

Restore Georgia Board Meeting Minutes 7/13/2020 - 7PM

PRESENT: Brendan Spaar, Executive Director; Bill Paul, Managing Director, Beverly Cochran, Secretary; Andy Stein, Treasurer; Dwight Futch, Member at Large

1. CALL TO ORDER:

2. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Cobb County Letter Update: NARSOL will be composing the letter and shipping it to Brendan (already addressed and stamped) to mail the end of July. The letter will have a number to call with questions and they would like us to be on the call tree. Andy, Bill & Brendan volunteered to take a day (M-F business hours only; voicemail after hours), just to basically direct callers to the website to complete the form. The caller should be asked about any negative contact with Cobb County.
- B. Status of PO BOX: We now have the PO Box listed on the website that can be given out.
- C. Status of Bank Account: Now open at Georgia's Own Credit Union; signers have access.
- D. Status of IRS and 501 (C)(3) filing: Address changed on EIN today; now name needs to be changed before filing for 501 (C)(3). Delegated to Andy to call once per week to check; really need name change by November for donations.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- A. Approval of any expenses: Brendan submitted an expense report for \$109.99 for PO Box that needs to be paid.
- B. Q2 2020 report: Andy reported he does have the report completed; Received \$89 in donations; SMS charge of \$20; mailing reimbursement to Brendan. Pay Pal has approximately \$1,000 and bank account \$200; will transfer \$300 to bank to meet the \$500 minimum.
- C. Andy to present financial procedures; Discussed whether Beverly would need to go into On-line Bill Pay or Andy pay from PayPal account. Brendan instructed Andy and Beverly to work this out for the best procedure for the Treasurer.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Legislative Wrap Up: Brendan stated that the session ended 2 weeks ago with a few good things and no bad. HB 720 stalled in the senate, but there is an article on the website that shows it is still out there. Brendan contacted that reporter to let him know about Restore Georgia and is working on information for the reporter. In the meantime, we need to mobilize people and get them calling their legislators. HB288 2nd Chance Bill passed, but registrants are the exception; will talk more about this on the state-wide call (1st offender & SO misdemeanors are qualified). Brendan going forward will talk to the legislators about those who are off the registry and paid their dues being included. HB 993 abolished the Child Abuse Registry. Someone could be on just for a police report; was basically a secret list. This is proof that registries can be abolished.
- B. Constituent Services (Ray McGee) - Bill reported that we were contacted by NARSOL that Ray McGee in GA had a problem with the Dept. of Community Supervision's Article 18 of their rules that prohibits an offender from driving alone in certain areas where children are present (he lives 25 miles from his job and 50 miles from his counselor). This not only

impacts Mr. McGee but others as some counties are taking these up as conditions of probation. Bill sent a letter July 3rd to the Director Mr. Bergman that Article #18 is particularly onerous and causes significant issues. We are waiting to hear back from him. Haralson County and two other counties have incorporated (copied and pasted this from DCS website into their special conditions) We would like to have the entire #18 struck, but at the least strike “especially.”

- C. ACLU Police Registry – NARSOL has created a sub-committee to research this registry of police misconduct. The National ACLU has taken a stance for this, but we don’t believe that GA has. Brendan has asked Beverly to join the sub-committee and put together a response on our behalf. She is awaiting a response from the ACLU Policy Analyst. Beverly researched the costs for submitting an AJC ad, but they are exorbitant, thus a letter to the editor would probably be best. She pointed out that letters will be edited for length and clarity. Brendan stated that Sandy with NARSOL could help her to write a letter to the editor of the AJC. Our stance is to abolish registries. Registries are bad, but public registries are worse, as they are just to shame. We can discuss a private registry that is just for law enforcement and security firms later.
- D. Resource List – Brendan is working on this list from the approx. 23,000 persons on the registry that have more than one person living at an address. Currently he has about 50 registry friendly organizations. Some are homeless shelters, nursing homes, motels, transitional re-entry houses and half-way houses from federal prisons. This list is on the share drive under housing. Eventually he would like to reach out to these that are exclusively for people on the registry in order to partner with these. (This will not be listed on our website)
- E. Allowing members to observe board meetings: To increase membership and provide transparency, Andy made a motion to allow paying members to listen to our board meetings, seconded by Bill; motion carried unanimously. (This will give our members more for their membership) Questions could be allowed at the end. At some point we can look at opening it up to everyone.
- F. Planning of State-wide meeting agenda: The 7 p.m. July 23rd has 6 registered and the 2 p.m. on the 25th has 3 registered (there was a problem with the first email registration link) Brendan will be sending it out again Thursday with links that will work for “Sign Up” to attend. AGENDA for meetings: Our New Name; NARSOL Affiliation; Updates on Statewide Activities; House Bill 720’s Defeat; House Bill 993 Elimination of Georgia’s Child Abuse Registry and Ways that you can get involved. We need to add DCS Re-entry Partnership Housing. Vouchers for \$600 per month for persons coming out of prison can be obtained for up to 6 months. There are some requirements to get the stipend. You have to be a level 1 or 2 on the registry, and you must be leveled. The vast majority in GA coming out will not be leveled and cannot get housing. Bill is going to write to the Director of Housing Providers asking those not leveled to qualify for housing. (Will talk more about marketing materials in the future)

5. ANY ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS: None

6. ESTABLISH FUTURE MEETING DATE: This item will be removed from future agendas as we will be meeting the 2nd Monday of every month. Need to email or call if you will be unable to attend. Two “no-shows” would take a vote of the board. Brendan asked that the BOD register for the statewide membership meetings to receive the emails.

7. ADJOURNED