UNITED VOICES for Sex Offense Reform Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 22

Overview for 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 7:38 PM EST and review of last meeting Group The 2/18/2025 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 board approved implementing the New Member Orientation Meetings which will be held at the end of each quarter. New members will be given opportunities to learn about the organization's mission and advocacy alignment, gain insights on how to navigate the group's social media platform, and the use of meaningful advocacy dialog.
- The next board meeting is scheduled for 3/9/2025.
- 3. Advocacy Participation Team (APT) Sharon M. and Rita B.
 - The APT is reaching out to Facebook members who have not provided email addresses or state information and asking them to identify their priorities and concerns.
 - The team is emailing members who are not on Facebook with updates that have been shared in the FB group.
- 4. State Coalitions Team (SCT) Shawn L. and Jenny L.
 - A team meeting was held on 2/24/2025. The meeting was attended by members from 18 states. Future SCT meetings will be held bi-monthly, with the next meeting scheduled for 4/28/2025. Members brought forth ideas for advocacy not only about registry laws within their states, but other concerns about sentencing laws and the incarceration of LO who have special needs. Ideas were discussed about forming small groups made up of those who have shared concerns.
 - Ann S. and Shep S. shared that they attended a SC state budget meeting today and they intend to follow up with several of the Senators who they noted were asking relevant questions.

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5. Welcome Team – Ann S. and Shep S.

The team reached out with an email to two new members who had attended their first meeting to welcome and encourage them, give helpful information for resources, and to answer any questions they may have.

- 6. Communication Team (CT) Kathy DV., Gail L., Sharon M.
 - The team mailed letters from UV4SOR to the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), President Trump, and The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to address "Ending Wasteful Spending on SORNA and Sex Offender Registries". The letters are being revised for individual use and will be offered in a call to action.
 - Sharon updated that the team finalized and submitted the article from UV4SOR to the Federal Sentencing Reporter that 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 teams and members 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. Tabled until the next general meeting
- 9. Fundraising Team Rita B.
 - A new fundraiser has been launched through <u>Country Meats</u> and has been shared in the Facebook group. Anyone that has questions can contact Rita at rbetty@uv4sor.og.
 - 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 represented UV4SOR at the ACSOL-sponsored <u>conference</u> in Washington DC on March 2nd and 3rd. She attended sessions, shared her experiences, and emphasized the importance of participating in this annual event, highlighting the impact of the vigil on the steps of the Supreme Court. Shawn participated in a panel for the conference where she discussed the vision for UV4SOR's long-term and short-term advocacy goals. The conference and vigil will be repeated next year in March 2026.
- The group discussed the collaborative <u>letter</u> that was sent to Chief Justice Roberts of the Supreme Court along with the history and the implications of the *Smith v. Doe* decision.

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Other Business

Mike L. and Gail L. shared their experience of meeting with their IL State Representative. The group discussed the various talking points that Mike and Gail used and asked questions about how the initial meeting was scheduled and how they prepared.

Roundtable

- No new members were in attendance tonight.
- Several members shared some good news and updates about their LO.

The next meeting on March 18, 2025, is a New Member Orientation meeting at 7:30 p.m. EST. The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9:09 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.