

UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 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 by team leaders with additional time for Q&A
 - Please use “Raise your hand” function to ask questions
 - Reminder to keep our discussions focused on our mission, despite the political environment (see Other Business below)
- Other Business
- Roundtable

Group Discussion

1. Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM EST and review of last meeting – Group
The [1/7/2025](#) and the [1/21/2025](#) 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 2025.
 - The executive board members approved UV4SOR’s participation along with forty-two organizations in signing a [letter to Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts](#). The letter criticizes the court for its Smith v. Doe decision that has negatively and significantly impacted the lives of those required to register, and their families. The signors include eight national organizations and 35 state organizations.
 - The next board meeting is scheduled for 2/16/2025.
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.
 - 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 2/24/2025.
 - Shawn explained UV4SOR’s goal of forming coalitions with members from every state and the benefits of gathering and sharing information within your state to bring awareness and sharing what you learn with other group members.

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5. Welcome Team – Ann S. and Shep S. – Not in attendance, will update at next meeting
The team reaches out to all new members who attend their first meeting to welcome and encourage them and to answer any questions they may have.
6. Communication Team (CT) – Kathy DV.
 - The team met on 1/10/2025 and two new members have joined the team, Sherry C. and Mike L.
 - A review of 2024 identified two areas of improvement. One, to be pro-active rather than reactive to issues and/or concerns. And two, become more focused on areas of reform to build UV4SOR's name recognition and relationships. Currently the team is exploring a variety of approaches in accomplishing these goals, including a three-pronged approach for addressing various state and federal issues.
 - 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 is working with Shawn to finalize an article to submit by March 15, 2025, which focuses on how the new administration can address criminal justice reform for sexual offenses
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. The CTA team will assist State Coalitions in bringing forth and presenting action items to the group. 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 sent a response to the BOP official who replied to our initial CTA.
 - 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.
The team has finalized an introduction letter and is editing three more letters to include with the first mailing.
9. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
 - The fundraiser through Little Caesars Pizza ended on 1/31/2025 and the team will watch for further promotions from them.
 - The Kroger and Tru-Earth fundraising campaigns are ongoing.
 - Donations can be made to UV4SOR through our [website](#).

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

- [Laurie Jo Reynolds](#) was our guest speaker on 1/21/2025.
- Jenny is working on having a representative speak to our group who is involved with the [PROWD program](#).
- UV4SOR is actively committed to the National Coalition Against Conviction Registries (NCACR), along with approximately twenty other organizations. The coalition will work with a common goal to abolish conviction registries and address issues under a broad umbrella of incarceration, sentences, and treatment of those accused and convicted of sexual offenses.
- Shawn is representing UV4SOR at the ACSOL sponsored [Washington DC vigil](#) in March and will be part of a panel for the event. Her panel will discuss the vision for long- term and short-term goals and she is honored to be asked to participate.
- Possible future guest speakers can be referred by members through the [referral form on the website](#).

Other Business

- The group discussed keeping our advocacy focused on our mission by bringing information to the table that can further reforms by engaging in open communication and preparing members to be meaningful advocates.
- Members who have any skillsets to share with the group or who are interested in helping in any capacity can reach out to admins through the FB group or send an email to contact@uv4sor.org.

Roundtable

There were no new members who attended tonight's meeting. Several members shared some updates and news with things happening in their lives and with their family members.

The next general meeting date is Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

8:39 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.