

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

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

Attendees: 17

Overview:

- Updates to Old Business
- New Business
- Group discussion
- Update Action/Open Task Items
- Roundtable discussion

Notes:

1. 6/28/2022 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
2. Overview from the 6/28/2022 meeting and a summary of focus for tonight's meeting.
 - Old Business:
 - Non-Profit Update - Shawn L-B.
 - Advocacy Participation Project (formerly known as 50 State Contact/Coalition Project) - Kim H.
 - Mental Health Development Program - Page N.
 - Upcoming Speakers for July, August, and September - Shawn L-B.
 - New Business:
 - Representative Kinzinger - Shawn L-B.
 - The Plate, the Ladder, the Circle - Pammy Jean
 - De-escalating Social Media Attacks - Group (time permitting)
 - Open Task Issues (review from meeting minutes) - Group
3. Group Discussion:
 - Non-Profit Update - Shawn L.B.
 - There are no new updates until after the next board meeting is held on 7/17/22.
 - The previous board meeting was held on 6/12/22; the next meeting is set for Sunday, 7/17/22 @ 8:00 p.m. EST.
 - Advocacy Participation Project – Kim H.

Kim made a post in the FB group on 7/7/22 explaining the project and asking for group participation. There has been positive feedback with information and responses from several who want to become involved with the project. She is still working on the spreadsheet and on laying a foundation structure for forming the committee. Shawn will pin her post in the FB group. Kim will provide an update at the meeting on 8/23/22.
 - Mental Health Development Project Update – Page N.

Page held a meeting with three others to form a committee for this project. They plan to initially meet twice a month and are currently working on the ideas of trauma and education. A name for the project was proposed by Pammy - “This! Therapeutic Healing Intervention Strategies”. Page will post in the FB group to encourage participation by any others who are interested. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 23rd at 10:00 AM EST.

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- Speakers Scheduled for July, August, and September - Shawn L.B.
 - The confirmed speaker for the general meeting on 7/26/22 is [Bonnie Burkhardt](#), author of the book “[Manufacturing Criminals](#)”. Her presentation will be the same as what she presented at the 2022 NARSOL conference. The group discussed the options for having questions gathered in advance or asked after the presentation. Shawn will review the format with Bonnie prior to the event/meeting.
 - The confirmed speaker for the general meeting on 8/9/22 is Kathie Gourlay. She is head of Michigan Citizens for Justice and a member of the [Friends of Restorative Justice](#), Washtenaw County. Her studies revolve around sexual abuse, child sexual abuse, and restorative justice.
 - The confirmed speaker for the general meeting on 9/20/22 is Dr. Jason Newsome, author of the book “[Finding Peace in an Imperfect World](#)”. He is a counselor who works with individuals who have been sexually abused and are seeking to heal, with a focus on forgiveness. Melanie is seeking input from the group to give Dr. Newsome direction on topics we may be interested in. Suggestions are welcome for any specific information that we would like him to discuss.
- Representative Kinzinger, Judicial Committee Threats - Shawn L-B.

Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) has received threatening calls and letters. He publicly shared these threats to highlight an increase in threats of violence in politics. This ties into the communication committee’s letter to Justice Kavanaugh pointing out that this type of personal harassment mirrors what is happening to many people on the sex offense registry who live with it day to day. Jenny will reach out to Rep. Kinzinger’s staff.
- The Plate, the Ladder, the Circle - Pammy Jean
Pammy presented and explained her project which is about “Taking Control of Your Narrative”. She asked for feedback from the group and is considering the idea of creating a workshop to present at the NARSOL meeting next year and/or self-publishing a pocketbook. She will update the group as she adds more content.
- De-escalating Social Media Attacks – Group
A recent post in a BOP support group on FB garnered many angry responses on the subject of sexual offenses. A discussion on how to de-escalate this type of interaction on social media will be put on the agenda for the general meeting on 8/23/2022 as we have speakers scheduled for the next two meetings.
- Reviewed Action Items/Open Task Issues and Updates (details below).

4. Roundtable:

The group discussed considering future calls to action and ideas about how to promote our organization. Ann S. shared FAMM’s project on challenging policymakers to [VisitAPrison](#).

9:15 p.m. Adjourn Meeting.

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

See Action/Open Task Items Below:

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Action/Open Task 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.	Ongoing	Provide updated Non-profit status after board meeting on 7/17/2022.	Shawn	8/2022
15.	12/7/21	Web Design Changes: Attach PayPal account to the donate button and add non-profit description.	Shawn	8/2022
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, and Kim H. Review list of changes with our website designer Eric.	Shawn, Sharon	8/2022
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
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	8/2022
33.	4/12/22	Advocacy Participation Project: 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
34.	4/26/22	Follow and update on the Reentry 2030 project and future events.	Rita	Ongoing