

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 23

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 11/14/2023 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.
- Shawn explained the Customer Relations Management (CiviCRM) system that will be implemented 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.
- The next board meeting will be on Sunday, 1/7/2024.

3. Advocacy Participation Team – Kim H.

- The team continues to process new member requests. The response time requested from new members to answer the questions has been reduced from five to three days.
- The Holiday Greeting project was launched, and all volunteers received a spreadsheet with names and addresses of LO along with detailed instructions for mailing.

4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.

- The team met on 11/20/2023 and discussed revisiting the purpose of the team in 2024 and continuing to keep state members informed by sharing knowledge as it becomes known.
- The membership survey was reviewed, and the information received has generated some good ideas for moving forward in 2024.
 - Form a welcoming team to send the survey to new members and follow up with those who are new to attending a general meeting to begin a relationship by answering questions, offering guidance or direction, and providing information about UV4SOR and its resources. This could include the Advocacy Participation team.
 - Include discussions that focus or have a spotlight on our advocacy topics/efforts only, such as a UV4SOR elevator pitch and ideas to change public perceptions.
 - Kim reached out to Survey Monkey and received directions on how to determine if survey responses originate from an email received or from the Facebook group.
- The next team meeting has not been scheduled.

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5. Call to Action (CTA) Team – Elena A.
 - The team has finalized and posted the CTA regarding federal prison phone calls and the importance of keeping them at no cost for anyone who is incarcerated. This CTA will be added to the website once technical details are completed.
 - Future CTAs include addressing the availability of CorrLinks email for all of those serving sentences in the federal prison system and developing training on responding to CTAs.
 - The group discussed upcoming elections and developing questions to inquire about a politician’s stance on mass incarceration and other concerning issues. Elena A. and Shawn L. are forming a 2024 election task force to mentor members in finding talking points and using productive verbiage to present our agenda.

6. Communication Team – Gail L.
 - The team mailed letters to legislators regarding the ALI’s approved revisions to Section 213 of the Model Penal Code: Sexual Assault and Related Offenses.
 - No responses to the letters have been received yet.
 - We had nine other advocacy organizations/networking resources who agreed to collaborate with us and added their signatures to the letter.
 - The team will review follow-up strategies when a meeting is scheduled in January. Ideas include coordinating a CTA to include our members and members of the collaborating groups, expanding the list of legislative leaders to include more state leaders and law enforcement, and sending a second letter to all original recipients.

7. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
 - Rita updated the continuing fundraising efforts which include an Avon fundraiser, items on consignment at a local consignment store with all proceeds going to UV4SOR, and the Giving Tuesday campaign.
 - The team is gaining experience and documenting successful strategies to use in future fundraising campaigns.

8. Mental Health Team – Page N.
 - Page gave an overview of the team’s projects which include implementing mental health opportunities during the pre-incarceration period and within prisons.
 - The team does not have another meeting scheduled at this time.

9. No More Silence Team – Betty B.

Betty reviewed the team’s goals for early 2024 which include soliciting more stories and working on an introduction letter and a recipient list.

10. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L. and Jenny L.
 - The 2nd Annual Holiday Happy Hour event will be held on December 12th. It has been posted in the Facebook group and an email invitation has been sent to members.

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- The team is developing a preliminary questionnaire/form and will provide it to potential quest speakers.
- UV4SOR has three confirmed Distinguished Board Members (DBM). Their participation provides mentorship expertise and resources to assist with the marketing of our group. A brief biography of each DBM was reviewed and each will be listed on the website.

11. Grant Writing Team – Shawn L.

There are no new updates. Shawn and the board members will renew efforts in 2024 to establish a Grant Writing team.

12. Other Business

Tonight’s meeting is the last general meeting for 2023.

Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

- Sarah was invited by Pammy Jean D. Her husband was recently sentenced and met Pammy’s husband as they are in the same facility. She is hoping to be able to make a visit soon. She had questions about being approved for visitation and group members provided information and advice.
- Kelly was referred to us by Jenny L. Her son is intellectually disabled and was recently arrested after a sting operation on a social media site.

2. Share Something Good

- An B. reported that Utah’s legislature is starting to be more open to reviewing sexual offense laws. A Sex Offense Management Board (SOMB) has been formed to look at data and there is a subcommittee which she is on!
- Elena got to visit her incarcerated son last weekend. He has a thriving cheesecake business!
- Rita updated the success of Giving Tuesday donations received thus far!

The next meeting date is Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9:11 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.