

# UNITED VOICES for Sex Offense Reform

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 17

### 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 7:36 PM EST and review of last meetings – Group  
The [4/1/2025](#) and [4/15/2025](#) meeting minutes were approved and will added to the website.
2. Non-Profit Updates – Shawn L., Executive Director  
Board members meet monthly to collaborate on organizational business, review current projects, and work on processes and applications to be implemented this year.
  - UV4SOR has accepted an invitation to be a member of a Government Relations Committee, with Shawn as its representative with board approval. The committee will monitor national policies and legislation, act as appropriate, and assist advocacy groups at state or national levels, creating resources for Federal advocacy efforts.
  - The next board meeting is scheduled for 6/26/2025.
3. Advocacy Participation Team (APT) – Rita B.
  - The APT is in the process of reaching out to Facebook members who have not provided email addresses or state information and asking them to identify their priorities and concerns. Gathering this information allows the team to better connect members with similar interests or advocacy goals, encourage collaboration, and ensure that future informational emails are relevant and tailored to the needs and focus areas of our members.
  - The general meeting on 6/24/2025 will serve as a New Member Orientation. While all members are encouraged to attend, this meeting will focus on welcoming and introducing new members to UV4SOR’s mission, structure, and advocacy work. We will provide an overview of our teams, current projects, and ways to get involved. This is also an opportunity for new members to ask questions, connect with long-time advocates, and begin building relationships with others who share their priorities and goals.

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### 4. State Coalitions Team (SCT) – Jenny L.

- A team meeting was held on 4/28/2025. The meeting was attended by 19 members from 10 states who discussed various advocacy issues. Future SCT meetings will be held bi-monthly, with the next meeting scheduled for 6/23/2025 at 7:00 PM EST.
- Four members discussed current work taking place in their respective states, reviewed their current registry laws, and explained their advocacy efforts.

### 5. Welcome Team – Ann S. and Shep S.

The team reaches out with an email to new members who have attended their first meeting to welcome and encourage them, give helpful information for resources, to support them, and to answer any questions they may have. Ann and Shep are active advocates in NC.

### 6. Communication Team (CT) – Kathy D.V.

- A team meeting was held on 5/2/2025.
- Gail L. and Sharon M. asked Facebook members to support an upcoming bill in Illinois, IL SB2254. Gail provided a summary of the bill, along with instructions.
- Kathy D.V. contacted the US Government's Public Affairs Office requesting that UV4SOR be added to the BOP Advocacy distribution list and this request was granted. The goal is to build a respectful line of communication between the government and UV4SOR.
- Mike L. shared an article in the [City Journal](#) that fed into the stereotypes of sexual offenses. The team is working on a response letter to the journalist.
- Gail L. encouraged the team to be more active on the [DOJ SMART FB page](#) and a post was made in the UV4SOR FB group encouraging all members to make comments on the SMART page.

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

- 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 is asking for member volunteers to assist teams and members in bringing forth and presenting action items to the group along with providing direction for resources and contacts.
- The UV4SOR [website](#) has links to help find legislative leaders and their contact information.

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

- This ongoing storytelling initiative collects personal accounts from individuals and families impacted by incarceration, the registry and related laws. The goal is to give voice to those who are often unheard, using their real-life experiences to advocate for change. These stories are shared - anonymously or with permission - with lawmakers, media, and the public to build empathy, challenge stigma, and influence policy reform. Members are encouraged to participate or help others share their stories.

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- The team has mailed the first four packets of letters along with an introduction letter from UV4SOR and will be sending three more packets this week. Betty will follow up with another letter to the recipients in June if there has not been any response.

### 9. Fundraising Team – Rita B.

- A new fundraiser with [A Blend Above](#) has started and will run through 7/12/2025.
- The Kroger and Tru-Earth fundraising campaigns are ongoing.
- Any questions about fundraisers or how donations are used for UV4SOR, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, can be addressed to Rita at [rbetty@uv4sor.org](mailto:rbetty@uv4sor.org).
- Donations can be made to UV4SOR through our [website](#).

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

- The next meeting on 5/27/2025 features guest speakers from the organization [D3 – Decriminalize Developmental Disabilities](#).
- Members who have ideas for possible future guest speakers can submit suggestions through the [referral form on the website](#).
- The annual [NARSOL conference](#) is being held in Grand Rapids, MI on 6/26/2025, through 6/29/2025. UV4SOR will have a vendor table with promotional items and information. Who will be attending the conference?
- All the UV4SOR board members will be attending the NARSOL conference, with some meeting in person for the first time!
- Michigan members will be participating in the Michigan highway cleanup project through the Adopt-A-Highway program. The weekend of 7/18/2025 -7/20/2025 is the summer event and plans are being made for the event to occur on Saturday, the 19th. The stretch of highway where UV4SOR has a road sign is on M106 near Stockbridge, MI and all members are welcome to participate.

Other Business – No other business was addressed.

### Roundtable

- New members, Laurie J. and Jesse W. were in attendance tonight. They were welcomed by the group and introduced themselves.
- Several members shared some good news in their lives and updates about their LO.
- The Roundtable portion of our meetings is always rich with conversation, insight, and shared experiences. While we don't capture all of the details in these minutes, the discussions offer valuable perspectives and information that can't be fully conveyed in writing. We encourage members who haven't yet attended a meeting to join us - it's a great way to stay informed, connect with others, and be part of the ongoing advocacy dialogue.

The next general meeting date is Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

8:47 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.