

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 22

Overview

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

Notes

- 1/24/2023 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#)
- Non-profit update – Shawn L.
- Upcoming speakers for 2023 – Shawn L.
- Advocacy Participation Committee and State Coalitions update – Kim H.

New Business

1. Illinois Legislative Leader Meetings – Gail L., Kathy D.
2. Communications Committee – Gail L.
3. General Meetings Inquiries – Shawn L.
4. Open Task Issues – Group

Group Discussion

1. Non-Profit – Shawn L.
 - The Non-Profit Certification is still pending and should be completed by the end of next month.
 - The next board meeting will be on Sunday 2/26/2023.
2. Upcoming Speaker/s – Shawn L.

[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.
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.
 - The State Coalitions project currently has state leaders for seven states: NC, SC, IL, IN, TX, along with newly added PA, and OK.
 - The first State Coalitions meeting with five states represented was held on 1/23/2023 to discuss information to use as a foundation for future states and brainstorming 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 2/21/2023.

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4. Illinois Legislative Leader Meetings – Gail L. and Kathy D.
Gail had a Zoom meeting with a State Representative after following up on a previous email she had sent and received a reply to. Kathy had a Zoom meeting with an aide/case management person from Dick Durbin’s office. Both Gail and Kathy had notes and a list of talking points. The group discussed the importance of making initial contact with legislative leaders, making them aware of our group and our goals, and realizing that this is the first step of an uphill battle with political leaders. Shep and Ann share that they are working to make contacts in NC and become involved in the legislative process there.
5. Communications Committee Update – Gail L.
The Communications Committee had a meeting in January to set goals for 2023. Some of the items that will be addressed this year include following up with the ALI regarding their recent model penal code revisions to sexual offenses, preparing fact sheets and educational letters, sentencing disparities, and second chances. The committee will focus on current issues that relate to sexual offense reform and initiate calls to action as needed, share contact information and sample letters for advocacy, and encourage members to personally address current issues that aren’t necessarily specific to sexual offenses but seem to disproportionately impact those with these charges.
6. General Meetings Inquiries – Shawn L.
The question of recording our meetings has been asked several times in the FB group. The group and board had previously discussed this and decided not to record meetings due to privacy concerns and the importance of the safety of members who may share sensitive and personal information in the meetings. It was also noted that some guest speakers do not want their presentations recorded for various reasons including copyright concerns. We eventually want to transition away from social media and make more information available through our website.

Open Task issues and updates – Group

Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions
 - Rich is from Michigan and his son is in the same facility as Shawn’s son. His son is due to be released in June and his concern is the registry. Rich is beginning to learn and research about the registry and advocacy.
 - Joe has been on the registry since 2006 and he had to register for 25 years. He is in Michigan and the registry restrictions make it difficult to connect with his family. He is looking for ways to get involved in advocacy for changing registry rules.
 - Rick and Teresa have a son in the BOP. They are starting to connect with others to help their son and to learn more about what is entailed for him and them.

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2. Group discussion among members about the importance of support for our LO who are incarcerated.
3. Gail shared that she would miss the next meeting as she will be traveling out of state to have a visit with her son who she hasn't seen in over three years! And she will be meeting up with Sharon!

Next meeting date is Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. EST with guest speaker Dr. Stephanie Jerstad.

9:06 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.

(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.	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 2/26/2023.	Shawn	3/7/2023
15.	12/7/21	Web Design Changes: Add the non-profit description once certification is received.	Shawn	4/2023
19.	10/12/21	Documentary Series and Guest Speakers follow-up.	Jenny, Shawn	Ongoing
22.	2/1/22	No More Silence Story Telling 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