

“UNITED VOICES 4 SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 7:30P EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 12

Overview:

- Updates to Old Business
- Introduce items for discussion on New Business
- Group discussion
- Roundtable discussion
- Update Action Items

Notes:

1. 10/26/2021 meeting minutes approved with no changes.
2. Overview from last meeting and brief summary of focus for tonight’s meeting.
 - Old Business:
 - Non-Profit Update - Shawn
 - Web Site Design – Shawn & Eric
 - Fundraising – Shawn and Page
 - Caution Click Media Blast Letter – Rita
 - Mariana van Zeller – Topic for Docuseries – Jenny
 - Unheard Voices Taping – Jenny
 - Guest Speaker Anthony Gay discussion – Jenny
 - Photo Liability Release Form – Shawn & Melanie
 - New Business:
 - Holiday Card / Letter Campaign - Kim
 - Correspondence Reply First Watchdog Letter – Shawn
 - Loved ones FAMM Storytelling - Betty
 - Open Task Issues (review from meeting minutes) - Group
3. Group Discussion:
 - Non – Profit Update:
 - Moving along and Board Member bios are uploaded to website.
 - Drafting the By-Laws. Once By-laws are in place we will complete our non-profit description which is on hold for the website.
 - Our goal is to have the Articles of Incorporation filed by the end of the year.
 - Next board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 12/5/21 @ 8:00 pm EST.

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- Web Site Design and Update:
 - Eric, our web designer was introduced to group. He worked with Shawn developing the website.
 - Two website items are on hold:
 1. Non-Profit description
 - Waiting on By-Laws completion.
 2. Donate page
 - Once the Articles of Incorporation are established we will setup the banking system.
 - Eric gave a tour of the website:
 - Home page displays the Mission and Vision.
 - About page includes more information about the advocacy group, i.e. Stories
 - Meet the Board page:
 - Click each Bio to see more information.
 - Spotlight Members page:
 - Videos to spotlight members; meet the admins, Shawn’s interview, etc...
 - Will display current and future success stories, training tips and sharing how-to’s.
 - Future plans to include more member’s featured.
 - Events page:
 - Currently lists the zoom meeting.
 - Offers a contact form for people to join the zoom meetings.
 - Includes a link to see previous meeting minutes.
 - Resources for advocacy page:
 - Links to legislative leaders and contacting different parts of the government.
 - PDF’s to view example letter(s).
 - Recommended books
 - Advocacy network page:
 - Links to other advocacy groups
 - Shawn is working on linking those links back to the group’s webpage.
 - Links for people who are interested in getting involved.
 - Please forward your advocacy links if you have some to share.
 - Donate page:
 - Displays a contact form for people to make a donation.
 - Business partners coming in the future.
 - Eric will add a Contact Us and a widget for Twitter
 - Link between website and f/b will work for those who joined.

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- Fundraising Committee:
 - We need volunteers and a chair for this committee. Jenny’s sister will help with the fundraising. Contact Shawn.
 - Page is creating a donation campaign towards fundraising efforts. Here is a summary of Page’s background:
 - Page is a holistic practitioner for 40 years. It was her quest to find how people heal. This initiative has taken her down many learning paths and has acquired many modalities. She started her studies offering her skills toward trauma and PTSD clients.
 - Through her research she found groups that were not aligned with her practices and felt spot-on in offering simple compassionate talks. Her approach was validated when she heard Goverall Monte indicate how outdated some of our concepts and theory are and he calls his approach a compassionate conversation.
 - Page invites people to ‘Take a Walk with Me’ by talking through the process of what is bothering the client. The concept is working and it takes about 20 – 30 minutes to lift someone’s spirit and show that they are no longer stuck which gives them the opportunity to un-stuck in other places.
 - Page will write up the details of the campaign, share with the group and once finalized will post on the f/b page and website.
- Caution Click’s Letter Campaign to Media:
 - During the meeting Rita mentioned they are hoping to get a response by the end-of-the week and collaborate on their letter. It looks like the letter is still in the works and hopefully we will receive a response from Rita Finley afterwards.
 - Meeting also mentioned the need for people to send or call about opposing the SORNA at the Federal level. The information is posted on our f/b page too.
- Mariana van Zeller Documentary Series:
 - Update deferred to next meeting.

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- Unheard Voices Taping:
 - Update deferred to next meeting.
- Guest Speaker Anthony Gay discussion:
 - Update deferred to next meeting.
- Liability Release Form:
 - Melanie will head up this project. Requests for the form can be directed to Melanie via email: mahirst@msn.com.
 - We will make a post in the group’s f/b about submitting photos and explain the process on the website after it is up and running.
- Holiday Card / Letter Campaign Update
 - Compiling information for anyone who would like to send a Christmas Greeting to a LO.
 - Campaign will be posted on f/b page. Looking for people to write and send the greetings.
 - Send your LO’s information to Kim via email: kahstockbridge@gmail.com
 - Spreadsheet information includes: Family member name, relation to LO, LO’s name, number, location, address, city, state, county, if they can receive letters and/or cards and if there are restrictions.
 - Will only send the finalized spreadsheet to those that provided information or wants to send greetings.
 - Deadline date: Saturday 11/20/21 to provide your LO’s information.
 - Feel free to use the groups return address if you prefer. Include address on top of the spreadsheet.
- Compiling Correspondence Reply First Watchdog Letter:
 - Came from SMART office response. They received our letter and then forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
- Loved Ones FAMM Storytelling Update:
 - When receiving random letters, we may have a bigger impact if letters are received in a large quantity at one time.

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- Betty received a list of recipes for great stories. These stories move people to make an action.
 - The more we humanize the stories the more it's talked about we can remove the shame and embarrassment. There are thousands of stories. We would keep the letters short. Don't show a lot of emotions.
 - Currently FAMM is cherry-picking of its members. If we had a lot of these story telling letters where people can't ignore it than it might help bridge some of the division between mandatory minimums with drug charges and mandatory minimums with sex offense changes because the whole acronym is Family Against Mandatory Minimums.
 - We could also send 4-5 letters at one time continuously that will also make an impact. Being able to gather the letters and use with permission.
 - Benefits to do this with all the other sex offense groups could lead to thousands of letters being sent. Include the untold stories from the LO's family and children's perspective.
 - This is a call to action initiative. Betty will have more information at our next meeting. Share this idea with your LO's.
- Reviewed open Task issues and updates.

4. Roundtable:

- New Member introductions:
 - Welcome Connie Baker from MO. Normally works evening. Her son is incarcerated for 6 years of a 17 year sentence. State sentence. Very thankful for the group and would have a hard time if she had to do this on her own.
- If time, share “something good!” - No time for this agenda item.

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Action items:

Item #	Meeting Date	Description	Owner	Completion Date
1.	8/3/21	Update the contacts list as elections occur.	Dawn, Gail, Melanie, Sharon	On-Going
4.	8/3/21	Volunteer to research Federal (complete) & is ongoing for State Guidelines. Work to narrow down specific subject for State, such as the registry. Post on Facebook.	Shawn, Sharon	On-Going
7.	6/01/21	Provide Nonprofit status after board meeting on 11/7/2021.	Shawn	12/07/2021
9.	8/03/21	Provide contacts to receive letters. Ashley obtained some information from FAMM about the software that they utilize. Tabling this for follow up with them for further information until next year.	Shawn, Ashley	03/2022
15.	8/17/21	Web Design Changes: Attach PayPal account to the donate button and add non-profit description.	Shawn	01/2022
19.	10/12/21	Documentary Series and Guest Speakers follow-up.	Jenny	12/07/21
20.	10/26/21	Organize holiday letter/cards mailing project.	Kim	11/20/21
21	11/9/21	Page’s Donation Fundraiser Campaign.	Page	On-Going
22.	11/9/21	Betty’s Letter Writing Campaign	Betty	On-Going
23.	11/9/21	Eric will add a Contact Us, and a widget for Twitter, a link between the website and f/b will work for those that joined the f/b group and will display a form to join the f/b page if they are not a member. Will add a link to the website under the About on f/b.	Eric	On-Going
24.	11/9/21	Send Shawn the Liability Release Form in PDF format and Shawn will post on the f/b page	Melanie	11/10/21

7:30P - 9:10P Adjourn Meeting. Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 7:30P EST.