

**Restore Georgia 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Statewide Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**7/23/2020 – 7 PM & 7/25/2020 2 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Brendan Spaar
2. **WELCOME:** Brendan welcomed those on the Zoom virtual meeting to the first meeting as Restore Georgia, formerly RSOL Georgia (Rational Sex Offense Laws). Discussing our cause with legislators, etc., Restore Georgia provides a better image going forward.
3. **NEW WEBSITE:** The new website was shown on the screen and each drop-down was explained. Members were encouraged to reach out to the organization either by phone or email and someone will respond to any questions or problems that you might have. Please keep in mind that none of us are attorneys and cannot provide legal advice.
4. **NARSOL AFFILIATE:** Restore Georgia is now a state chapter of the national chapter of NARSOL. We receive support from them, and we have their resources at our disposal. They are already making an impact. Bill Paul stated that we need to have a presence with membership and numbers are important to have impact with law makers. At least 4 people are impacted by each person on the registry, thus with 23,000 on Georgia's registry means upwards of 100,000 persons. Family members and supporters are encouraged to join as well. He further stated that we need to partner with other organizations with similar goals. Bill is monitoring the SORB meetings monthly.
5. **GA BROKEN INTO 7 REGIONS:** A Zoom pole will be sent out soon to find out what part of the state that you reside. We will need a leader for each region and volunteers. As a group we will decide what to do for each area. If you are interested as a leader or volunteer go to the website and sign up. To help our movement grow go to the website and the tab "get involved" dropdown there is a place for you to sign up and take a survey.
6. **COBB COUNTY SHERIFF LETTER:** Working in partnership with NARSOL a letter has gone out to 460 persons there regarding the Sheriff's Department overstepping their authority. Calls are being fielded from Cobb County now until August 7<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would like to help answer calls in a 2-hour block it would be appreciated. This is an information gathering endeavor on the paper form or website. Brendan stated why some would call---many believing that it is a scam and need assurance that it is legitimate.
7. **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION DRIVING CONDITION #18:** Several counties are enforcing these conditions as part of their supervision requirements, especially the portion stating, "***Offenders will never drive alone.***" A letter has been mailed and emailed to the Director of DCS and we will follow up on this. This is onerous and this portion needs to be deleted.
8. **RE-ENTRY PARTNERSHIP HOUSING:** Coming out of prison a person can receive 6-month housing stipend of \$600. Only level 1 and 2 are eligible for this benefit. 60% of the prison population are not leveled, which means only approx. 3,000 are leveled. If no response is received a visit to the Director will be needed. The Director of DCS spoke on Justice Day that it should be "one size fits one." He advocates to come off probation after 18 to 24 months and this would be good for registrants too. After 3 years registrants can petition the court to come off probation. The worst case would be to go on non-report; best would be off probation. You can watch Justice Day 365.com and see the joint budget hearing on YouTube. Level 3/s need this program most and are denied most services. We are asking to sit down and discuss this to get positive results (not adversarial).

- 9. LAST LEGISLATIVE SESSION:** HB720 Mandatory Lifetime Probation was a bad bill designed to fix the legislation that passed that would take ankle monitors off after the sentence is over. HB720 would require that a judge hand down a sentence of lifetime probation after two offenses. It passed the House but had lots of opposition. This bill is not something that will go away and will come back next session. Now is the time to call, email, write or visit your legislators as this is their down time. HB993 passed unanimously to absolve the Department of Family and Children's Services "Child Abuse Registry". We can use this for our goal in that registries **can** go away.
- 10. QUESTIONS:** Reported that a person in Cumming/Forsyth County petitioned to come off registry. The Judge had a problem letting him off but did relax work restrictions; after 6 months he can try again. An email will be forwarded to the person regarding the ruling in a case that Brendan and Beverly attended in Fayette County where the judge granted the petition. Beverly also stated that her husband has been off the registry for 3 years now from Paulding County.
- 11. MOVING FORWARD:** Currently it is hard to meet in person in different districts quarterly, so for the rest of the year it will be done on-line.
- 12. MEMBERSHIP:** To be a member of Restore Georgia—there is no cost, but if you would like to join the Executive Board's meetings on Zoom a \$10 yearly membership is needed. Our next meeting will be August 10<sup>th</sup> (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month). You would receive a Zoom invitation. Your membership helps to cover expenses such as parking at the capital when meeting with congressmen on everyone's behalf. You can also do a one-time or monthly donation. We are currently working on our 501 (C) (3) for tax deductible donations.

### **13. ADJOURNED**

### **SATURDAY JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2 PM STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Everything that was covered above in the minutes was covered again at the July 25<sup>th</sup> 2 PM meeting. The additional things that were not in the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting that were discussed as follows: "Coming soon" will be a monthly newsletter via email.

Bill stated that by partnering with other organizations that share our goal will further our impact, such as local churches, NIA, ACLU and the NAACP.

Member Harry B. formerly a Deputy Sheriff in Dekalb County stated that the state is overwhelmed regarding leveling, but your counselor is a good advocate. After 5 years of being released from prison he was just leveled a number one---16,000 not leveled.

Brendan asked what would be needed to share Restore Georgia in the community. Harry said brochures and a local meet & greet in Rockdale County, and in closing

Brendan stated that he has been a member of the GA Justice Reform Partnership, but now he will be advocating for Restore Georgia.