

UNITED VOICES for Sex Offense Reform

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 19, 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
 - Use the “Raise Your Hand” function to ask questions
 - Please refrain from discussing political agendas, issues, or opinions unless it is in direct alignment with advocacy missions.
- Other Business
- Roundtable

Group Discussion

1. Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM EST and review of last meetings – Group
The 8/5/2025 [meeting minutes](#) were approved and will be added to the website.
2. Non-Profit Organization 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.
 - Shawn and Kathy D.V. attended an Advocacy Bootcamp hosted by the [Michigan League of Public Policy](#) on 8/14/2025 and they both spoke about the conference.
 - This was an inspiring conference that provided new resources and great networking connections to strength our advocacy work.
 - We are now part of an ongoing cohort that will keep us connected with other advocacy organizations, including those working in different spaces. This opens the door for UV4SOR to step into new conversations and to expand our voice to reach a broader audience.
 - NARSOL has announced the rescheduling of the [conference](#) that was originally scheduled for June in Grand Rapids, MI. It is being held in Atlanta, GA on October 16th through the 19th. Exact details will not be disclosed until after you have registered and there are added security measures in place for the event.
 - Shawn brought up the idea about producing podcasts that was discussed in the last general meeting. The group discussed various aspects of podcasts, and several members will gather more information and report back.
 - The next board meeting is scheduled for 9/28/2025.
3. Advocacy Participation Team (APT) – Rita B.
The team is reviewing last year’s Christmas Greeting campaign to be prepared for the project this year and to start making announcements for member participation.

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4. State Coalitions Team (SCT) – Jenny L.
 - SCT meetings are held bi-monthly on the last Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 9/29/2025 at 7:00 PM EST. Meeting details are emailed to all members and posted in the FB group.
 - At the last meeting on 7/21/2025 members attended from ten states. Discussions included identifying sub-groups and topics to be addressed at the next meeting.
5. Welcome Team – Updates are tabled until the next meeting
6. Communication Team (CT) – Kathy D.V.

The team is developing a plan to create topic sheets and handouts with facts, statistics, and resources. In coordination with the other teams and with member input, they will identify subjects of interest. Some current ideas include How to Advocate, Vigilantism, Ineffective Residency Restrictions, Family Support Resources, Federal Prison Q & A, and Definition of Terms and Slang. The team welcomes suggestions for topics.
7. Call to Action Team (CTA) – Shawn L.
 - The CTA team needs help and is asking for volunteers to assist teams and members in bringing forth and presenting action items to the group along with providing direction for resources and contacts. Please contact smmonroe@uv4sor.org if you are interested!
 - The team will contact the directors of the BOP to thank them for addressing concerns about phone minutes for those incarcerated, and to bring attention to issues that many inmates face with receiving their property when they are transferred to a new location.
8. No More Silence Project – Updates are tabled until the next meeting.
9. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
 - Fundraisers with [A Blend Above](#) and [City Pop](#) are continuing. The Kroger and Tru-Earth fundraising campaigns are ongoing, and the Little Caesars pizza fundraising campaign will start again on September 12, 2025.
 - 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.
10. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L. and Jenny L.
 - Jenny has made contact with ARC, which provides advocacy services for people with disabilities, and has a meeting scheduled with the IL representative.
 - Our Distinguished Board Member, [Dr. Stephanie Jerstad](#), provided powerful insights for an [article](#) published in *McKnight's Long-Term Care News*, titled "Denied for old crimes: The complex challenge of long-term care for America's aging sex offenders". We are proud to see Dr. Jerstad's expertise and compassion acknowledged in such a significant way. The article will be shared with members via email and in the FB group.

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Other Business – Group

No other business.

Roundtable

- Several members shared some good news in their lives and updates about their families and their advocacy activities.
- Kim D. discussed meeting with AZ representatives and current advocacy efforts that include other organizations and individuals. She will bring this information to the next State Coalitions meeting on 9/29/2025.
- 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 are not fully conveyed in the meeting minutes. 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, September 2, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

8:54 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.