

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 22

Overview for Group Discussion

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

Group Discussion

1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:34 PM and Review of Last Meeting - Group
The 1/9/2024 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 Customer Relations Management (CiviCRM) implementation is moving forward with a timeline to have it 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. 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 continues to streamline procedures for handling new member requests.
 - A message will be posted with instructions for members who wish to invite others to the Facebook group.
4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.
 - Team members met on 1/22/2024. New ideas were discussed for gathering information and resources by collaborating with other support and advocacy groups, developing a list of attorneys, and offering helpful educational guidance/direction relating to federal and state laws.
 - Team goals are to have leaders for all states, build the state coalitions, help members to gain experience in advocacy, and utilize the benefits of CiviCRM Contact Management.
 - The group discussed various resources and member Jay C. offered his para legal experience to provide free legal research to any members for an incarcerated LO. Jay can be reached at 207-943-9094, or by email at jaycriswell433@gmail.com.
5. Call to Action (CTA) Team – Elena A.
 - The CTA Team met and discussed the benefits of CiviCRM in preparation for the next training session. The next meeting date is not yet scheduled.

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- 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 the need for help with further research. Anyone who is interested in conducting research for this project is invited to contact Elena.
 - Elena thanked Dwayne D. for following up with her and contacting the Director of HR for Ford Corp. regarding their hiring practices as discussed in the previous meeting.
6. Communication Team – Gail L.
- The Communication Team met on 1/13/2024 to discuss current and future projects, continuing research, encourage members to vote and get involved, and how to best utilize the benefits of CiviCRM.
 - The team is researching which states may be considering adopting the American Law Institute’s (ALI) approved revisions to Section 213 of the Model Penal Code: Sexual Assault and Related Offenses and determining if any action is occurring with the various Second Chance legislative committees.
7. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
- Rita reported that a new/ongoing fundraiser has been implemented through [Tru Earth](#). This company offers eco-friendly cleaning products with 20% percent of purchases going to UV4SOR. Orders placed between 1/28/2024 and 1/31/2024 will earn 30% for the group. This fundraiser has been posted in the Facebook group and an email will be sent to all members with details.
 - Rita and Shawn L. answered questions from the group regarding crowd funding, explained UV4SOR’s status as a certified non-profit organization, and how donations are handled through the [website](#).
8. Mental Health Team – Pammy D.
- The team met to review and prepare for the next CiviCRM training session and to discuss the possibility of obtaining grants to further the team’s goal of creating a mental health diversion program. The next meeting date is not yet scheduled.
 - Pammy answered questions from the group regarding their specific requirements for team members and discussed the role of consultants. Suggestions were offered to change the verbiage from consultants to advisory or interested members; those who have a vested interest in mental health and whose role is to assist team members.
9. No More Silence Team – Betty B.
- Betty reported on the team’s ongoing efforts to accumulate stories from members and their LOs and working with the Communication Team to develop an introduction letter. The group discussed the challenges involved in reviewing and gathering pertinent information provided in the stories that are received.

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10. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L. and Jenny L.
 - Shawn reported that the team has developed 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 broad expertise and diverse perspectives. Guidelines for members to suggest potential guest speakers will be posted in the Facebook group.
 - The team is speaking with several people who will be guest speakers and dates will be announced once the details are confirmed.

11. Social Media Team – Rita B.

Rita reported that the team is making posts in the Facebook group regarding the usage of humanizing, person-first language. Future posts, along with links to articles, will continue to be posted to remind and educate members about the benefits of eliminating the labels of “SO” and “sex offender”. The group discussed how to be mindful of the goal to change narratives and provide positive messages.

12. Other Business

Shawn B. reminded everyone to consider attending the annual [NARSOL conference](#) which is being held in Atlanta, GA on June 20 – 23, 2024 and to take advantage of the early bird discounted registration fee which is offered through 1/31/2024. She discussed the many benefits of attending conferences which include networking with fellow colleagues, finding commonality through shared experiences, and gaining confidence to educate those who we speak to in our advocacy journey. Elena A. noted that members Pammy D. and Dwayne D. will be presenting at this conference.

Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions
 - Three new members attended the meeting and introduced themselves. The group welcomed Christine A. from New York, Nancy B. from Arizona, and Barb M. from Iowa.
 - The group discussed the issues of probation, the challenges faced by those on the registry and the impact on their families, registry restrictions, the conditions in federal prisons, and upcoming concerns of how AI technology will affect registrants.

2. Share Something Good

Several members shared positive success stories of survival after being released from the registry and pursuing justice for registered parents who are subjected to unlawful rules involving school activities and community involvement.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9:35 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.