

Advocacy Group "UNITED VOICES 4 SEX OFFENSE REFORM"

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday July 20, 2021 7:30P EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 14

Overview: Contact lists are compiled and the group continues refining our first advocacy letter. The nonprofit status process is beginning and everyone's input is needed. We are working towards a mid-August website completion. Group interviews are taking place by Outspoken Offender and will be posted on our f/b page. Researching a documentary as a future CTA initiative and lastly we updated the Action Items.

Notes:

- 06/29/2021 meeting minutes were approved.
- **Old Business**
 - a. Contact Lists:
 - i. Dawn created a google docs for all the contacts given to her. Sharon formatted the contacts to include the names, address, city and state fields for the mail merge.
 - 1. **Question:** Can everyone access Google Doc to track if a letter was sent and if someone responds to the letter?
Answer: This is possible once a website is up and running.
 - 2. Once nonprofit status is established we will look into a bulk mailing account.
 - 3. Ashley mentioned FAMM may share their distribution lists with us and will inquire.
 - b. Advocacy Letter:
 - i. Group reviewed the letter and identified a few editing changes.
 - ii. We are sending the letter through email and snail mail. For email distribution, use the tracking feature to confirm receipt. This will be helpful to see which representatives' across the country will participate.
 - iii. We will need to use our personal email if we plan on sending the letter before our website's advocacy email is available.
 - iv. The mail merge generated around 155 letters.
 - v. We are having the letter embedded into the email message although some contacts have email forms with limited space. We may need to send those contacts a letter instead or determine if we can attach the letter in the email form.
 - c. Nonprofit Status:
 - i. Continuing to pursue nonprofit status. Contact Shawn if you are interested in being a board member. Having board members and our bylaws in place is needed before we can apply for nonprofit status. We'll continue to work

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through the process and please start thinking about what you would like a board member to contribute.

d. Webpage:

- i. Our Web Designer is working us into his schedule. Shawn gave him a timeline of having our website completed by mid-August. Fall season is very busy for advocacy work because leaders are back from their summer time off. Having the website in place will help us hit the ground running.

e. Logo:

- i. Our graphic designer donated her services for creating our logo. Shawn is sending her a ‘Thank you’ letter on behalf of our Advocacy Group. Contact Shawn if you would like her contact information if interested in her services.

- **New Business**

- Contact spreadsheets:

- We currently have Governors, Judiciary Committee Members, BOP & DOJ Leadership, and Regional contacts for each region within the Federal BOP.
 - We will branch out to other contacts, i.e. state wide once our current contact list is working as expected with our letters.

- Mail merge issues:

- Shawn completed a test run and encountered a few issues with the formatting. It’s possible the issues are due to expecting the query to do multiple things. To keep it simple, Shawn will do the salutation initially and then correct grammar items that do not need to be included as separate processes.

- Logistics:

- We are all in different locations and we’ll need to decide how we distribute the letters. Letters will be distributed nationally.

- Documentary:

- Page shared an idea in creating sex offense documentary or video that will inform people about the challenges in having a sex offense conviction. Developing a story line of our loved ones through pictures and stories, disclose what everyone is dealing with to bring the human nature back to the lives of our loved ones. This is one way we can standup in addition to the letter writings, texting and emailing.
- Documentary could address:
 - Shame and stigma of isolation that many people have when someone is incarcerated. We need our voices out there.
 - This will deal with the trauma and the mental health aspects.

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- Dawn and Jenny are part of a documentary that is being aired in the future. The more people involved the better.
 - Page will talk with Dawn and bring a future documentary initiative to our group.
- Community Leaders:
 - Jim suggested reaching out to community leaders as part of the humanizing aspect. There is a video called ‘Conversations from the Couch’ where people who have training in dealing with sexual issues and talk about their own struggles. Jim to send the information to Shawn.
- Interviews:
 - Our group is being interviewed by the Outspoken Offender and Shawn shared her interview link on our f/b page. This is one of many that will happen in the near future.
- Guest:
 - Jenny mentioned Mary Ann Van Zeller does a lot of crime investigation reports i.e. drug smuggling. Jenny reached to her via Instagram and she replied back. Could be a possible future guest speaker.
- **Call To Action (CTA):**
 - a. Working on watchdog letter edits with open team discussion.
- **Roundtable:**
 1. Welcome New Members – Jacqueline. Originally from Michigan. Currently 3rd party custodian of her son. They are relocating to Texas. Her son has been charged and waiting for next steps.
 2. Share “something good!”
 - a. Page belongs to other groups besides UV4SOR and one of the other groups is in New Mexico. The group is reestablishing their solvency and created an assembly in how they can change New Mexico’s laws, rules, regs and how to address it. New Mexico officials pride themselves on being on their own without help from others. It will be hard to make change and if it’s possible then we can make change anywhere!
 - b. Gail is looking at the registry laws. If one state make changes maybe it will be the trickledown effect for other states and they will follow.

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Action items:

Item #	Meeting Date	Description	Owner	Completion Date
1.	7/20/21	Organize Federal & State Judicial leaders, Chair, Ranking member & government contacts compiled by advocacy participants.	Dawn, Gail, Melanie, Sharon	On-Going
3.	7/20/21	Research an Obama administration declaration set forth to all criminals being subjected the CO's deciding or allowance of treatment. Conversation between diplomats. Researching Clinton	Page	On-Going
4.	6/01/21	Volunteer to research Federal & State Guidelines. Post on f/b.	Shawn, Sharon	8/3/2021
7.	6/01/21	Provide Nonprofit status.	Shawn	9/2021
9.	7/20/21	Provide contacts to receive letter. Ashley to check with FAMM.	Jim, Karen, Marie, Ashley	On-going
10.	6/29/21	Consider having a Board of Directors officers, what responsibilities go with each position, if this might be something of interest then let Shawn know,	All	9/2021
11.	7/20/21	Add the verbiage under the logo at a later date and will add it to the f/b page in the meantime.	Shawn	On-Going
12.	6/29/21	Check letter/email format in conjunction with mail merge solution.	Kim	7/20/2021
13.	7/20/21	Need to figure out numbers: how many email and how many snail mail. Review the spreadsheet to determine email addresses.	Jenny, Gail, Cathy, Sharon	08/03/2021

8:55 – 9:00P Adjourn Meeting. Next Meeting Date Tuesday August 3, 2021 7:30PM EST