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SOSEN NEWS

Sex Offender Solutions & Education Network

Report From the RSOL Conference

by Lynn Gilmore

Last month, I attended the RSOL (Reform Sex Offender Laws) Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I traveled with fellow ATAT (Arkansas Time After Time) members and we arrived early Thursday evening, September 6th.

A few days prior, Albuquerque had held a town meeting because "concerned citizens" had contacted the media and law enforcement to raise alarm about the conference. Many of us feared picketers and protests, but we knew we could not allow fear to stop us from going.

As we checked into the motel, we did notice a couple of police cruisers in the parking lot, but that was it, no protests or picketers anywhere. The hotel staff was very gracious and helpful. I set up the table for SOSEN which displayed many of our brochures and items for sale.

We got settled into our rooms and went to dinner and afterward attended the social gathering in the courtyard sitting by the pool, enjoying live music and visiting with many other conference attendees. Many people brought their children and the gathering resembled more of a family reunion than anything else. The overall environment was very relaxed and comfortable.

Friday morning opened with a lovely and moving ceremony by a local Native American tribe. There was drumming and chanting with prayers, followed by opening remarks by Brenda Jones, RSOL Executive Director and Lloyd Swartz, RSOLNM President.

The first breakout session I attended was *Introduction to Lobbying* by David Smith. Since I serve as Lobbying Director (whatever that

is) for ATAT, I felt it was important to start getting my feet wet with my role as Arkansas prepares for the next legislative session in January.

David Smith asked, "How did we get here?" He was referring to how the current laws against sex

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.

offenders came to pass and he stated that the laws were passed because there was no one there to speak up against them. Now, we know better. If you don't show up to testify against bills, you are basically telling lawmakers it is okay with you to take away your rights.

After lunch, I attended the *Killing Bills* breakout session by Lloyd Swartz, and again learned a lot about how bills are created and passed, and what steps are needed to prevent the passing of bad laws.

I learned a lot in Mr. Smith's and Mr. Swartz's class and I feel much more prepared for next January than I did in 2011, when I attended and tentatively testified against bills before legislative committees, scared out of my wits. I know



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now, that because I was there, I was able to help stop bills from becoming law. Now that I am much more prepared, I feel much more confident that no new laws will be passed against sex offenders in Arkansas in the coming year.

It works, people!

Saturday, I attended the *Model Registry Reform* session presented by Norm Pattis, Scott Pawgan, Amy Borrer and Melissa Hill, facilitated by Larry Neely and the *Effectively Challenging Residency Restrictions* session presented by Lloyd Swartz, both of which were highly informative and educational.

Saturday evening, we attended the delicious banquet dinner catered by Sadies, the Mexican restaurant next door, and enjoyed live music, a very entertaining magic show, and a fun and festive live auction. Somehow I wound up bidding on things I didn't need, but got caught up in the moment. I know RSOL was able to raise quite a bit of money for the organization. It was so much fun, everyone had a great time. The table decorations had been created by the kids in the day care and it was such a joy to see their proud beaming faces during the evening festivities.

One of my friends from Arkansas admitted to me that it felt so comforting to be around kids and not have to worry about their parents freaking out or making false allegations against him. I hadn't realized until then how traumatizing it is for RSOs to be around kids in public. What a shame!

Sunday morning, I attended the *Model Registry Reform* summary of prior sessions presented by Barbara McClamma and Larry Neely. Following that was the closing ceremony which included previews

of two documentaries in the works: *American Sex Offender* by Kevin Foley (<http://americansexoffender.com/>) and *Gary Blanton Jr. - Beyond the Label* by Derek Logue (<http://www.oncefallen.com/>).

Both previews were incredible. *American Sex Offender* takes a look at what it is like for families of registered sex offenders as Kevin Foley travels around the country. *Gary Blanton Jr. - Beyond the Label* is an exclusive documentary focusing on the life of Gary Blanton Jr., who was murdered by someone targeting sex offenders, leaving behind a grieving widow and two small children. Watching these two previews was an excellent way to end the conference.

Since we knew we were going to have to stop for the night somewhere, we lingered in Albuquerque for a few more hours, and enjoyed visiting the top of Sandia Crest before setting off for home. What a breathtaking view overlooking the city, and what a fine way to end the incredible weekend.



I came away feeling rejuvenated and recharged in my dedication to my advocacy work, but I also made many new friends and connected with so many new people. I feel a strong connection to each and every one of them. Yes, it's an awful club to belong to, but once you're in, you're *family*. I've been part of many different organizations throughout my life, but nothing has even come close to the way I

feel about this group of people and this movement. Those of us who are in this fight are here because we know *we are right*. I can't stress this enough: It is imperative we restore human and civil rights to *every* American citizen who has completed their sentence and wants to be a contributing member of society, and we will not rest until that has been achieved. We will never give up! ■

Lawsuit Against Offendex

by Lynn Gilmore

Recently there was a request posted on Sex Offender Issues (<http://sexoffenderissues.blogspot.com/>) and on SOSEN (<http://www.sosen.org/>) from someone who is planning a class action civil lawsuit against <http://www.offendex.com/> for posting inaccurate information of registered sex offenders.

Offendex pulls information from various online registries and often the information is incorrect or even altered from the originating source.

According to the info at <http://goo.gl/BZcMF>, "Offendex.com extorts money from alleged sex offenders and the families of alleged sex offenders by posting their photo and alleged information at their websites and then demand payment to have the information removed. Many

of the so-called offenders are not on any sex offender registry. They do not list any contact information at their website so you can not contact them to dispute the charges. I called the Arizona Corporation Commission and they provided me with the contact information."

Please go to the Offendex site, and check to see whether you or your loved one is on the Offendex.com

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website. Check the info to see if the information posted is correct.

Is the photo identifiable?

Even though Offendex has a constitutional right to post your info under the "Freedom of Information Act," they do not have the right to publish incorrect info.

Incorrect info can be a danger to others. A different address, for example, jeopardizes whoever lives at that old address.

Please do **NOT** contact Offendex about your listing as this may result in further harassment.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the suit, you can email Larry at lrared@yahoo.com. ■

RSO Advocacy Magazine



by Lynn Gilmore

RSO Advocacy Magazine is now available on amazon at: <http://goo.gl/vbRv4> for just \$6.99 plus shipping. It took me a while, but I read this magazine from cover to cover and I have to tell you I think of it more as a book than as a magazine, it is jam-packed with stories and editorials from a large number of contributing authors, and it is well worth the money. I believe this magazine will be produced twice a year. ■

Thank You!

At the RSOL Conference, we collected \$335.00 in donations for SOSEN which helps pay for printing and mailing our brochures and newsletters, and other expenses.

SOSEN would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have made donations this year and in recent months.

Thank you, Gordon in Oregon, Teresa, Tickattack, William, Richard, John, Allen, Andrew, Kraigg, Calvin, IFWG, Katrina, Deb and Kelly.

T-Shirts and Books For Sale

We still have T-shirts and books available at discounted prices!



T-Shirts - \$15.00 ea. (Sizes L and XL)

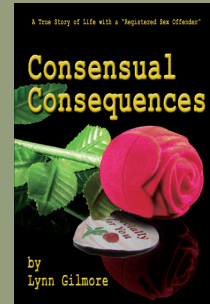
Everyone Deserves a Second Chance
Stand Up for What's Right
Don't Panic, Organize

For more size options: <http://www.zazzle.com/sosengifts>

Consensual Consequences Book - \$10.00 ea.
(Autographed by request)

FREE SHIPPING - U.S. ONLY

While quantities last. Use order form below or order via Paypal.



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**

You may also send your donations via Paypal to us at:
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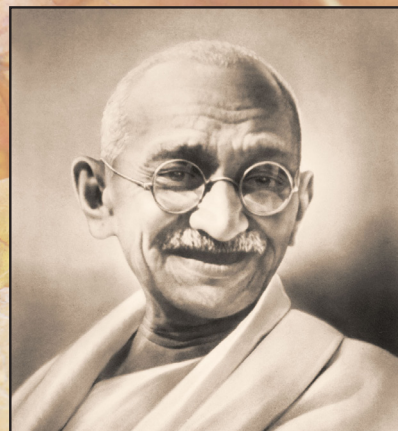
Please mark your donation as "gift" on your Paypal donation.

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

Anonymous Donations Accepted

*I*t's the action, not the fruit of the action,
that's important. You have to do the right
thing. It may not be in your power, may
not be in your time, that there'll be any
fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing
the right thing. You may never know what
results come from your action. But if you do
nothing, there will be no result.

~ Mohandas K. Gandhi



SOSEN

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



PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE