

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 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. 3/1/2022 meeting minutes were approved with one change and are posted on the [website](#).
2. Overview from 3/1/2022 meeting and a summary of focus for tonight’s meeting.
 - Old Business:
 - Non-Profit Update - Shawn
 - Fundraising - Pammy, Sharon
 - Guest Speakers - Pammy
 - Loved Ones Storytelling Project – Betty - Pushed out to next meeting
 - Communication Committee - Gail, Sharon
 - Committees - Shawn
 - UV4SOR Facebook Group Moderators - Shawn
 - Caution Click Utilizing Scripted Letters from UV4SOR Website - Shawn
 - New Business:
 - Washington, DC Event March 2023 - Shawn
 - Open Task Issues (review from meeting minutes) - Group
3. Group Discussion:
 - Non-Profit Update:
 - Final edits of the bylaws are complete and ready to be filed with the IRS.
 - We are filing the 501C3 certification with the IRS as United Voices for Sex Offense Reform DBA UV4SOR. The DBA documents have been filed with the State of Michigan.
 - Bank account options have been researched and the account will be opened upon receipt of required documentation, including an EIN number.
 - Board meeting was held on 3/13/22, the next meeting is set for Sunday, 4/3/22 @ 8:00 p.m. EST.

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- Fundraising Update:
 - Pammy and Sharon have posted in our Facebook group and various other support groups for the recipe book fundraising project.
 - There has been positive response to the idea and several recipes have already been received. They will continue to make updated posts and include advice for submitted recipes to include detailed instructions along with ingredients and materials needed.
 - Recipes that are received will be typed, formatted, and categorized.
 - A timeline for choosing a name and for publication will be determined once we get a feel for the scope of the project.

- Guest Speakers Update:
 - Pammy and Shawn are working on scheduling some great guest speakers! Pammy has contacted Dr. Emily Horowitz and author Walt Pavlo, who have both agreed to be guest speakers. Shawn will contact and schedule meeting dates with them and will also keep us posted on the other potential speakers that they are in touch with.
 - Dr. Emily Horowitz, Ph.D., is an associate professor of sociology at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY. She is an author and serves as a director at the National Center for Reason and Justice, an organization that supports the falsely accused and/or wrongfully convicted and works for child protective laws based on science and research.
<https://reason.com/people/emily-horowitz/>
<https://narsol.org/2021/08/emily-horowitz-featured-speaker-at-narsols-oct-2021-conference/>
 - Walt Pavlo is a nationally recognized speaker, [author](#), and founder of [Prisonology](#). He writes about criminal justice reform and consults on federal criminal justice matters as it relates to BOP policy.
 - Pammy has been in touch with and will follow up with [Power of our Voices](#) and they have agreed to have someone from their organization as a guest speaker. This group provides information and statistics to help understand the legal system by providing free research. They are “A voice for those who’ve been silenced”.
 - Pammy is working on getting Katy Schaper as a guest speaker. She is a producer working on a new series about reentry featuring people who are being released from prison soon and going to live in a private home. She is looking for participants. Call her if you qualify and want to be interviewed: 475-701-9785

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- Shawn is working to finalize a date to have [Bill Dobbs](#) as a guest speaker. He is a huge advocate and author of The Dobbs Wire.
 - Shawn is in touch with Kathie Gourlay as a potential guest speaker for restorative justice. Kathie heads up the support group [Michigan Citizens for Justice](#).
 - Jenny is still 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 and she will update when any follow-up is received.
- Loved Ones Storytelling Project - Betty was unable to attend the meeting and will update at our next meeting.
 - Communications Committee Update:
 - Gail sent a thank you letter from the group to the ALI in support of their approval of the proposed changes to the Model Penal Code for Sexual Assault and Related Offenses. The Communications Committee will work on a revision of that letter for individual letters to be made available on the website.
 - Discussion about keeping the group informed with any additional information regarding this initial stage of approval to the code and possible future follow up with another letter campaign.
 - Committees Discussion:
 - Shawn reported on our need to create more committees to help delegate tasks and responsibilities for advocacy CTAs and to encourage member participation.
 - Suggestions for the type of committees needed include Research (for project support), Fundraising, and Marketing/PR (for developing media contacts and lining up speakers and guests for our meetings).
 - Shawn will head the Marketing/PR committee. We will need volunteers for each committee and people to head the Research and the Fundraising committees. This will be an ongoing process with group involvement and ideas to encourage group members to become more proactive in our projects.
 - Jackie, Pammy, and Kim have all volunteered to be a part of the Research Committee!

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- Shawn announced the new moderators for our Facebook group who will work with the admins to ensure that our page stays consistent with our advocacy focus. Kimberly, Jackie and Nafisa will be introduced to the group and begin on April 1, 2022. Thanks to all three of them for volunteering their time! The need for moderators is an indication of how quickly our group is growing and how active it is becoming!
- Shawn attended Caution Click’s recent meeting and discussed how they had utilized our First Step Act [individual scripted letter](#) for a mail blast from their group. One person in the meeting asked her how we are doing so well getting our name out there! The group discussed how we can continue to get our voices heard and thoughts about how we can get people who are not impacted by these issues to pay attention to what we are doing.
- Shawn introduced information and led a discussion about the event in Washington DC to be held March 5 through March 7, 2023. This event calls attention to the 20th anniversary of the Smith v. Doe SCOTUS decision (538 U.S. 84). To this day, that decision causes severe harm to registered persons and their families.
 - This conference/event is called “[Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork](#)”. As part of the conference, there will be pre-arranged appointments to visit Capitol Hill to speak with Congressional representatives or staff members. In-depth training will be provided by ACSOL Executive Director Janice Bellucci on how to effectively communicate in these meetings.
 - [Pre-registration](#) is open now and everyone who can attend is encouraged to pre-register now! The early sign-up deadline is June 30, 2022. The \$20.00 registration fee will count as \$40.00 toward the cost of the conference. The \$20.00 fee is nonrefundable and will, in part, finance a scholarship fund to help with expenses for those who cannot afford it.
 - Conference dates are Sunday, March 5, and Monday March 6, 2023. You can see the conference schedule [HERE](#).
 - The main event is a vigil which will be held on the steps of the Supreme Court of the United States on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, which is the 20th anniversary date of the Smith v Doe SCOTUS decision.
 - This is an exciting and unique opportunity for all of us to get involved, to personally be a part of an important organized event, to meet advocates from other groups, and to meet up with others from our group!
 - We will post in the group to make everyone aware of this event, encourage attendance, and coordinate meeting up with group members who attend.

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- Reviewed open Task issues and updates.

- 4. Roundtable: New member welcome and introduction. Welcome to our member Kim who attended her first meeting. Her son is at a state prison in New Hampshire. We are glad to have her join in and appreciate her input and feedback! Kim told us about a newsletter that she sends to her son – [Prison Legal News](#). This is published by the [Human Rights Defense Center](#) which also publishes [Criminal Legal News](#). These all look like good resources for us and our LO.

See Action Items Below:

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Action items:

Item #	Meeting Date	Description	Owner	Completion Date
1.	8/3/21	Update the contact lists as elections occur.	Dawn, Gail, Melanie, Sharon	On-Going
4.	8/3/21	Research Federal (complete) and State (ongoing) Guidelines. Work to narrow down specific subjects for State, such as the registry. Post on the website.	Shawn, Sharon	On-Going
7.	1/11/22	Provide updated Non-profit status after board meeting on 4/3/2022.	Shawn	4/12/2022
15.	12/7/21	Web Design Changes: Attach PayPal account to the donate button and add non-profit description.	Shawn	04/2022
19.	10/12/21	Documentary Series and Guest Speakers follow-up.	Jenny	Ongoing
22.	2/1/22	Betty's Letter Writing Campaign and Committee.	Betty	Ongoing
23.	12/7/21	Work to tweak website for emails to be forwarded to Shawn and Sharon and Gail. Review list of changes with Eric.	Eric, Shawn, Sharon	4/12/2022
26.	3/1/22	Hold meeting with Facebook group Admins, develop moderator guidelines, add Moderators to FB group.	Shawn, Sharon	4/1/2022
27.	3/1/22	Update group on the ALI changes to the Model Penal Code for Sexual Offenses.	Gail	5/10/2022
28.	3/1/22	Post in group regularly about our recipe book fundraising project and solicit recipes from group member's LO. Publication ideas are to initially launch on the website and potentially later as a printed book when funds allow.	Pammy, Sharon	Ongoing
29.	3/1/22	Determine committees needed, establish committee heads, and solicit volunteers to join each one.	Group	Ongoing
30.	3/1/22	Supreme Court nominee follow up to determine group research and potential action.	Jenny, Gail	3/29/2022
31.	3/1/22	Update website adding new pages and drop-down menus as needed.	Shawn, Sharon	Ongoing

9:15 - 9:30 p.m. Adjourn Meeting.

Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 7:30 p.m. EST.