

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 16

Overview for General Meeting

- Group Discussion
 - Call to order, review, and approve the last meeting minutes
 - Non-profit update
 - Team Updates
 - Three-minute updates with additional time for Q&A
 - Please use “Raise your hand” function to ask questions
- Other Business
- Roundtable

Group Discussion

1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:35 PM EST and review of last meeting - Group
The 2/20/2024 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
2. Non-Profit Updates – Shawn L., Executive Director
 - Reports on the search for an IT person and expressed appreciation for those who have stepped in to help until an IT person is hired.
 - Customer Relations Management (CiviCRM) implementation is on hold.
 - The next board meeting will be on 4/7/2024.
3. Advocacy Participation Team – Kim H.
 - Created a summary of UV4SOR Team descriptions for members who expressed an interest in wanting to get involved. This information will help members decide where their skills best fit with the different teams.
 - My appreciation goes to the board members and leaders for their help in creating their team description summaries.
 - Next steps may involve an onboarding process where each team can determine how best to bring in new team members.
4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.
 - An email communication was extended to two members who expressed an interest in forming a state coalition in the state.
 - Our 2/26/24 meeting welcomed Brenton T. as a new leader for TN, Kelly T. to co-lead with Jenny L. for IL, and we welcomed back Lacey for AL.
 - We talked about our new direction:
 - The group decided to collaborate with other groups, learn about local resources, research state laws affecting our population, and share information with their members.

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- During the meeting, Lacey suggested a useful tool called Google Alerts. This tool allows users to monitor the web for specific interests. Users can set up monitoring criteria, and once the tool finds a match, it sends an alert notification to the user.
 - Brenton had a good idea in using the state registries to identify people and invite them to participate in advocacy activities through phone calls, emails, or letters. A letter would be the simplest way to get in touch with those on the registry although it is the most expensive. We currently do not have the funds to do this and are looking at other ways to contact them. One suggestion is reaching out to NARSOL to see if there are members who live in our State Coalition states who would like to be part of Call-To-Action efforts or join us when visiting senators and representatives. We will continue to brainstorm ideas.
 - Our next Zoom meeting is Monday, 3/25/24 at 7:00 P.M. The team decided to meet on the 4th Monday of every month. When the 4th Monday falls on a holiday, we will determine an alternative meeting date.
 - Surveys
We have a total of 116 responses for the Survey. The results were compiled and given to Shawn and Sharon to share with the Board members.
5. Communication Team – Gail L.
 - No current update.
 6. Call to Action (CTA) Team – Elena A.
 - Made two responses to the USSC report.
 - Victim Advisory Group (VAG) is a specific group under the Sentencing Commission. Asking if communication on behalf of UV4SOR to the VAG would be appropriate regarding their stand on the catholic church abuse within the boundaries of forgiveness and grace.
 - Discussion unfolded about communications with faith-based organizations.
 7. Mental Health Team – Pammy D.
 - Met on 2/7/24 and redefined the mission, “To the service of our membership.” Brainstormed ideas surrounding a men’s group, Million Moms Walk, legislative education for non-profits, self-care, and support LOs in prison.
 8. No More Silence Team – Betty B.
 - Not in attendance.
 9. Social Media Team – Rita B.
 - Caution election year language and being appropriate.

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10. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
 - [Tru Earth](#) continues and is open-ended until Rita B. requests them to turn the link off.
 - Received the first check from Kroger.

11. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L. and Jenny L.
 - Allegra Pocinki is speaking on 3/19/24 on the similarities of grieving and our experiences. You can find her on a recent podcast for Prison Family Alliance.
 - A speaker form is available on the website to submit potential speakers. Shawn L. will also send an email with the form.

Other Business

Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions
 - Welcomed Steve (CA) who expressed interest in advocacy groups and learning more.

2. Share Something Good
 - Pammy D. updated on her husband's work and the possibility of FT work.
 - Brenton T. states being interviewed for an article and hoping to encourage the journalist to expand the lines of stories.
 - Kim H. expressed thanks for the work of members.
 - Ann S. asked how Joy T. feels sitting next to her son and Joy T. expressed her happiness and comfort to have him home and not worry about his safety inside.
 - Gail L. states having thirteen days before her son returns home and fears return for many reasons.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

8:33p.m. EST meeting adjourned.