

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 29, 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. 3/15/2022 meeting minutes were approved with one change and are posted on the [website](#).
2. Overview from 3/15/2022 meeting and a summary of focus for tonight’s meeting.
 - Old Business:
 - Non-Profit Update - Shawn
 - Fundraising - Pammy, Sharon
 - Guest Speakers - Pammy, Shawn
 - Communication Committee - Gail, Sharon
 - Committees - Shawn
 - UV4SOR Facebook Group Moderators - Shawn
 - Washington, DC Event March 2023 - Shawn
 - Loved Ones Storytelling Project - Betty - Tabled until next meeting
 - New Business:
 - Anti-Registry Activists Manual - Jenny
 - Unlocking the Hidden Voice - Dawn, Page
 - 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.
 - The DBA documents have been successfully filed and returned.
 - We are filing the 501c3 certification with the IRS as United Voices for Sex Offense Reform DBA UV4SOR and applying for an EIN number.
 - Bank account options have been researched and narrowed down; the account will be opened upon receipt of required documentation.
 - The board meeting was held on 3/13/22; the next meeting is set for Sunday, 4/3/22 @ 8:00 p.m. EST.

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

- 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, ingredients, and materials needed.
 - Each recipe will be credited by first name, initial of last name (or how each is comfortable with), and institution name.
 - Recipes that are received will be typed, formatted, and categorized. The book will include abbreviations used and disclaimers.
 - A timeline for publication will be determined once we get a feel for the scope of the project.

- Guest Speakers Update:

Pammy, Shawn, and Jenny are working on scheduling some great guest speakers! Shawn will contact and schedule meeting dates and will keep us posted on these potential speakers.

 - Emily Horowitz, Ph.D., is scheduled for our meeting on May 10th! We will make frequent posts to promote this meeting and get as many members as possible to attend. Dr. Horowitz 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, a [prominent writer for Forbes magazine](#), 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.

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

- 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.
- Communications Committee Update:
 - A letter was received in response to our [First Step Act letter](#) (FSA) sent to the US Deputy Attorney General. The respondent is Acting Assistant Director/General Counsel of the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons. A copy of this letter will be posted on the website.
 - There was discussion of how to respond and narrow our focus that those convicted of a federal sexual offense are denied the benefit of time credits and are discriminated against receiving the incentives that they are entitled to by the BOP.
 - Research is needed to determine eligible and [ineligible](#) offense codes, to create a fact sheet for use in follow up letters.
 - Gail listed potential upcoming projects including letters, to follow up on the SMART report, to send to [the senators who spoke during the SCOTUS nomination hearings](#); to [Patty Wetterling](#); and also to send to the DOJ/BOP with targeted information on the FSA.
 - There was discussion about how to better inform our members to encourage more member participation with sending letters and emails. We reviewed how other advocacy groups, such as the [Florida Action Committee](#), do a good job of targeting and explaining issues to their members through their website and emails to members.
 - Kimberly suggested grouping members by state to increase participation by having each group target their state representatives with our Call to Action (CTA) letters.
- Committees Discussion:

Shawn and Jenny will head the Marketing/PR committee, which will develop media and advocacy contacts, line up speakers and guests for our meetings, and communicate/coordinate with other advocacy groups. More volunteers are needed as support members.

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

- We have the start of a Research committee with Jackie, Pammy, and Kim as volunteers. We need someone to head this group and determine what research is needed to support our advocacy work and our other committees.
 - Development of committees will be an ongoing process with group involvement and ideas to encourage group members to become more proactive in our projects.
 - We still need volunteers to head and support the Fundraising committee.
- Moderators Update:
The three new moderators for our Facebook group have been introduced and are working with the admins to ensure that our group page stays consistent with our advocacy focus. Thanks to Kimberly, Jackie and Nafisa for volunteering their time!
- The need for moderators is an indication of how quickly our group is growing and how active it is becoming.
 - Discussion included our primary focus of advocacy: identifying posts and comments that lose this focus, and how to redirect focus without alienating members. All group members are encouraged to post and comment with this goal in mind.
 - The Facebook (FB) police recently requested that we remove a comment from our page as it was flagged as “possible hate speech”. Dawn explained how FB is keeping track of groups and will shut down any that (even inadvertently) break their rules or use language that they deem to be inappropriate. This incident highlights our need to consider future movement to a membership site to avoid their tracking and to ensure our privacy. Developing an email list of members and better utilizing our website is a project to consider.
- Washington DC Event:
Shawn led a discussion about the event in Washington DC that is being held on 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.

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

- The 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 details of meeting up with group members who attend.
 - Shawn and Jenny will investigate making appointments for our group members to meet with their state representatives. Stay tuned!
- Anti-Registry Activists Manual:
Jenny discussed the newly released [Anti-Registry Activists Manual](#) and she contributed an article which is included in the book! She can order extra copies directly from the publisher and suggested making a list of people (elected officials, media representatives) that we can send the book to in order to help educate them about the registry and our advocacy goals.
 - Unlocking the Hidden Voice:
Dawn and Page introduced their Unlocking the Hidden Voice project. They are working together to prepare training that will focus on learning how to use our voices effectively for advocacy. It will entail practicing how to speak with confidence and articulate what we want to say and how we say it. This opportunity will be offered to all group members as a webinar. They will post this on the group FB page and follow up with more details.
 - Reviewed open Task issues and updates.
4. Roundtable: New member welcome and introduction. Welcome to Elena who attended her first meeting after being invited by Pammy. She is retired, lives in Florida, and her son is incarcerated in MS. She is active with the Florida Action Committee and is excited to be a part of our advocacy group!

See Action Items Below:

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

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	05/2022
19.	10/12/21	Documentary Series and Guest Speakers follow-up.	Jenny, Shawn	Ongoing
22.	2/1/22	Betty's Letter Writing/Story 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.	Shawn, Sharon	4/12/2022
27.	3/1/22	Update group on the ALI changes to the Model Penal Code for Sexual Offenses after their member's meeting.	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 details are TBD.	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 nomination follow up to determine group research and potential action.	Jenny, Gail	5/1/2022
31.	3/1/22	Update website adding new pages, buttons, and drop-down menus as needed.	Shawn, Sharon	Ongoing
32.	3/29/22	Research making appointments with elected officials to be scheduled during the March 2023 Washington, DC event.	Jenny, Shawn	5/1/2022

9:50 - 9:55 p.m. Adjourn Meeting.

Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 7:30 p.m. EST.