

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 14

Overview:

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

Notes:

1. 12/7/2021 meeting minutes approved with no changes, are 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
 - Guest Speaker Anthony Gay discussion – Jenny
 - Photo Liability Release Form – Shawn & Melanie
 - Holiday Card / Letter Campaign/Follow up - Shawn
 - Smart Office/DOJ Writing Campaign/Follow up - Shawn
 - Loved ones FAMM Storytelling – Betty
 - Reaching out and collaborating with Sen. John Kennedy and Dr. Peter R. Breggin, MD – Page
 - New Business:
 - Call to Action Letter Writing Regarding BOP Change of Leadership - Sharon
 - One Standard of Justice Webinar: A Different Approach to Sex Crimes - Shawn
 - Letter to Utah Senator - Gail
 - 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, donate button to follow.
 - Once the by-laws are in place, we will complete our non-profit description.
 - Anticipate having the Articles of Incorporation filed by the next meeting.
 - Board meeting was held on 1/9/22, the next meeting is set for Sunday, 1/30/22 @ 8:00 p.m. 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’s donation campaign towards fundraising efforts and details are posted on the Facebook page and is garnering some attention. Page will offer her Holistic Counseling Sessions to our members and will donate 50% of the proceeds to UV4SOR through March 2022.
- Guest Speaker Anthony Gay:
 - Jenny spoke with Anthony. He has a court hearing on 1/29 and will follow up on the possibility of being a guest at one of our upcoming meetings, possibly in mid-February. Sixty Minutes wants to do a segment with him!
- Liability Release Form for Website Photos:
 - Melanie is heading up this project. Requests for the form can be directed to Melanie via email: mahirst@msn.com.
 - We have not had any new responses about submitting photos.
- Holiday Card / Letter Campaign Update:
 - This campaign was a big success. We had a great response to contributing with this effort and many who sent cards and letters received thank you notes from those who received them. We are making a difference to those who are incarcerated; their thanks indicated their joy in receiving this type of correspondence, it was uplifting to them, and they feel like what we are doing is important and makes a difference to them!
- Smart Office/DOJ Writing Campaign Update:
 - We had a response from the USSC (United States Sentencing Commission) from our letter campaign regarding the SMART report.
 - Their letter acknowledged receipt of our letter and said that “public comment regarding sex offenders and criminal justice reform should be directed to our local representatives”.

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- The response letter also indicated that the Commission periodically reviews comments and recommendations from the public regarding potential changes to the federal sentencing guidelines. We can discuss responding to them with questions regarding this process and ask who submits the comments and recommendations to them for review – and point out their use of the term “sex offenders”!
- Their letter was addressed to Shawn – since her name was not signed on the letter that we sent to them, that means that they had to look at our website to get her name!
- Loved Ones FAMM Storytelling Update:
 - Betty was unable to attend the meeting, we will follow up with her at the next meeting for clarity of vision on this project and discuss the options that were brought up at our last meeting.
- Page has not received any response from Senator Kennedy as the Senate is heading into session. Jenny got negative feedback about him that he is all talk and no action, so we will postpone or redirect our efforts in this area. There is no follow up yet from Dr. Peter R. Breggin.
- Sharon brought up a letter writing campaign to address the issue of the upcoming change of leadership in the BOP. Both the current director and deputy director have resigned. This is a good opportunity for us to express our concerns about the BOP and make suggestions about the qualifications needed in new leadership.
 - Sharon will share her initial letter and send it to others who volunteer to contribute and review.
 - We will research to find out who makes the decisions about hiring new directors and create a contact list.
 - A letter can be sent from the group to each contact, and we will provide a template of the letter and the list of contacts for group members to send individual letters as desired. We will post to the Facebook page and encourage participation.
- Shawn discussed an upcoming webinar being presented by One Standard of Justice. The topic is “A Different Approach to Sex Crimes: The Case for Survivor-Centered Restorative Justice”.
 - We will postpone our next meeting for one week as this webinar is on our next scheduled meeting night of 1/25/22. Shawn will post the details to the Facebook page and encourage everyone to watch it.

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- In order to be excellent advocates, we must understand all of the issues involved with sexual offenses.
- This is a great educational opportunity to gain confidence. The more we learn, the more impactful we can be!
- Gail is writing a letter from the group to Utah Senator Michael Kennedy who was planning to introduce a bill to amend the sex offender registry in Utah but then decided not to pursue it. This is another good opportunity to get our group information out and to educate elected officials on facts about the registry.
- Reviewed open Task issues and updates.

4. Roundtable:

- New Member introductions:
 - We had one new member join in the meeting. Hope is in Arkansas and her husband is a registrant. She wants to advocate to end the registry and is looking for ideas to extend conversations about reform globally.
- If time, share “something good!”
 - Tammy met with Congresswoman Bice’s criminal justice leader and invited her to attend one of our meetings. She will follow up with a thank you letter and continue to pursue getting her pretrial diversion bill sponsored.
 - Our discussions about the various letter campaigns have made us aware that it’s time to start forming some committees. We talked about beginning with a communications committee and will update at next meeting.

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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.	1/11/22	Provide Nonprofit status after board meeting on 1/30/2022.	Shawn	2/1/2022
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	2/15/2022
21	11/9/21	Page's Donation Fundraiser Campaign.	Page	3/1/2022
22.	11/9/21	Betty's Letter Writing Campaign.	Betty	2/1/2022
23.	12/7/21	Working to tweak website for emails to be forwarded to Shawn and Sharon.	Eric, Shawn, Sharon	3/1/2022
24.	1/11/22	Send letter outline regarding BOP leadership to other members for review and suggestions, research contacts.	Sharon	2/1/2022
25.	1/11/22	Establish Communications Committee with volunteers to initiate and coordinate various projects.	Gail, Sharon	2/1/2022

9:20 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Adjourn Meeting.

Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 7:30 p.m. EST.