

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 20

### Overview for Group Discussion

- Review the last regular meeting
- Board Updates
- Team Updates from Team Leaders/Spokespersons
- Other Business
- Roundtable

### Group Discussion

#### 1. Review of Last Meeting - Group

The 6/27/2023 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).

#### 2. Board Updates – Shawn L., Executive Director

- Board members are working on previously tabled projects and making good progress.
- [Dr. Stephanie Jerstad](#) has agreed to be a Distinguished Board Member. It is exciting to have her join us as a professional mentor and advocate!
- A meeting with [Bonnie Burkhardt](#) is scheduled on 7/18/2023 to officially invite her to join us as another Distinguished Board Member. In previous discussions with her, she has indicated interest and excitement in joining our organization!
- The website has been updated with the non-profit information and our updated mission and vision statements. Additional updates are ongoing.
- The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, 8/15/2023.

#### 3. Advocacy Participation Team – Kim H.

- Kim reported that the welcoming team is working on keeping consistency between the FB and the website new member requests.
- The questions that are asked help to give us data to determine what is important to our members.

#### 4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.

- The State Coalitions team leaders held a meeting on 7/10/2023.
- The group finalized their survey questions and made revisions based on volunteer member's feedback. They will solicit input from several group members and then will present the survey to the board.
- The goal of the survey is to gain more state participants and find leaders for each state.
- Various survey platforms have been explored and the team will use Survey Monkey.
- The date for the next team meeting is TBD.

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5. Call to Action (CTA) Team – Elena A.
  - A CTA that addresses concerns with an [article](#) that was published by Atavist Magazine - which disparages and marginalizes our population and loved ones - is ready to be implemented. The CTA letter to FAMM will be posted in the FB group and sent to members via email. The letter can be shared in Word format for ease of use by members. This is part of our mission to educate the public and other advocacy organizations who purport to advocate for criminal and social justice reform.
  - The team is ready to address Michigan’s law that requires a lifetime tether and will work with Kim H. to inform our Michigan members and ask for their assistance. The team has drafted a letter regarding changing the language of the law and addressing a pathway for relief from the lifetime requirement.
  - Elena reported that the team will coordinate with the Communications Team to address various carve-outs, which entails bringing attention to current laws and proposed legislation that excludes those convicted of a sexual offense from receiving benefits offered to those incarcerated for other offenses.
  
6. Communication Team – Gail L.
  - Gail reported that the team mailed an introduction/welcome letter to the new president of Women Against Registry (WAR).
  - The team has sent a letter to *The Texan* in response to an [article](#) they published about the [NARSOL](#) conference. The letter will be posted on the website and a copy will be sent to NARSOL.
  - The team is working on research for a follow-up letter to the ALI regarding their proposed revisions to the [Model Penal Code](#). A letter will also be sent to the members of the federal Judiciary Committee and state legislators asking why no action has been taken on the ALI recommendations. Gail explained the role of the ALI.
  - Carve-outs in current laws and future legislation regarding second chances is the next project that will be researched and addressed.
  - Suggestions were made and discussion ensued about how to collaborate with other advocacy organizations and our state coalitions with these letters.
  - A letter dated 6/29/2023 was received from the US DOJ/Civil Rights Division in response to our FSA letter which was sent to them on 2/23/2022! The letter will be posted on the website and the team will draft a letter back to them.
  
7. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
  - The fundraising team continues to research possible new fundraising events.
  - The Sockathon fundraiser will be introduced again in the fall.

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8. Mental Health Team – Pammy D.
  - The MH team will schedule a meeting after they have coordinated with the current members.
  - They continue to develop their program and are working to ensure that all participants’ qualifications and values align with our mission and vision.
9. No More Silence Team – Betty B.
  - There is no update at this time.
10. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L.
  - 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. This will be an exciting hands-on and participatory opportunity for members to become comfortable with speaking about their experiences and goals.
  - Upcoming speakers for meetings in August, September, and October are being reviewed.
11. Grant Writing Team – Shawn L.
  - Shawn discussed the need to recruit a team leader and will reach out to members for qualified volunteers to form a team.
  - An announcement and request for volunteers will be posted in the FB group and sent via email to members in our contact list.
12. Other Business – Shawn L., Rita B., Pammy D., Ann S., Elena A.
  - Shawn and several other members attended [NARSOL](#)’s 2023 National Conference on June 23 through June 25 in Houston, TX. Each attending member gave a brief report on their experiences and thoughts about the conference.
    - Pammy D. was a presenter at the conference, and she received positive feedback on her presentation of The Plate, Ladder, and Circle.
    - All attending members reported that helpful networking connections were made, and the breakout sessions were very informational and inspiring. They appreciated the speakers and felt that all of the personal and advocacy insight was invaluable. They all encouraged participation next year for the conference which will be held in Atlanta.
    - Emily Horowitz presented a signed copy of her [new book](#) to Shawn L. and has named UV4SOR in her acknowledgments!
  - Discussion ensued regarding the stabbing of Larry Nassar, who is in the custody of the BOP, and the numerous problems that the BOP does not seem capable of dealing with. Safety issues are common throughout the system, especially for those incarcerated due to a sexual offense.
  - UV4SOR has been publicly recognized by three other national organizations this year!

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### Roundtable

#### 1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

No new members who attended the meeting provided introductions.

#### 2. Share Something Good

- Ken is off of probation and wants to encourage those who are released and looking for work that there is hope for employment.
- Jackie related that since she and her husband have now made it through their son's arrest, sentencing, and incarceration that they have such relief and finally feel capable of participating in advocacy. They are very thankful for the support of our organization.
- Shawn and her husband were able to speak with friends about their son's situation and explain many of the laws and information about the prisons and the registry. The friends were thankful, yet shocked, to learn about these issues.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9:06 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.