

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 17

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 7/25/2023 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](#) and [Bonnie Burkhardt](#) are both confirmed as Distinguished Board Members. It is exciting to have them join us as professional mentors and advocates! We are continuing to look for additional candidates.
 - Updates to the website 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/new member request process is working smoothly.
4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.
 - The State Coalitions team finalized their survey questions and have sent the survey to the board members for review. They will schedule a meeting to discuss the board feedback in mid-September.
 - The goal of the survey is to gain insight into our members, encourage more state participants, and find leaders for each state.
5. Call to Action (CTA) Team – Elena A.
 - A CTA that addressed concerns with an [article](#) that features FAMM and was published by Atavist Magazine - which disparages and marginalizes our population and loved ones – was posted to the group and letters were sent to FAMM. This is part of our mission to educate the public and other advocacy organizations who purport to advocate for criminal and social justice reform. One member who sent the letter to FAMM heard back from a FAMM representative.
 - The team addressed Michigan’s law that requires a lifetime tether and sent an email to inform our Michigan members and ask for their assistance with sending a letter. The letter related to changing the language of the law and addressing a pathway for relief from the lifetime requirement.

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- Elena reported that the team responded to five of the eleven [USSC proposed priorities](#) and the USSC published all five of our responses! USSC published a professional booklet of the selected sample response. We can consider posting this on our website.
 - A CTA was posted in the group to support a Florida Action Committee ([FAC](#)) initiative.
 - Future projects include addressing the BOP in regard to keeping phone calls free and also working on a New York state project which was suggested by a member.
 - Key challenges include possibly utilizing CRM and member participation. The team is open to suggestions about how to get more members interested and involved.
6. Communication Team – Gail L.
- 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.
 - The team revised the Michigan CTA individual letter and sent emails to MI legislators from UV4SOR.
7. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
- The fundraising team continues to research possible new fundraising events.
 - The IL State Coalition Team is doing a shoe collection fundraiser and is hoping to engage other states to participate in the future.
 - The Sockathon fundraiser will be introduced again in the fall.
8. Mental Health Team – Elena A.
- The MH team will schedule a meeting in mid-September 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.
- Betty explained the No More Silence project and encouraged everyone to review the detailed information on the [website](#).
 - The team is working on editing the stories that have been received.
 - Betty will work on posting about the project every week to encourage interest.
10. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L.
- Emily Horowitz will return as our guest speaker on 9/19/2023. She will discuss her [new book](#), “From Rage to Reason: Why We Need Sex Crime Laws Based on Facts, Not Fear”.

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- Dwayne Daughtry will return as a guest speaker on a date to be determined. He will follow up on his previous presentation by addressing how to perfect a five-minute elevator speech to help members find their voice for effective advocacy. He is the Executive Director of [NCRSOL](#).

11. Grant Writing Team – Shawn L.

- Shawn discussed the need to recruit a team leader and the importance of writing grants.
- An announcement and request for volunteers will be posted in the FB group and an email has been sent to all members in our contact list.

12. Other Business – Shawn L.

Shawn introduced the subject of background checks. Ken has shared a copy of the background check that was run on him, explaining the circumstances leading to needing this document and his experiences of trying to find work after being released and being on the registry. Discussion ensued regarding when and why background checks are done, where the information comes from, and the discrimination shown when you have a prior sexual offense – the words “Sex Offender” were printed on each page in red lettering on each page of Ken’s document.

Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

Joy found us by searching the internet for groups who want to fight these unjust laws and are advocating. Her son was recently sentenced after being charged 2.5 years ago. He is interested in completing his law degree, and he wants to become involved in our advocacy when he is released. She related how his situation has impacted her and their entire family.

2. Share Something Good

- Elena reported that NARSOL’s recent newsletter mentioned Pammy’s presentation of The Plate, the Ladder, the Circle at their recent conference. Congratulations to Pammy!
- Page lives in NM and is a master gardener. She is thankful that they have received much needed rain for the past two days!

The next meeting date is Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

8:48 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.