

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 21

### Overview for Group Discussion

- Review the last regular meeting
- Old Business – Non-Profit Update
- New Business – May Meeting Dates
- Committee Updates from Chairpersons/Spokespersons
- Roundtable

### Group Discussion

1. Review of Last Meeting - Group
  - The 4/18/2023 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
  - Sharon M. provided an update from guest speaker [Bonnie Burkhardt](#) about her successful presentation to the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers ([NACDL](#)).
2. Non-Profit – Jenny L. (for Shawn L.)
  - The Non-Profit Certification has been received! We are an official 501(c)(3) organization. Rita has prepared a donation/receipt letter.
  - The next board meeting will be on Sunday 5/21/2023.
  - There will be two general meetings in May – today and 5/16/2023. There will not be a meeting on 5/30/2023. The meetings in June will be on 6/13/2023 and 6/27/2023.
3. Advocacy Participation Committee – Kim H.
  - Kim reported on the new membership approval process which is working well to engage new members.
  - She discussed the committee’s goal to engage members and the current outreach to Florida members via email and messages to participate in the FL calls to action.
  - She is reviewing previous UV4SOR emails to identify members who have indicated interest in being involved. She will reach out to those members to inquire about their interests in volunteering as state coalition leaders and other upcoming activities.
4. State Coalitions Committee – Kim H.
  - The State Coalitions group leaders held a meeting on 4/24/2023. They discussed current outreach efforts and how to combat low participation.
  - The group started compiling survey questions as they want to create a survey to gain insights into our membership. Once compiled, they will share the questions and reach out to others who have offered help in reviewing and creating the survey.
  - Jenny (IL) compiled a PowerPoint presentation to develop training guidelines which will be presented to the board once it is in the final stages.
  - Ann (NC) suggested reaching out to members with a letter, giving insight into speaking out and tackling the shame that may hold them back from addressing these issues.

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5. Call to Action (CTA) Committee – Elena A.
  - Elena reported that the committee has been busy with promoting CTAs related to current Florida legislation and gave a brief explanation of the proposed laws.
  - Florida Action Committee ([FAC](#)) provided detailed information to assist with contacting legislators and is thankful for the assistance provided by UV4SOR members.
  - Current goals are to extend CTAs to other states, posting in the FB group to engage members, working with the State Coalitions and Communication committees, and identifying potential legislation throughout the country that impacts our community and our LO.
  - A future project is to develop a CTA training plan for members.
  
6. Communication Committee – Sharon M. (for Gail L.)
  - Sharon reported that the committee has sent many letters and emails in response to the bills currently being reviewed in the FL House and Senate, in coordination with the CTA committee.
  - The committee’s current project is researching contacts and coordinating with the State Coalitions to address the legislative members of the federal [Second Chance Task Force](#) and other committees that were formed during Second Chance Month.
  
7. Fundraising Committee – Jenny L. (for Rita B.)
  - The fundraising project with [Avon](#) is running from April 4th through May 23rd.
  - This fundraiser has currently raised \$125.00.
  
8. Mental Health Committee – Pammy D.
  - The committee generally holds meetings every other week. Their last meeting was on 4/30/2023.
  - They have completed their introduction/mental health paragraph and the biographies of each committee member.
  - They have developed guidelines for the MH team, are setting criteria for team members, and they are putting processes together.
  
9. No More Silence Committee – Jenny L. (for Betty B.)
  - This story telling project has been launched and Betty will make regular posts in the FB group to encourage participation. Members can get full details on the [UV4SOR website](#). Stories from LO and family members about any aspect of the processes involving sexual offense charges are welcomed.
  - An email was sent to all contacts and there have been several positive responses.
  - Betty is creating a spreadsheet to keep track of all stories submitted.

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10. PR/Marketing Committee – Jenny L. (for Shawn L.)
  - Two speakers are confirmed for upcoming meetings.
    - Licensed psychologist Dr. [Keith Hersch, PhD](#), will be our guest on 6/27/2023. He will discuss his practice, which involves treating persons with sexual behavior problems, and his experience working with the NC Department of Corrections.
    - Dwayne Daugherty will be our guest on 7/25/2023. He is the Executive Director of [NCRSOL](#) and will speak on perfecting a five-minute elevator speech to help members find their voice for advocacy.
  - Any suggestions for guest speakers are welcomed.
  - The board is hosting a group cocktail hour on Friday, May 12, 2023, at 8:00 PM EST. Details and the invitation have been shared in the FB group and via email.
  
11. Social Media Committee – Rita B.

No updates currently.

### Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

Kathleen H. is interested in networking with us and other groups. Her group is Citizens Against Government Entrapment ([C.A.G.E.](#))
  
2. Share Something Good
  - Marilyn connected with a previously unknown sister and this relationship is rewarding. When she and her brother shared his charges and sentence with this sister, she was much more appalled at the sentence he received than at the crime.
  - Pammy has completed and submitted the first two chapters of her dissertation for her PhD which is the methodology section. She also reported that a co-worker's brother just graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice and that the new generation of graduates view the system as soul sucking and money grabbing, and they want to make meaningful changes!
  - Kim's nephew was granted parole from the state today and he will be moving to the BOP to serve his federal sentence. She also submitted her letter of resignation to her employer and will be retiring at the end of June!
  - Jenny shared that Illinois Voices is having a meet-and-greet this weekend and Rita will be attending to represent us.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

8:36 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.