

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 14

Overview:

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

Notes:

1. 3/29/2022 meeting minutes were approved with changes and are posted on the [website](#).
2. Overview from 3/29/2022 meeting and a summary of focus for tonight’s meeting.
 - Old Business:
 - Non-Profit Update - Shawn
 - Guest Speaker - Shawn
 - Committees - Shawn
 - Loved Ones Storytelling Project - Betty
 - Unlocking the Hidden Voice – Page
 - New Business:
 - 50 State Contact/Coalition Project – Kim H.
 - General Meetings Maintenance – Shawn
 - Rebuttal Response to Senator Hawley/Protect Act 2022 - Shawn
 - Open Task Issues (review from meeting minutes) - Group
3. Group Discussion:
 - Non-Profit Update:
 - Final edits of the bylaws are complete and pending adoption once two more board member signatures are received.
 - The EIN number has been obtained.
 - We are preparing for filing the 501c3 certification with the IRS as United Voices for Sex Offense Reform DBA UV4SOR.
 - Rita is finalizing our bank account documents with PNC Bank tomorrow, 4/13/22.
 - The board meeting was held on 4/13/22; the next meeting is set for Sunday, 4/24/22 @ 8:00 p.m. EST.

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- Guest Speakers Update:
Pammy, Shawn, and Jenny are working on scheduling some great guest speakers! Shawn will contact potential guests and schedule meeting dates. With our current bi-weekly meeting schedule, we will schedule one guest speaker per month with the possibility of an additional date to accommodate speakers if needed. We are currently scheduling into the summer months for meeting dates with 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.
- 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.

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- 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. Pammy has volunteered as a support member to this group.
 - Pammy will head the Research committee with Jackie and Kim as support members. This group will work in conjunction with our other committees to conduct research for various projects and compile current data.
 - 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.
- Loved Ones Storytelling Project:

Betty updated the group on the progress being made for developing a formal web page with graphics for the project which will include an introduction, sample stories, instructions for participation, and a recipe for writing a good story.

 - Once we start receiving stories, Betty will put together a committee to assist with developing the future aspects of the project.
 - Data will be put into a spreadsheet that will include names, location, and email addresses of those family members who are contributing stories from themselves or their incarcerated loved ones.
 - Discussion included utilizing our current contact lists of legislators, state and federal leaders, and department heads.
 - The question of consent forms was brought up and it was agreed that we will need to obtain a signed consent from all contributors of stories and pictures.
 - A potential name for this project is “No More Silence Story Challenge”. Betty is open to suggestions for other names, and you can message her with any ideas.
- Unlocking the Hidden Voice:

Page reviewed the project that she and Dawn are working on together to prepare training that will focus on learning how to use our voices effectively for advocacy. This will be presented as a webinar that will entail practicing how to speak with confidence and articulate what we want to say and how we say it. This opportunity is being offered to all group members and details are posted in the group. The date is April 23, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. EST. People who are interested in attending can message Page or Dawn, or email Page at quantumchoice@yahoo.com.

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- Kim H. introduced and discussed her project to create a “living” Facebook member spreadsheet. The goal in compiling information about our group members is to engage all members, build coalitions with representatives from all 50 states, and encourage active advocacy and group participation.
 - Kim H. has started going through our member list to create the spreadsheet with information that includes location/state, contact information, federal or state involvement, and current level of participation on activity and posts.
 - Sending welcome messages to new members is a good way to inform them of our activities, explain how our efforts will help make change, explain our committees and goals, and invite them to attend meetings.
 - An idea to promote inclusion of new members is to partner them with active members in a buddy system until they can become a buddy to someone else.
 - This will be a detailed and ongoing project. This information will be beneficial to the various committees if we gather additional information such as charges, sentence length, supervised release conditions, and how many are currently incarcerated in which states and/or federal facilities.
 - Anyone interested in volunteering ideas to further this project should contact Kim H. or any of the other moderators or admins. Thank you, Kim H., for suggesting and implementing this!

- General Meeting Maintenance:

Shawn reviewed the schedule for our upcoming meetings. Kathy volunteered to take notes for the meetings on 5/10/2022 and 5/24/2022. The June meetings will be held on 6/7/2022 and 6/28/2022. *Please note that the 6/21 meeting will be pushed to 6/28* and we will continue the two-week rotation from that point forward. The July meetings will be held on 7/12/2022 and 7/26/2022.

- Rebuttal Response to Senator Hawley/Protect Act of 2022:

Senator Josh Hawley [introduced the Protect Act of 2022](#) on 3/29/2022. This law would create new mandatory minimum sentence and mandatory sentencing guidelines for child pornography. The bill would also prohibit judges from sentencing below the guidelines. Senator Dick Durbin [objected and blocked the bill](#) from passing. Should we consider pursuing a response to this or should we ignore it and not feed into it? We can discuss this further with pros and cons for advocacy on this issue.

- Reviewed Open Task Issues and Updates.

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4. Roundtable: New member welcome and introduction.
 - Welcome to Jay from Maine who found our website and recently joined the group after seeing Shawn on the Outspoken Offender podcast. He is researching recidivism rates and will share information with any who are interested.
 - Welcome to Jonathan from Louisiana who is a new group member. He is concerned with registry restrictions and the limitations imposed, which negatively affect family interaction, and finding housing and employment.

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, Kim H.	On-Going
7.	1/11/22	Provide updated Non-profit status after board meeting on 4/24/2022.	Shawn	4/26/2022
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, Sharon, Kim and Gail. Review list of changes with Eric.	Shawn, Sharon	4/26/2022
27.	3/1/22	Update group on the ALI changes to the Model Penal Code for Sexual Offenses after their next meeting.	Gail	5/10/2022
28.	3/1/22	Post in group regularly about our recipe book fundraising project and solicit recipes from group members' 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	5/2022
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	5/2022
33.	4/12/22	Compile group member information for a spreadsheet to identify members by state, gather contact information, establish interests and skills of each person, and create a mentoring program.	Kim H.	Ongoing

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

Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 7:30 p.m. EST.