



# SOSEN NEWS

*Sex Offender Solutions & Education Network*

## SOSEN's Summer Projects Underway

by Lynn Gilmore

As the National Reform Sex Offender Laws conference rapidly approaches in September, SOSEN staff and I have been getting our materials ready for our table at the conference. Last year was my first time attending the annual conference and, I confess, I totally dropped the ball on presenting a nice table for SOSEN. Not this year!



We have been updating all of our brochures and are having them printed out professionally. So far, we've had 800 brochures printed up, with more on the way.



We have also designed three new T-shirts to sell both on Zazzle.com and at the conference. To purchase one of these T-shirts online, click on the links:

Everyone Deserves a Second Chance: <http://goo.gl/1VmJu>

Don't Panic, Organize!:

<http://goo.gl/Cz2GO>

Stand Up for What's Right, Even if You're Alone: <http://goo.gl/q5YBK>

T-shirts are only \$14.95 and \$1.50 of each sale goes towards SOSEN. We may offer other products as well, let us know if you'd like to see a particular item for sale!

Eventually, we'll offer the T-shirts and other items for sale directly on the SOSEN website.

Meanwhile, printing all of these brochures and T-shirts is very costly, so any donations that you can send our way would be greatly appreciated. ■

## Introducing RSO Advocacy Magazine

By Randy English

*RSO Advocacy Magazine* will be the first RSO (registered sex offender) centric print magazine. Our articles will be dealing primarily with RSOs, their families, laws and other facets of the registry. From finding housing and employment to vigilantism, we will talk about it. We will not shy away from any topic. We strive to have a hard-hitting, "take the fight to them" attitude, which at the same time is tempered with the intent of creating bridges of understanding between everyone involved. *RSO Advocacy* is not a "pet project" magazine. We fight for the constitutional rights of

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

If this is your first time receiving this newsletter, please do not be alarmed. We want you to know that you are not alone and we are here to help you, if you need it.

We contacted you because you or someone you know is listed on the registry and we will absolutely NOT share any of your information with anyone. We want you to know that there is support for you and your family members.

If you or someone you know would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please call 1-800-773-4319 or email [lynn.gilmore13@yahoo.com](mailto:lynn.gilmore13@yahoo.com).

everyone. We will be a driving force in the fight for sex offender law reform.

Concerning donations, we will not have a donate button anywhere on our website. We have not, and never will ask for donations. We have the money to do this ourselves. All we ask is your support by telling everyone you know about this major project.

We are not forming a new group. There are enough "groups" already. We are a business, a magazine. (No one gets paid. We are all volunteers.)

Our first issue will roll off the press September 1st, 2012, to an international audience. It will be available at over 100,000 locations worldwide including our website. We will have a limited supply of the first issue available for sale at the RSOL conference.

In the few weeks since this idea was born, we have created a website and

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work area. We have also recruited a hard working staff of 9 members. All of which are active! We are working day and night writing and editing articles and we have many different projects under way. In addition, *RSO Advocacy Magazine* staff is in the process of setting up interviews with many important players in the sex offender issues game. We will be exploring topics and subjects which are not always welcomed by either side and we will never shy away from the truth.

Our intent is not to reform these unconstitutional, human-rights stealing laws, but to destroy them! With respect to the laws already deemed "constitutional," to make sure that they are common sense based, effective and have not crossed constitutional lines after the fact.

We invite you to come and see what we are building. Over the next few weeks our site will grow and there will be a wealth of information and articles that will appeal to many different people.

"If you build it they will come." We built it, so come!  
[www.rso-advocacy.org](http://www.rso-advocacy.org).

Ourfacebookpage:<http://goo.gl/Ub0ga>.  
Contact:  
[postmaster@rso-advocacy.org](mailto:postmaster@rso-advocacy.org) ■

## Living in Fear

by Randy English

The unexpected knock at the door.

The crashing sound in the middle of the night.

The phone call from the man who make threats.

The car following every turn.

The internet stalkers that posts lies and put life and limb in jeopardy.

The websites that list address, photos and details which in turn invites vigilantes to vandalize, attack, beat and kill.

Every day people live in fear. Fear of being beaten, having their home, vehicles or other property vandalized; even to the point of fearing for their very lives. What country could this describe? What could be causing this kind of anguish? Is their reason to fear, real?

The country, the United States of America. The cause, The Sex Offender Registry and subsequent vigilante actions. Is there reason to fear? Yes!

Vandalism, and stalking are daily occurrences for former offenders, their spouses, family and friends. In one place or another, beatings occur several times a month and even murders happen far to often.

For those who are registered, their spouses, family and friends, the fear of vigilante attacks are a constant worry. A quick search of the internet will bring up such stories as: 'Sex offender's pizza shop vandalized', 'Two sex offenders shot dead in Clallam County', 'Sex Offenders murdered in Maine', 'Sex Offender murdered, body burned', 'Proposed House For Sex Offenders Vandalized', 'Parents of Convicted Sex Offender Had Their House Vandalized', 'Rosewood Drive Sex offender's home vandalized, seven cars also spray-painted in large, white lettering' 'Registered Sex Offender beaten', 'Wife of Sex Offender killed in arson fire, registry to blame, murder charges pending.' And on and on.

The original intent of the registry, 'to protect children' has failed. Several studies have brought this fact to the fore-front. However, the unintended consequences of the registry are all too real. The registry is directly responsible for murder, vandalism and a whole slew of other hate crimes.

Registered offenders, their spouses, families and friends form a disadvantaged group that is unprotected by many of the laws shielding other citizens from vigilante attacks. True, the laws seem to be written in a way that they should protect these disenfranchised members of society, however, when a registrant calls and reports a crime such as vandalism, the response they receive from law enforcement is less than encouraging as sometimes the police won't even bother to make out a report.

### Escalation

Since 2003 there has been a sharp increase in the number of vigilante attacks of registrants.

An uninformed or apathetic public, media, and legislators are a major root of the problem. While vigilante elements fill the

## We Need Your Help!

SOSEN is an all-volunteer organization; we do not have any paid staff.

All donations go directly to our cause.

We are also tax exempt; all contributions may be tax deductible.

### HOW CAN I HELP?

Please keep me informed:  
(Optional & Anonymous)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$5    ☐ \$10    ☐ \$20

☐ \$100    ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify what donation is designated for, if any:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please send all contributions to: **SOSEN, PO box 235, Dixon, IL 61021**

Thank you for your support, any contributions provided to our struggle is greatly appreciated and helps us a long way.

*Anonymous Donations Accepted*



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internet with misinformation and outright lies about registrants, the media continues to perpetuate misinformation and lies. Even in the face of reports that prove conclusively that former offenders are less likely to reoffend than other classes of criminals, the media, some political leaders and vigilante elements continue to promote skewed statistics and data.

At the same time, however, some government officials are coming to learn the hard truth, that they themselves were lied to. Some of these courageous people are setting aside strong personal feelings and prejudice and they are digging into the subject and finding something surprising. Not all sex offenders are the same and only a small percentage fall into the clinical category of being a true predator. Current registry laws, including the daftly constructed AWA, fail to properly identify with any accuracy those former offenders who pose a definitive risk to public safety. The cost of the registry is also escalating. Many locations are struggling with an ever increasing workload due to the estimated 8.5% annual expansion of the registry.

After doing research into the above facts and many others not mentioned, many who are in public office have come to realize that the registry was a bad, costly, ineffective idea. These officials will affirm that they feel that the public registry should be terminated, however they will say this only in private. The fear of reprisals from the public (votes) is too great for them to take a stand and do something that will, eventually, come to pass.

So the question becomes this, how long will the courts and the government allow the murder and terrorizing of United States Citizens (registrants), their spouses, family and their friends?

Is there a way for those in office to move towards deregistering American citizens? Yes, It starts with two important elements;

1. Run Public Service Announcements which present easy to understand facts taken from government sponsored studies regarding; recidivism rates of registrants, the ineffectiveness of the registry and the growing cost of the registry. This will expose the public to the facts and an informed public will come to the right conclusions, in time.
2. Criminalize vigilante activities against former offenders both online and in the real world. Give former offenders the same protections that gays, African Americans and Jews now enjoy. Add sex offenders to the list of hate crime protectees.

Only then will registrants, their spouses, families and friends find security in 'the land of the free'.

## **SOSEN's Annual Open Meeting Report**

*by Lynn Gilmore*

On Sunday, June 24, SOSEN's annual open meeting was held on our *American Reality Check's* Talkshoe Channel.

We had approximately a dozen people either call in or participate in the active chat room. The primary focus of our participant's discussion was about how there seems to be a divisive issue among advocates on SOSEN and the other RSO advocacy groups: Those that advocate for Romeo and Juliet and other underage offenders to get off the public registry or those that advocate for the public registry to be abolished completely.

It was a very interesting discussion, and of course, SOSEN's stand is that we are advocating for abolishing the PUBLIC registry completely.

We feel that those that need to be monitored need to be monitored by law enforcement only; that it's clear that the public cannot handle the (mis)information the public registry provides and as a result, many RSOs and their family members are being harassed or killed by vigilantes. Considering that stranger danger is very rare and that up to 95% of all sex offenses are committed by someone the victim knows, the public registry is a useless tool and only serves to humiliate offenders and their families.

If you missed the meeting and would like to listen to the recording, please visit: <http://goo.gl/uDIyv> ■

## **An Apology to Our Readers**

*by Lynn Gilmore*

In the last few months, we have received numerous letters from readers and supporters, mostly from inmates who are incarcerated. I want to apologize to those of you who have written, for failing to respond to you in a timely matter. I have had numerous and serious computer issues since March that have kept me behind in my duties and from answering letters. I am unable to write by hand as I suffer from painful arthritis in my fingers and hand.

I just want you to know, Howard, Westly, Gordon, and Donovan, that we have not forgotten about you and I will be writing all of you soon. I am so sorry it has taken me so long. Please accept my sincere apologies. ■

[ReformSexOffenderLaws.Org](http://ReformSexOffenderLaws.Org)

**4th National RSOL Conference  
September 7-10, 2012  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Obviously, I have certain policy positions that I push and advocate for that would benefit people dealing in a system that breeds inequality and makes life more difficult for people.

~Tim Ryan



# SOSEN

**IS WORKING TO MAINTAIN THE CONSTITUTIONAL  
RIGHTS FOR ALL OF OUR CITIZENS**



PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE