

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 7, 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. 11/9/2021 meeting minutes approved with no changes, will be posted on website.
2. Overview from last meeting and a brief summary of focus for tonight’s meeting.
  - Old Business:
    - Non-Profit Update - Shawn
    - 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
    - Holiday Card / Letter Campaign – Shawn
    - Loved ones FMM Storytelling - Betty
  - New Business:
    - Brief Review of 2021
    - Reaching out and collaborating with Sen. John Kennedy and Dr. Peter R. Breggin, MD – Page
    - Parole Restrictions, Employment Opportunities, Computers/Internet/Phones, Personal Experiences - Rich
    - Open Task Issues (review from meeting minutes) - Group
3. Group Discussion:
  - Non – Profit Update:
    - Continuing to work on the first draft of the by-laws.
    - Once the by-laws are in place, we will complete our non-profit description.
    - Anticipate having the Articles of Incorporation filed by the end of the year.
    - Board meeting of 12/8/21 was postponed, next meeting is set for Sunday, 1/9/22 @ 8:00 pm EST.

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- Fundraising Committee:
  - We need volunteers and a chair for this committee. Contact Shawn if you are interested or know of someone interested in helping with this.
  - Page has created a donation campaign towards fundraising efforts and details are posted on the Facebook page. Page has graciously offered her services to all UV4SOR members for a fundraising opportunity for UV4SOR!! For the next 90 days beginning December 1, 2021, Page will offer her Holistic Counseling Sessions to our members and will donate 50% of the proceeds to UV4SOR.
  - 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 encompassed 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 theories 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. Trauma therapy is working. It takes about 20 – 30 minutes to lift someone’s spirit and show them how to regulate over-thinking and encourage new ways to change thought processes which are very effective for improved mental health.
    - Page and Admins will continue to “bump” the Facebook post to encourage participation, especially after the holidays.
- Caution Click’s Letter Campaign to Media:
  - We submitted our feedback to CC’s letter but have not had a response from Rita Finley yet. They did not hold their December meeting so we will follow up with her again after the first of the year.

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- Mariana van Zeller Documentary Series:
  - Jenny continues to text with Mariana, and she does respond. Jenny sent her the link to our website and will continue to correspond and follow up. (See meeting minutes from 10/12/21 for details on her series.)
  
- Unheard Voices Taping:
  - Jenny is in touch with Tosha and they will work on getting her son Christopher as a guest for one of our meetings next year. (See meeting minutes from 10/12/21 for details on her book and series.)
  
- Guest Speaker Anthony Gay:
  - Jenny will continue follow up with Anthony. His previous hearing last month was delayed until tomorrow – depending on the outcome we may be able to set up a special meeting with him or have him as a guest at our general meeting.
  
- Liability Release Form for Website Photos:
  - Melanie will head up this project. Requests for the form can be directed to Melanie via email: mahirst@msn.com.
  - Shawn and Melanie will review updated liability form and Shawn will post it on the Facebook page by the end of the week along with a post about submitting photos and explain the process.
  
- Holiday Card / Letter Campaign Update
  - Spreadsheet was completed and everyone who volunteered to participate is getting their cards/letters mailed out in the next week.
  
- Loved Ones FAMM Storytelling Update:
  - Betty reviewed her ideas for a Call to Action initiative for next year.
    - Gather stories from our LO and family members to initially submit to FAMM’s Storytelling page and later compile the stories with facts and statistics to submit to elected officials, other advocacy groups, the Sentencing Commission and media people.
    - Use FAMM’s “Recipe for a Great Story” as a guide for writing the letters.

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- Group discussion about the project details.
  - The goal is to give insight into the many personal stories to move others toward taking action for reform, to change perceptions of sexual offenses and to correct misconceptions with education.
  - Start with the group soliciting stories and then submitting a few stories at a time from our LO to FAMM.
  - Follow with stories from family members.
  - Compile a list of recipients, facts and statistics.
  - Condense parts of stories collected and statistics into a letter to be sent to determined list of recipients.
  - Determine a timeline for starting this project and tasks involved after review at next meeting.
  - Discussed a possible future Call to Action in conjunction with this project to address the many issues faced by our LO within the BOP.
  - Encourage members to make use of Twitter to bring awareness to our projects.
  
- Page proposed finding out more about two people who she has been inspired by in YouTube posts. How can we inquire about their views of sexual offenses/laws/treatment and determine if they could be helpful to our cause? Would the doctor be a potential guest at one of our meetings?
  - [Senator John Kennedy](#) of Louisiana is on the Senate Judiciary Committee, he has great presence, he seems to preach about innocence topics and has called for accountability of the Justice Department.
  - [Dr. Peter R. Breggin](#) is a psychiatrist who is critical of psychiatric medication. He advocates replacing psychiatry’s use of drugs and invasive therapies with psychotherapy, education, empathy, love, and broader human services, all of which could help our LO.
  
- Rich discussed parole restrictions and gave suggestions for those who are on the registry after noticing posts in the group with concerns for our LO and their families.
  - Most are not allowed to have smart phones, although there are apps and software available to monitor these. Flip phones are usually allowed and can be obtained at Walgreens and CVS.

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- Some parole officers will permit a computer use agreement to allow use for job and housing applications.
  - Family members can assist with filling out job applications. Some good places to look for work are with fast food businesses (corporate, not franchises), temporary agencies who often know which businesses will hire registered citizens, State Unemployment offices or Work Force centers which may have lists for second chance employers, and many trades are willing to hire. He suggests being diligent and checking with any available social workers in the area.
  - Parole officers generally check in with phone calls. It is important to establish and maintain trust with the PO.
  - He has posted helpful links on the group Facebook page. Anyone with questions is welcome to contact him.
- Reviewed open Task issues and updates.

#### 4. Roundtable:

- New Member introductions:
  - Welcome Tammy Hen-ke. She works at a law firm and is currently writing a bill to introduce to Congress for pretrial diversion and mental health for those charged with a sexual offense. There is pretrial diversion for some charges but currently those charged with a sex offense are not eligible (with the exception of Colorado under Title 18).  
-Update after the meeting: she is meeting with Congresswoman Stephanie Bice to discuss her bill!  
She is writing a paper comparing the registry to gun laws.  
Her husband has a website, Twitter, and a Facebook page called “[The Forsaken Ministries](#)”.
- If time, share “something good!” - Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

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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.	12/7/21	Provide Nonprofit status after board meeting on 1/9/2022.	Shawn	1/11/2022
9.		Deleting this item regarding FAMM's software as it is not financially feasible for the group at this time.		Deleted
15.	12/7/21	Web Design Changes: Attach PayPal account to the donate button and add non-profit description.	Shawn	02/2022
19.	10/12/21	Documentary Series and Guest Speakers follow-up.	Jenny	1/11/2022
20.	10/26/21	Organize holiday letter/cards mailing project.	Kim	Complete
21	11/9/21	Page's Donation Fundraiser Campaign.	Page	3/1/2022
22.	11/9/21	Betty's Letter Writing Campaign.	Betty	On-Going
23.	12/7/21	Working to tweak website for emails to be forwarded to Shawn and Sharon.	Eric, Shawn, Sharon	1/11/2022
24.	11/9/21	Send Shawn the Liability Release Form in PDF format and Shawn will post on the Facebook group page.	Melanie	Complete

9:00PM - 9:10PM Adjourn Meeting.

Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 7:30P EST.