

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 22

### Overview

- Review the last regular meeting
- Update Action/Open Task Items

### Notes

- 11/15/2022 meeting minutes with changes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#)
- Non-profit update – Shawn L.
- Upcoming speakers for 2023 – Shawn L. and Jenny L.
- Advocacy Participation Committee and State Coalitions update – Kim H.
- Fundraising Committee – Rita B.
- P/R Marketing Committee – Jenny L.

### New Business

1. WAR March 2023 Event in Washington D.C. – Shawn L.
2. Open Task Issues – Group

### Group Discussion

1. Non-Profit – Shawn L.
  - Non-Profit Certification is still pending, we are down 120 days of the possible 180-day waiting period and hoping to have it soon.
  - The UV4SOR Board hosted a “Holiday Cocktail Hour” on Friday, 12/2/2022 at 8:00 p.m. EST via Zoom. It was well attended and enjoyed. The board agreed to host more gatherings throughout the year to get to know our fellow UV4SOR advocates.
  - The next board meeting will be on Sunday 1/29/2023.
2. Upcoming Speaker/s – Shawn L. and Jenny L.
  - Walt Pavlo will be our speaker on January 24, 2023. Walt is an author and reporter for [Forbes Magazine](#). He is the founder and president of Prisonology, LLC which is an expert firm with a concentration on policy related to federal incarceration. Walt will be speaking primarily about the BOP but will have valuable information to be used by all members. <http://prisonology.com/about-us/>
  - [Dr. Stephanie Jerstad](#) from Millersville University in PA will be our speaker on February 21, 2023. Her [dissertation research](#) at Southern Illinois University focused on the willingness of long-term care facilities to accept persons convicted of sexual offending into their care as residents.

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3. Advocacy Participation Committee and State Coalitions Update – Kim H.
  - Kim H. reviewed and updated the progress on the Advocacy Participation Committee’s efforts to contact all members of the FB group to obtain email addresses and state information. This information will feed into support of the State Coalitions. Discussion with group about ideas for reaching all members who are not seeing/responding to messages sent.
  - The State Coalitions project currently has state leaders for NC and SC. Jenny volunteered to be the leader for IL and Betty volunteered to be the leader for IN.
  - Questions were answered regarding establishing the purpose and goals for each state and setting up a brainstorming meeting with the current state leaders.
  - Kim H. will give an update on the project and the ongoing work to update the FB membership at the general meeting on 2/7/2023.
  
4. 2022 Christmas Greeting Campaign Update – Kim H. and Shawn L.

We had good participation in the campaign to send holiday wishes to those who are incarcerated. We learned to prepare the campaign earlier next year (in October) and to communicate effectively that this is an active participation with volunteers sending greetings to all loved ones on the list. Rules and details will be clearly spelled out on the spreadsheet next year.
  
5. Fundraising Committee Update – Rita B.

Rita reviewed the fundraising project that was conducted through [Sockathon](#). Detailed information was posted in the Facebook group and a link will be active on the [website](#) until the end of this week. UV4SOR receives 50% of all profits from orders placed and we may consider doing this again in the future as their inventory is regularly updated. Feedback has been positive from those who ordered socks! Rita is looking into other similar fundraisers that will be beneficial to the group.
  
6. P/R Marketing Committee – Jenny L.

Matt Duhamel, who was a previous guest as “The Outspoken Offender”, has started a new project called “[The Good Lens](#)”. He provides marketing videos for advertising which can be used for educational, informational, and networking purposes on various platforms. He has offered to record an interview with UV4SOR, which he will make available to us at no charge. Jenny will confirm and arrange details with him once he works out the kinks of his project.
  
7. [WAR March 2023 Event in Washington D.C.](#) – Shawn L.

Discussion to encourage attendance at various events and conferences. Conferences and training provide a valuable opportunity to network, learn, and gain confidence in our tools for advocacy. Getting involved with events such as this and online webinars can be inspiring and beneficial to learning about new levels of activism and how to speak with integrity about the issues affecting us all. Attending functions virtually or in person can provide valuable connections with other people who are going through the same experiences that we are, which is empowering.

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WAR has an opportunity for any volunteers to send invitations to registrants to attend the March 2023 event – please contact [vicki@warfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:vicki@warfamilyfoundation.org) for information on how to participate in sending invitations.

8. Open Task issues and updates – Group  
(See Action/Open Task Items below)

### Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions
  - Esther Clote is the new executive director of [Reset Missouri](#) which has new leadership and is in the process of rebranding the group as Viewpoints. She is transitioning from her job at Youth in Need to full time work with this organization. Reset Missouri provides housing, skills training, mental health care, and other services necessary for successful reentry to men convicted of a sex offense who are required to register with the state of Missouri.
  - Sally H. is currently residing in the UK after residing in Chicago for 27 years. She became pen pals with a man who is incarcerated on a sex offense and is learning about everything this charge entails and wants to get involved in advocacy.
2. Group discussion with member Connie regarding the struggles her son is facing while on probation after serving seven years in federal prison. He has Asperger’s which contributes to additional challenges. Jenny offered some possible resources for her to check.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9:07 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.

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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.	Ongoing	Research Federal and State Guidelines. Work to narrow down specific subjects for each 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 1/29/2023.	Shawn	2/7/2023
15.	12/7/21	Web Design Changes: Attach Amazon Smile account to the donate page and add non-profit description.	Shawn	2/2023
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.	Ongoing	Work on website for contact form submissions to be forwarded to the UV email account. Review list of changes with our website designer Eric.	Shawn, Sharon	Ongoing
28.	3/1/22	Post in group regularly about our recipe book fundraising project, solicit recipes and artwork from group members' LO. Publication details are TBD.	Rita, Pammy, Sharon, Shawn	Ongoing
29.	3/1/22	Determine committees needed, establish committee heads, and solicit volunteers to join each one.	Group	Ongoing
31.	Ongoing	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, D.C. event. Update at 2/7/2023 meeting.	Jenny, Shawn	Ongoing
33.	4/12/22	Advocacy Participation Project: Compile group member information for a spreadsheet to identify members by state, gather contact information, establish the interests and skills of each person, and create a mentoring program. Initiate volunteers to head each state coalition.	Kim H.	Ongoing
34.	4/26/22	Follow and update on the Reentry 2030 project and future events.	Rita	Ongoing