

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 20

Overview for Group Discussion

- Review the Last Regular Meeting
- Board Updates
- Team Overview and Updates from Team Leaders/Spokespersons
- Other Business
- Roundtable

Group Discussion

1. Review of Last Meeting - Group
The 11/28/2023 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.
 - The Holiday Santa Bingo event was on 12/12/2023. The board extends appreciation to all members who attended. Everyone enjoyed the social time together and prizes were awarded to the bingo winners! More special events will be planned for 2024.
 - Shawn reviewed the Customer Relations Management (CiviCRM) system that is moving forward and will be activated early in 2024. This resource helps support and manage data, delivers actionable insights, and integrates with social media. Overall, it will improve business relationships to grow our organization. An introductory meeting was held on 1/3/2024 and the next planning/training meeting is scheduled for 1/25/2024.
 - The next board meeting will be on Sunday, 2/4/2024.
3. Advocacy Participation Team – Kim H.
 - The team updated procedures for handling new member requests which originate from Facebook and from our website, including updated approval messages to inform new members about both platforms.
 - The Facebook questions/instructions message was shortened and revised to specifically state the requirements for joining the group. New member requests will be declined if they do not agree to the group rules and a message will be sent with the reason for being declined.
4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.
 - Team members are polling to determine a meeting date this month to discuss how CiviCRM may offer new ideas to the team.
 - Team goals are to have leaders for all states, build the coalitions, and energize members to participate.
 - Kim will generate a list of Florida members for Elena who is in contact with some from Central Florida. Elena will discuss forming a FL state coalition with those members.

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5. Call to Action (CTA) Team – Elena A.
 - The CTA Team works in conjunction with the Communication Team as a tactical arm to engage members and encourage specific and immediate attention to current issues. A meeting is being planned for this month.
 - Upcoming CTAs include addressing the availability of CorrLinks email for all of those serving sentences in the federal prison system, drawing up a response to submit to the United States Sentencing Commission (USSC) regarding changes to federal sentencing guidelines, and compiling a list of “friendly” companies/corporations along with those who hire felons but reject hiring those with a sex offense
 - The group discussed the importance of submitting a public response to the USSC prior to 2/22/2024 and various tactics of how to address Ford Corp. regarding their hiring practices. Dwayne D. is in contact with the Director of HR for Ford and offered to reach out to her. He suggested ideas for researching state reentry programs and he will follow up with Elena.
6. Communication Team – Gail L.
 - The Communication Team addresses strategic issues related to laws and regulations of sentencing, prisons, and the registry.
 - The team mailed letters in November to legislators regarding the American Law Institute’s (ALI) approved revisions to Section 213 of the Model Penal Code: Sexual Assault and Related Offenses. A response to the letter was received from the ALI. Gail gave a brief overview of the ALI. The team will discuss following up on this project and research which states may be considering adopting the approved revisions.
 - The next team meeting will include discussion of the CiviCRM and how it can be utilized for team projects, upcoming issues, and working with the CTA team.
7. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
 - Rita updated the continuing fundraising efforts which include items on consignment at a local consignment store with all proceeds going to UV4SOR, and the Giving Tuesday campaign which was successful and was a good learning experience.
 - The team is gaining experience and documenting successful strategies to use in future fundraising campaigns.
8. Mental Health Team – Pammy D.
 - Pammy gave an overview of the team’s goal of creating a mental health diversion program. This includes implementing mental health opportunities during the pre-incarceration period and within prisons.
 - The team has specific requirements for team members and will add consultants to assist team members.
 - The team will schedule a meeting this month prior to the next CiviCRM training.
9. No More Silence Team – Tabled until 1/23/2024

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10. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L.

- Shawn reviewed the purpose and goals of the PR/Marketing Team.
- The team is developing a preliminary questionnaire/form and will provide it to potential guest speakers. This standardized form will assist the team with staying organized and engaging guest speakers with diverse perspectives.
- The team will organize future special events during the year to socialize and encourage members to become involved with UV4SOR teams and activities.

11. Other Business

Dwayne D. spoke about looking ahead for opportunities to educate those who we speak to in our advocacy and discussed that legislators have a moral responsibility to all people, including those in prison and their families.

Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

- Three new members attended the meeting and introduced themselves. The group welcomed Amanda C. from Michigan, Madeline C. from Oregon, and Susan L. and her husband Mike from Pennsylvania.
- The group discussed the issues of entrapment, the challenges faced by those on the registry and the impact on their families, social media sites, mental health and PTSD, and lengthy federal sentences. Madeline will share the titles of some helpful books which can be added to the website.

2. Share Something Good

Several members shared inspirational quotes and current activities of community involvement.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9:26 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.