

UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 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 by team leaders with additional time for Q&A
 - Please use the “Raise your hand” function to ask questions
- Other Business
- Roundtable

Group Discussion

1. Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM EST and review of last meeting – Group
The 2/4/2025 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.
 - No updates at this time.
 - The next board meeting is scheduled for 3/9/2025.
3. Advocacy Participation Team (APT) – Sharon M. and Rita B.
 - 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.
 - Sharon updated that the team leaders and board members will designate the second General Meeting at the end of each quarter as a New Member Orientation Meeting. Team leaders and board members will introduce themselves, review group rules, answer questions, and encourage participation.
4. State Coalitions Team (SCT) – Shawn L.
 - The next team meeting will be held on 2/24/2025. An email will be sent to all members inviting them to this meeting to learn about simple ways to gather information and how to share news and concerns with the group.
 - Shawn explained UV4SOR’s goal of forming coalitions with members from every state and the benefits of working together.
5. Welcome Team – Ann S. and Shep S.
The team reaches out to all new members who attend their first meeting to welcome and encourage them, give helpful information for resources, and to answer any questions they may have.

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6. Communication Team (CT) – Kathy DV., Gail L., Sharon M.
 - Kathy formally announced that the team is welcoming two new members, Sherry C. and Mike L., who will assist with various team projects.
 - Kathy has a rough draft written to the BOP Support Coordinators introducing UV4SOR and offering to be an avenue of communication between the BOP and members of UV4SOR. Kathy wants to build a working relationship with the coordinators to the point that they see UV4SOR as a resource to them.
 - Gail updated that she is working on identifying the legislators in Illinois after the election results and is preparing an introduction letter to them. She will be attending a zoom meeting this week to be held by [Illinois Voices](#) regarding a lawsuit that they have filed against the Illinois State Police in relation to the state registry.
 - Sharon updated that the team is finalizing the format for an article that focuses on how the new administration can address criminal justice reform for sexual offenses which will be submitted to the Federal Sentencing Reporter. These articles are read by a wide range of stakeholders including lawyers, judges, scholars, and the US Sentencing Commission.

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 along with providing direction for contacts. The UV4SOR [website](#) has links to help find legislative leaders and their contact information.

8. No More Silence Project – Betty B.

Betty provided a brief overview of this project and its goals. The team is ready to send out the first packet of stories with an introduction letter. Information for submitting a story is available on the website.

9. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
 - Rita is watching for potential fundraising avenues and anyone who has ideas for future projects can contact her at rbetty@uv4sor.org.
 - The Kroger and Tru-Earth fundraising campaigns are ongoing.
 - Donations can be made to UV4SOR through our [website](#).

10. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L.
 - Shawn has been invited to participate in a Government Relations committee with several other national organizations. The focus will be on legislation at the federal level with the intent that changes here will influence state legislation to follow suit.
 - 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.

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Other Business

Members who have any skillsets to share with the group or who are interested in volunteering in any capacity can reach out to admins through the FB group or send an email to contact@uv4sor.org.

Roundtable

- New member Shawn B. from Iowa was welcomed and introduced herself to the group. She is the newly elected Vice President of [Iowans Unafraid](#) and shared some of the advocacy projects that they are currently working on.
- Several members shared some updates with things happening with their personal advocacy and news in their lives and with their family members.

The next general meeting date is Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

8:37 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.