importing it into CiviCRM.
 - Rita B. and Sharon M. are exploring ideas for member engagement in 2025.
4. State Coalitions Team (SCT) – Shawn L.
 - The next team meeting will be held on 1/27/2025.
 - Shawn explained UV4SOR’s goal of forming coalitions with members from every state and the benefits of gathering information within your state and sharing what you learn.
5. Welcome Team – Ann S. and Shep S.
The team is reaching out to all new members who attend their first meeting to welcome and encourage them.

UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

6. Communication Team (CT) – Kathy DV.
 - The editors of the Federal Sentencing Reporter are seeking articles for their upcoming issue, "A Justice System Crossroads: Reflecting on Biden's Record and Projecting a Second Trump Term." These articles are read by a wide range of stakeholders including lawyers, judges, scholars, and the US Sentencing Commission. The team will be working on an article to submit by March 15, 2025. Members who would like to submit an article on their own may find the information [HERE](#).
 - The team will meet again on 1/10/2025 to discuss current and future goals.
7. Call to Action (CTA) – Shawn L.

CTAs were reviewed and all members are encouraged to present any ideas they have for bringing awareness and addressing current issues that impact us and our LO. Some past CTAs can be viewed on the website.

 - UV4SOR received a letter from the BOP in response to our CTA regarding the TRULINCS messaging system for those in federal custody. The board is conducting research to incorporate into a response to the BOP.
 - 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
8. No More Silence Project – Betty B.

Betty reviewed the project's goals and progress. The team has received enough letters and is working with the Communication Team to finalize the letter of introduction.
9. Holiday Greetings Campaign – Rita B.

The member volunteers for this year's Christmas Letters and Season Greetings campaign mailed greetings to 58 incarcerated loved ones. Several thank you letters have been received from those who received greetings. The team is reviewing input from those who participated in the campaign this year.
10. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
 - The 2024 GivingTuesday event was successful in raising awareness and providing some funds for operational expenses.
 - Rita will receive a check this month for items that she gathered for consignment.
 - The Kroger and Tru-Earth fundraising campaigns are ongoing.
 - A new fundraiser through [Little Caesars Pizza](#) has been launched and will run through the end of January. Pizza kits can be purchased and shipped, or pizza codes can be purchased for use via the app or at local stores.
 - Donations can be made to UV4SOR through our [website](#).

UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

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

- Laurie Jo Reynolds will be our guest speaker at the next meeting on 1/21/2025. Laurie is a policy advocate and community organizer who has spent two decades opposing the demonization, warehousing, and social exclusion of people in the criminal legal system, especially focusing on solitary confinement and public conviction registries. She now coordinates the [Chicago 400 Alliance](#).
- Possible future guest speakers can be referred by members through the [referral form on the website](#).
- The UV4SOR board hosted the annual Holiday Gathering/Member Appreciation event on 12/10/2024.

Other Business

- Several members have offered to volunteer in response to a New Year email sent to all members.
- Members who have questions and are interested in helping in any capacity can reach out through the FB group or send an email to contact@uv4sor.org.

Roundtable

New Member Welcome and Introductions

Sherry C. from ME introduced herself and shared her story. Discussions were held regarding how to support our LO who are recently arrested and experiencing depression. Ann S. recommended books by the [Human Kindness Foundation](#) that were helpful to her son.

The next general meeting date with guest speaker Laurie Jo Reynolds is Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9:04 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.