

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”
General Meeting Minutes (with Guest Speaker)
Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 23

Overview:

- Updates to Old Business will be discussed at our next general meeting on 2/7/2023
- Procedure for the meeting protocol with a speaker and for asking questions
- Information about tonight’s guest speaker and introduction
- Update of Action/Open Task Items will take place at our meeting on 2/7/2023

Notes:

1. 1/10/2023 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).

2. Introduction and welcome to our guest speaker Walt Pavlo.

Walt is a contributor to [FORBES Magazine](#) and [New York University School of Law](#) on criminal justice and federal prison issues. He often has articles cited in legal briefs regarding the conditions and shortcomings of the BOP (Federal Bureau of Prisons). Walt is the founder and president of [Prisonology, LLC](#) which is an expert firm with a concentration on policy related to federal incarceration. His firm consists of retired BOP and US Probation professionals who provide expert testimony, declarations, consulting, and training on BOP policies.

- Walt’s presentation gave an overview of his firm and the types of issues they deal with for clients facing various charges and imprisonment and for those who are incarcerated. He and his team work with public defenders and criminal justice advocates to educate them about various aspects of how to effectively fight for change and understand the current culture of our legal system.
- Walt discussed challenges within the BOP, including poor execution of policies, overcrowding and staffing crisis, aging facilities, medical care, and inability to implement the FSA (First Step Act). Problems of overcrowding, particularly in BOP Low facilities, are due in part to the closing of private prisons and the increase in population.
- Valuable sources of information include [OIG](#) (Office of Inspector General) reports, [USSC](#) (US Sentencing Commission), [GAO](#) (General Accountability Office) reports, [BOP Legislative Affairs](#), and [court cases](#) with successful outcomes. Media sources include [LisaLegal](#) and [The Marshall Project](#).

3. Group question and answer session and discussion.

Various questions were asked throughout Walt’s presentation, and he is very engaging and knowledgeable about the problems facing not only the BOP and state prison systems but also the problems of those incarcerated and their families in dealing with all aspects of the judicial system, prisons, rehabilitation, and reentry.

Walt can be reached through his [Prisonology website](#), by phone at 617-858-5008, or via email at walt@prisonology.com.

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9:10 p.m. Adjourn Meeting - Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:30 p.m. EST

Action/Open Task Items (for review at the next meeting):

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