

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 15

### Overview:

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

### Notes:

1. 1/11/2022 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 – Page
    - Guest Speakers Anthony Gay and Derek Logue – Jenny
    - Loved ones FMM Storytelling – Betty
    - Communication Committee Call to Action Letters – Gail & Sharon
    - One Standard of Justice Webinar “A Different Approach to Sex Crimes” - Shawn
  - New Business:
    - Letters Regarding the First Step Act – Gail, Tammy
    - Committees - Shawn
    - Amy Dickinson Syndicated Columnist - Jenny
    - Open Task Issues (review from meeting minutes) - Group
3. Group Discussion:
  - Non – Profit Update:
    - Final edits of bylaws are being reviewed by board members.
    - Bank account research is complete, account will be opened after registration is complete and we have determined filing status with the IRS.
    - The Articles of Incorporation have been submitted and certified!
    - We will set up the Amazon Smile account once NP is fully established.
    - Board meeting was held on 1/30/22, the next meeting is set for Sunday, 2/20/22 @ 8:00 p.m. EST.

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- Fundraising Update:
  - Page’s donation campaign towards fundraising efforts and details are posted on the Facebook page and she is getting positive feedback. Page is offering her Holistic Counseling/Trauma Therapy Sessions to our members and will donate 50% of the proceeds to UV4SOR through March 2022.
  - Fundraising will be one of the new committees that will be addressed in our next meeting.
  
- Guest Speakers Update:
  - Derek Logue ([OnceFallen.com](http://OnceFallen.com)) will be our guest speaker at the next meeting on 2/15/2022. Derek is a registered citizen and an activist fighting to bring reforms of America’s sex offense laws.
    - Derek will be our first official guest speaker!
    - Are there any main points that we would like to suggest for him to focus on? He has a presentation and can tell his [story](#) followed by some time for Q and A.
    - Jenny will post and we will promote this in the group!
  - Jenny is keeping in touch with [Anthony Gay](#), [Tosha Smith Mills](#), and [Chris Pelloski](#) on the possibilities of them being a guest at one of our upcoming meetings.
  
- Loved Ones FAMM Storytelling Update:
  - Betty discussed her vision for this project with the first step being to gather letters from our loved ones and their family members that tell their stories about how they have been affected by any and all aspects relating to a sexual offense.
    - The purpose of these first two sets of letters is to show the human side of those affected and submit them to FAMM for their Storytelling series.
    - The longer-term goal is to bring awareness to elected officials and the public and introducing legislation to change the laws regarding the registry, sentencing, and incarceration.
    - The more we humanize these stories the more it’s talked about, and we can work to remove the shame and embarrassment associated with these issues. The third mailing set would have facts and statistics along with the humanizing aspects gleaned from the LO and family letters.

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- This discussion tied in with Shawn’s upcoming discussion about our need to start forming more committees which will be on our next meeting agenda.
- Betty will work on an outline/plan for this project and committee with an update at our next meeting. Some of the ideas and needs discussed are:
  - How receptive are our LO and families to sharing their stories?
  - First flood FAMM in waves when enough stories are gathered.
  - Research updated facts and statistics.
  - Compile contact lists to include legislators, media, influential leaders behind the various advocacy movements.
- Communications Committee Update:
  - Gail is heading up this new committee to focus on developing Call to Action (CTA) letters including writing, reviewing, promoting to group members, establishing contact lists, and assessing topics that are of importance for our advocacy efforts.
  - There are currently three separate letters started regarding the following topics:
    - Exclusion of those with sexual offenses being excluded from the First Step Act. These letters will be mailed to Senate and House Judiciary Committee members, DOJ leadership, U.S. Attorneys General, and Executive White House officials.
      - Tammy will discuss at our next meeting a tie-in to this for providing a form to send to our LO for them to mail out themselves addressing this issue.
    - Addressing 37 State Attorney Generals who signed a letter to the American Law Institute (ALI) opposing their proposed changes to Article 213 of the Model Penal Code: Sexual Assault and Related Offenses (“MPC”). These letters will be mailed to these state AGs with copies to the U.S. Attorney and Deputy Attorney General with copies to the directors of ALI, National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), and the DOJ SMART office.
    - New Bureau of Prisons (BOP) leadership. The current director and deputy director of the BOP have resigned. Our letter addresses the issues most important to our group that we want to see in new leadership. These letters will be mailed to DOJ leadership, U.S. Attorneys General, Senate and House Judiciary Committee members, Executive White House officials, and BOP Regional and Division leaders.

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- A template of each group CTA letter will be edited for individual group members to mail on their own. Individuals can download/copy the letter, edit with their personal information, and mail/send. This will be posted and encouraged in the group (along with detailed background information on the subject) with a link to access the letter and contact information through the website ([www.uv4sor.org](http://www.uv4sor.org)).
  - Gail and Sharon will work to organize the committee and establish sub-committee categories based on each member's interests and abilities.
  - The committee will work with the nonprofit board members for a mailing budget once the nonprofit UV4SOR is established and has funds.
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- Shawn discussed the webinar which was presented by One Standard of Justice (OSJ) on the topic “A Different Approach to Sex Crimes: The Case for Survivor-Centered Restorative Justice”. The recorded version can be accessed on the OSJ website, [www.onestandardofjustice.org](http://www.onestandardofjustice.org). There is lots of good information here that we can use.
  - Discussion about creating new committees will be pushed to the next meeting so that we have time to hear from our new members who attended the meeting.
  - Jenny brought up an item from the [Florida Action Committee](#) (FAC) where they are calling for action to educate a syndicated columnist who writes “Ask Amy”. Amy Dickinson made some disturbing and uneducated comments in her [advice column](#). Anyone who wants to contact/educate her can reach her at: Twitter@askingamy or [askamy@amydickinson.com](mailto:askamy@amydickinson.com).
  - Reviewed open Task issues and updates.
4. Roundtable:
- New Member welcome and introductions:
    - Don is a registered citizen in South Carolina, he has been on the registry since 2007 and has been free for 16 years. He has been an active advocate for ten years and is a NARSOL state representative for SC. Shawn had met him at the NARSOL convention in Houston. Pammy works closely with him as the contact for NARSOL of SC and invited him to our group.
    - Charles is a registered citizen in North Carolina, he has been on the registry since 2006. He will be off of parole in 7 months. He is interested in ending the registry and found our group through Matt, the Outspoken Offender when he heard us mentioned on a podcast. He gets counseling and peer support through [Meridian](#).

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- Dianna is in Illinois and her husband will be home in a few weeks after serving 56 months for possession of a firearm. In the home plan process they discovered that he will be required to register due to a charge 27 years ago. He was 16 in 1995 and his girlfriend was 15 - he served 90 days on this charge, and they had no idea until now that he would have to be on the registry when returning home. She is a fellow advocate with Jenny who told her about our group.
  - Nafisa joined in the meeting but was not able to stay for introductions.
- If time, share “something good!”
- Charles is engaged to be married and when he is off of parole in seven months he will be able to see his sister who he hasn’t seen in ten years!
  - Jenny heard from her son after the big nationwide lockdown of all BOP facilities. Hopefully this will be short lived for the rest of our LO as well.
  - Dawn and Jenny are going to be in the docuseries “Unheard Voices” on series 4 which is slated to begin airing in April. Further details to come!

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### Action items:

Item #	Meeting Date	Description	Owner	Completion Date
1.	8/3/21	Update the contacts lists 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 website.	Shawn, Sharon	On-Going
7.	1/11/22	Provide updated Nonprofit status after board meeting on 2/20/2022.	Shawn	3/1/2022
15.	12/7/21	Web Design Changes: Attach PayPal account to the donate button and add non-profit description.	Shawn	03/2022
19.	10/12/21	Documentary Series and Guest Speakers follow-up.	Jenny	Ongoing
21	11/9/21	Page's Donation Fundraiser Campaign.	Page	3/1/2022
22.	2/1/22	Betty's Letter Writing Campaign and Committee.	Betty	Ongoing
23.	12/7/21	Working to tweak website for emails to be forwarded to Shawn and Sharon and Gail.	Eric, Shawn, Sharon	4/1/2022
25.	1/11/22	Establish Communications Committee with volunteers to initiate and coordinate various projects.	Gail, Sharon	3/1/2022
26.	2/1/22	CTA Letters by Communications Committee, determine mailing schedule.	Gail, Sharon	3/1/2022

9:00 - 9:15 p.m. Adjourn Meeting.

Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 7:30 p.m. EST.