

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 20

Overview

- Review the last regular meeting
- Old Business
- New Business
- Roundtable

Old Business

- 3/7/2023 meeting minutes were approved with one change and will be posted on the [website](#) - Group
- Non-profit update – Shawn L.
- W.A.R. Washington DC event – Shawn L.

New Business

- New Meeting Format – Shawn L.
- Call To Action Coordinator – Shawn L.
- April Guest Speaker – Shawn L.
- Committee Updates – Committee Chairpersons

Group Discussion

1. Non-Profit – Shawn L.
 - The Non-Profit Certification is still pending and should be completed by the end of this month.
 - The next board meeting will be on Sunday 3/26/2023.
2. [W.A.R.](#) Washington DC Event – Shawn L.
 - Shawn attended this “Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork” event.
 - Her goals were to network on behalf of UV4SOR and to get a pulse on where our organization stands with other national advocacy groups.
 - She was asked to be on a panel in a breakout session to discuss “How to create common goals and find common ground”.
 - Attendees at the event agreed that there is a need for all sex offense/justice advocacy groups to form coalitions and become allies to fight the registry.
 - In meeting with federal leaders, she found that they want to know about previous actions that would set a precedent for future considerations.
 - UV4SOR is being recognized as a [national advocacy group](#)!
3. New Meeting Format – Shawn L.

Committee spokespersons will give a brief update on their activities at each meeting. This will replace the action/open task items.

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

4. Call-to-Action (CTA) Committee and Coordinator – Shawn L.
 - Shawn introduced this new committee which will be chaired by Elena A.
 - Elena discussed the objectives of creating ad hoc calls to action and collaborating with the State Coalitions and the Communications Committee. Goals include getting feedback from group members and providing action training.

5. Guest Speaker for April – Shawn L.

[Bonnie Burkhardt](#) will return as the guest speaker for our meeting on April 18th. She will update us on her current advocacy and activities, including her growing exposure as an expert witness. Bonnie is the author of the book “[Manufacturing Criminals](#)”. She was an engaging speaker at our meeting on [July 26, 2022](#) and we are excited to hear from her again.

Committee Updates

1. Advocacy Participation Committee – Kim H.
 - Kim updated the progress of the committee’s efforts to contact all members of the FB group to obtain email addresses and state information.
 - Efforts are continuing to communicate with members who post in the FB group, directing them to other members in their state for resources and to promote participation in calls to action when needed.

2. State Coalitions Committee – Kim H.
 - The State Coalitions project currently has state leaders for seven states: AL, IL, IN, NC, OK, PA, and SC.
 - The State Coalitions group held a meeting on 3/20/2023. Each state leader will send an introduction letter to the members in their state and Jenny L. is planning a meet and greet event for IL members.
 - The group discussed various methods to engage members. One idea is to provide a survey with just a few pertinent questions.
 - Benefits for members to participate include giving them a sense of belonging and encouragement through seeing efforts and successes of others in their group.

3. Communications Committee – Gail L.

Gail reported that the committee has sent letters in response to the [Florida “Red Letter”](#) bills currently being reviewed in the FL House and Senate. Additional letters and information will be posted in the FB group in coordination with Elena’s CTAs. The committee’s upcoming project is to coordinate with the State Coalitions and address the legislative members of the federal [Second Chance Task Force](#).

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

4. Mental Health Committee – Pammy D.

The committee holds meetings every other week with their four members who all have unique approaches to addressing mental health. Their goal is to create a new type of holistic mental health treatment.

5. No More Silence – Betty B.

This story telling project has been launched with an announcement in the FB group and has been added to the [UV4SOR website](#). Betty intends to form a committee to help with this project once any letters are received. The initial response to the announcement in the group was encouraging. Ongoing posts will be made in the FB group to encourage participation.

6. Fundraising – Rita B.

Funds from Sockathon have been received and deposited. Rita explained the new fundraising project with [Midwest Mixes](#). A second project will be through Avon, and she will have details within the next week. Rita will provide detailed information with a post in the Facebook group and both fundraisers will be put on the website. She noted the scarcity of online fundraisers and invited all members to contact her if they have any suggestions for future fundraisers.

Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

Ami B. is from South Carolina. Her husband is on the registry for 25 years. They are concerned with registry laws and how this impacts their family. Pammy D. told her about the SC state coalition, and they are going to connect through email.

2. Share Something Good

- Jenny has made some good progress at work by connecting a registrant to housing resources.
- Joe's daughter graduated from college, and he is working out the registry rules for going to visit her!
- Pammy will be presenting her workshop at the [NARSOL conference](#) in June!
- Rita visited her son and was happy to see over thirty other families visiting too. She was pleasantly surprised by the attitude of the COs who were nice and polite!

Next meeting date is Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9:20 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.