



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



from our **LEADERSHIP**

In reflecting upon the achievements and milestones of 2023—especially as they concern NARSOL and its foundation, Vivante Espero—I'd first like to thank the many friends and supporters of our advocacy for your patronage and loyalty. Whether they be members or donors, financial sustainers of NARSOL's work now number more than a thousand. Thank you for your generous support!

In comparison to the previous year, 2023 was a year of additional growth and renewal for NARSOL. General donations to NARSOL and its foundation performed handsomely and were significantly boosted by the generous bequeathal of a deceased member. In fact, total contributions were the greatest they've ever been.

The national conference in Houston was another huge success, and overall growth in membership was encouraging although, like many other organizations, NARSOL continues to struggle with member retention and renewal.

NARSOL's bi-monthly newsletter, *The Digest*, continues to add subscribers—most of whom are incarcerated and rely upon the informative content the publication provides to this underserved subset of impacted people. Enormous credit for the success of *The Digest* goes to a dedicated editorial team that volunteers countless hours of time writing and culling articles, gathering state reports, editing, proofing, and laying out the publication before it's sent off to the printers and prepared for bulk mailing (which includes a separate set of obstacles and challenges of its own).

NARSOL's strength lies in the justness of its cause combined with the devotion of its patrons. Its successful growth is a reflection of its character, which is dependent on the quality of leadership from top to bottom.

There are a lot of amazing people who work daily to keep this organization on an even keel. They are too numerous to name here. But we know who you are, and NARSOL is grateful for everything you do. Thank you.

No less important still are the people who are not able to give of their time or talent but who support this important work through your memberships and donations. Please continue to do your part, and we will continue to do ours. Working together, we will make 2024's annual report even better than this one!

Robin Vander Wall, *NARSOL Board Chair*
Brenda Jones, *NARSOL Executive Director*



introducing our **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

NARSOL Board of Directors

David Garlock
Guy Hamilton-Smith
Brenda Jones, *Executive Director*
Philip Kaso, *Treasurer*
Erik McInnis
Sandy Rozek, *Secretary*
Paul Shannon, *Chair Emeritus*
Michael Shimkin, *Vice Chair*
Don Thurber
Robin Vander Wall, *Chair*
Mark Weinberg

Vivante Espero (NARSOL Foundation) Board of Directors

Robin Vander Wall, *President*
Philip Kaso, *Vice President*
Sandi Rozek, *Secretary*
Larry Neely, *Treasurer*
Jon Cordeiro, *Member*
Tammy Jackson, *Member*

Executive Director

Brenda Jones

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

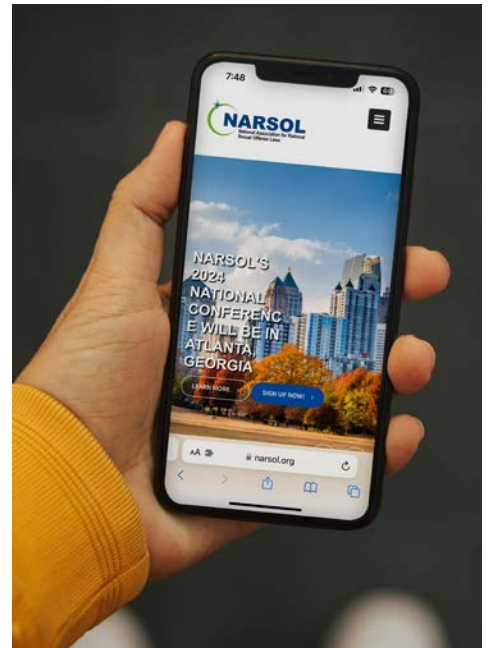
In 2023 NARSOL welcomed **two new board members**, each with a very special and unique talent. **Mark Weinberg** and **Guy Hamilton-Smith** are both practicing attorneys-at-law and are leading NARSOL-involved litigation in several states. In addition to their welcome presence on our board, both Mark and Guy are valued members of **NARSOL's legal committee**.

revitalizing our **DIGITAL REACH**

NARSOL ON THE WEB

One of the most exciting things that happened in 2023 is the re-vamping and re-opening of **NARSOL's resource site**. A host of volunteers divided up the sections and took responsibility for updating what was there and adding new entries. From the new **attorney database**, with many entries being NARSOL-member recommended, to **research documents and white-papers**; from a table of **important court decisions** to resources for **housing, crisis, and legal support**, every entry has been checked and links verified. Where applicable, the tables are categorized by state, and all are searchable by a variety of methods. This valuable resource is found at **resources.narsol.org**. Anyone is welcome to add new entries to any page.

We were also excited to launch our **brand-new website** with an entirely new look and feel. We have simplified and streamlined all the content, making it easier to locate helpful information. All of this work was done by dedicated volunteers who put in many hours to assure that every important page was kept and all information is still accessible to all.



COMMUNICATIONS

Communications was extremely busy in 2023. The most intense project was **helping with the re-vamp of NARSOL's resource site** with a major focus on gathering the names of attorneys for the attorney database. From soliciting attorney's names from our stakeholders and supporters, through verifying key elements of each of their practices, to determining the willingness of each attorney to be listed, this was a labor of love and one about which we continue to receive positive comments.

One important communications role is assisting researchers and our state affiliates and representatives in getting their messages out to the public. From surveys that will become part of a research study to announcements of victory in state affiliate legal actions, these communications are vital to our organization's outreach.

NARSOL's blog reflects the wide variety of topics important to our advocacy, including but not limited to: conference information; our court cases; civil commitment issues; media hype and misinformation; Halloween issues; scam warnings; joint projects with other advocacy organizations; federal marshals and compliance raids; and reaction to rare, horrific events. These blog posts are produced by a variety of writers, both inside and outside of NARSOL. Encouraging and soliciting guest writers will assure the future. Their pieces, used both in the blog and in the Digest, bring a new, fresh, and often personal perspective to our advocacy.



TEAMWORK!

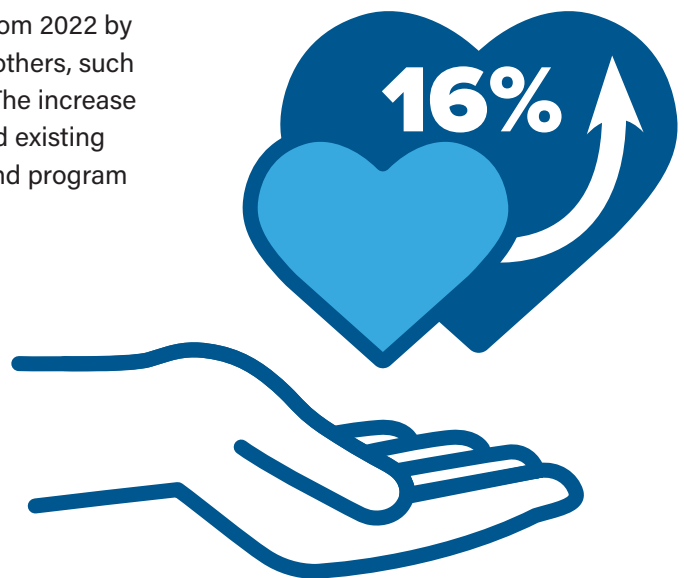
NARSOL supported the **Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork** conference in February in Washington, D.C. Organized by Women Against Registry, the conference brought together civil rights and anti-registry advocacy organizations and individuals from all over the country. **NARSOL board members Brenda Jones, Don Thurber, David Garlock, and Paul Shannon** attended as well as at least a dozen NARSOL representatives and members. **David Garlock** gave a presentation, and **Paul Shannon** represented NARSOL on a combined panel with WAR and ACSOL. Attendees visited elected representatives. The conference culminated in a dramatized vigil on the steps of the Supreme Court building highlighting the passing of the **Smith v. Doe** decision. The conference paves the way for continued collaboration between anti-registry organizations.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer participation in 2023 was markedly increased from 2022 by 16% even though one program was dropped in 2023 and others, such as participation on Twitter and Facebook, were reduced. The increase represents both new volunteers wanting to participate and existing volunteers becoming more involved with administrative and program endeavors.

New non-administrative volunteer participation in the Advisory Council, Fearless groups, and a more robust legal committee increased in 2023 participation over 2022. This was also evident in volunteer participation to redesign the NARSOL logo and website.

Additionally, there is no doubt that without the robust, invaluable participation of volunteers in the administrative matters of running NARSOL, from state contacts to regional coordinators to the board of directors, the organization would be hard pressed to be as responsive to our constituents and as effective in moving NARSOL's mission forward.





SCARLET LEGAL ACTION PROJECT

In 2023 NARSOL responded to 129 legal requests for litigation. Each request is reviewed thoroughly by combing through both federal and state statutes and case law researching for viable claims. Emphasis is given to cases that would have a broad effect on large classes of registered or convicted people and cases that have a high probability of being successful.

In addition, NARSOL also responded to dozens of requests for legal assistance via telephone and email. While not all requests result in litigation, registrants are often guided to meaningful resolutions to their challenges. Individual registrants were removed from the registry in various states with our assistance in 2023.

Prominent cases currently engaged in directly or indirectly in a supportive role are:

- **WISCONSIN GPS MONITORING FOR LIFE** – This case challenges the constitutionality of a statutory scheme in Wisconsin which requires people convicted of certain sex offenses to wear a GPS monitor for life, even after they are no longer subject to any criminal supervision. Successful litigation would relieve hundreds of registrants from this burden. *Antrim v. Carr*, 19-cv-396 (Eastern District of Wisconsin)
- **FORCED HALLOWEEN RESIDENCE SIGNAGE** – These cases challenge state laws in both Arizona and Missouri that allow law enforcement to place public warning signs at registrants' residences over the Halloween season. A court-imposed temporary restraining order has already been implemented while these cases move towards adjudication in 2024. Successful litigation would relieve all state registrants of this forced signage. *Sanderson v Bailey*, 4:23-cv-1242- JAR (Eastern District of Missouri) *Wilcox v Alexander*, 3:24-cv-03008-TLB (Western District of Arkansas)
- **ILLINOIS DENIAL OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION** – This is a challenge to the state law that denies prescription ED medication to anyone convicted of a sexual crime. *NARSOL et al. v. Hughes* 24-cv-50025 (N. District of Illinois)
- **NORTH CAROLINA PUNITIVE CHALLENGE TO REGISTRY** – This case argues that imposing additional registry requirements on persons formerly required to register is both punitive and in violation of ex post facto laws. It would relieve many of additional registry requirements. *NARSOL et al. v Stein et al.* No. 23-2040 (4th Circuit appeal from Middle District of N.C)
- **OHIO LAW PROHIBITING PICTURES OF ANY MINOR** – Challenge to the state law that those convicted of a sexual offense against a minor "shall not possess a photograph of any minor child while the person is serving any prison term." Those found in possession of any picture of a minor in magazines, newspapers etc. are being prosecuted while incarcerated, delaying parole, and those living in the community face additional new charges. Successful litigation would relieve incarcerated Ohioans convicted of a sexual offense against a minor from this requirement.

IN OUR STATES

Eighteen of our state groups were active last year in their state legislatures, visiting lawmakers, submitting and testifying for or against relevant bills, assuring that registrant voices are heard, and educating by sharing facts. Several groups have built enough connections that they were able to introduce and campaign for bills that would change registry laws in their states for the better.

Many state groups continue to build connections in their communities as well, joining with other non-profit organizations to help move the needle not only for “our” constituency but also other justice-involved persons. Our affiliated/associated groups are also collaborating to build a combined messaging campaign targeting a much wider audience, in hope of finally influencing public opinion surrounding registries.

The groups are growing, as well! They are organizing and becoming 501c4s (for lobbying) or 501c3s (for tax exempt giving) and building or refreshing web sites. A new group, SHINE, comprised of women on the registry, has launched out of our Florida Action Committee and is making its presence felt. NARSOL created a new state associated group category, and six of our states have stepped up into this category.

In Connecticut, Arizona, and Florida, there have been recurring webinars and meetings for members and community guests with guest speakers, seeking to educate and correct the common narrative. There has been a return to more in-person dinners and picnics for members as well, building community and a sense of belonging.

Our Florida affiliate, the Florida Action Committee, spoke before the United Nations Human Rights committee in Geneva, Switzerland on harms of public registration and launched an anti-registry petition which has garnered over 6000 signatures.

We are seeing great outreach in many states, as evidenced by a plethora of activity, from “day to day” responses and assistance to registered persons needing guidance on maneuvering labyrinthine laws and navigating registry removal processes, to publishing handbooks, to sending holiday cards to persons incarcerated for sexual offenses. In Florida the FAC has been reaching out to everyone on sex offense probation by providing materials and invitations to mandatory treatment providers, sheriff’s offices, and probation offices, while Iowans Unafraid has been sending letters to everyone on the registry letting them know they are not alone.

2023 NARSOL AWARD WINNERS



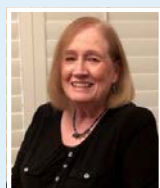
NARSOL Advocate of the Year was awarded to **Vicki Henry**, former president of Women Against Registry.



The Braveheart award, which recognizes a person not associated with NARSOL who has worked to further our cause, went to Senator **Gary Winfield** of Connecticut.



The Hawthorne Award, which recognizes the importance of the legal field in our advocacy, was awarded to **Paul Dubbeling**.



Susan Walker of Colorado was the recipient of our Lifetime Achievement Award.



Fred Darnell, our invaluable webmaster, received the Excellence in Service Award.



NARSOL's Excellence in Leadership Award was bestowed on NARSOL's chair **Robin Vander Wall**.

empowering one another **2023 NARSOL CONFERENCE**

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GATHERING



The 2023 conference opened on Friday, June 23, and ended at noon on Sunday, June 25. Our conference attendance was approximately 160 in person and 120 via the livestream.

Workshop topics included how registrants could successfully travel in our nation; writing op-eds; a virtual church where everyone, especially registrants, can successfully have their spiritual needs met; a civil commitment presentation; and a wide variety of other break-out sessions and workshops including a first-hand account by a mother and daughter about life with someone on the registry.

The first plenary speaker, journalist Steve Yoder, focused on how advocates could be successful in dealing with the media and using the media to help get our message out.

Speaker Alexa Sardina brought what is for many a new perspective, that of restorative justice (RJ) practices as a complete or partial alternative to criminal justice punishment. Alexa has a personal and refreshing approach to what it takes for healing to occur and be successful, both for the one harmed and the one who caused the harm. Speaker Adele Nicholas shared with the audience some of the cases she and her law partner, NARSOL board member Mark Weinberg, have worked on.

The conference ended with Dr. Emily Horowitz, NARSOL'S 2021 Braveheart Award winner, who reminded us of the reality of the registry for those on it and why we choose to engage with this advocacy. She encouraged and inspired us to continue in our battle.

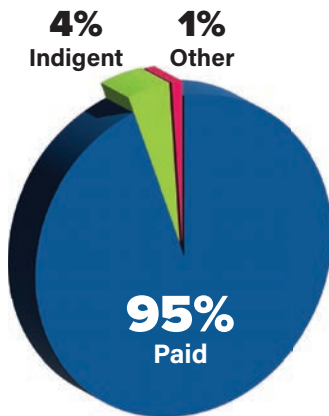


Photos from the 2023 NARSOL Conference



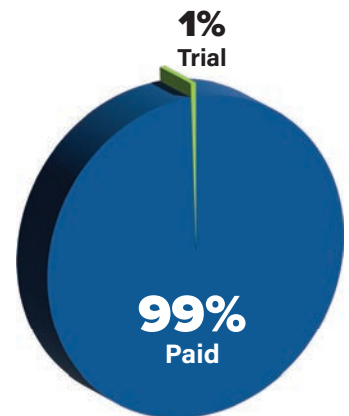
engaging with our **CONSTITUENTS**

DIGEST NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS



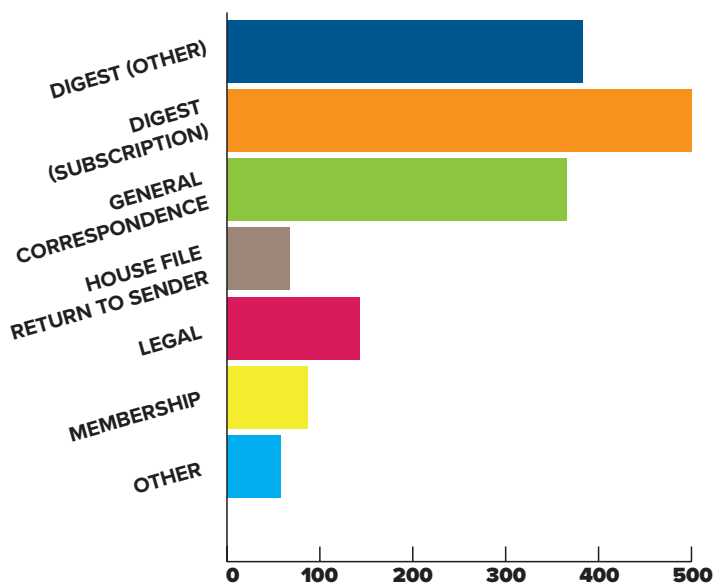
Incarcerated

TOTAL
SUBSCRIPTIONS:
1,028



Non-Incarcerated

MAILROOM CORRESPONDENCE



MEMBERS

Annual
272

Monthly
129

Special Categories
52

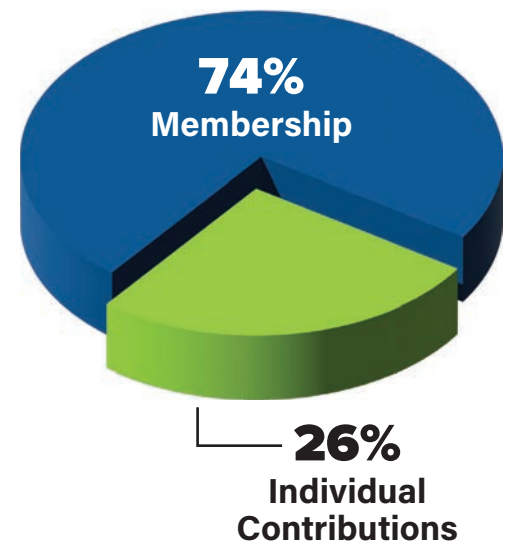
FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF NARSOL

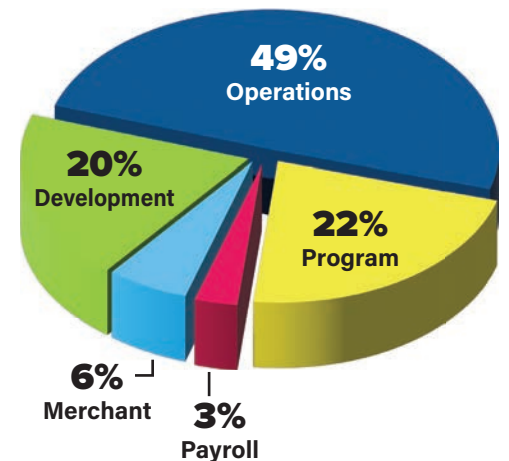
Year Ending December 31, 2023

	2023 TOTAL
REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHERS SUPPORT	
REGULAR	
Individual Contributions	\$9,073
Membership	\$25,650
TOTAL INCOME	\$34,723
EXPENSES	
DEVELOPMENT	
Fundraising	\$6,712
OPERATIONS	
Business	\$1,763
Finance	\$730
Mail	\$573
Marketing	\$500
Office	\$642
Personnel	\$125
Retreat	\$9,779
Technology	\$2,801
PROGRAM	
Member Acquisition	\$1,588
Member Retention	\$6,041
PAYROLL	
Processing	\$188
Taxes	\$898
MERCHANT	
iATS Processing	\$1,222
PayPal Processing	\$704
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$34,266
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$457
GRANTS & INVESTMENTS	
Vivante Espero Endowment	\$0

NARSOL Income



NARSOL Expenses

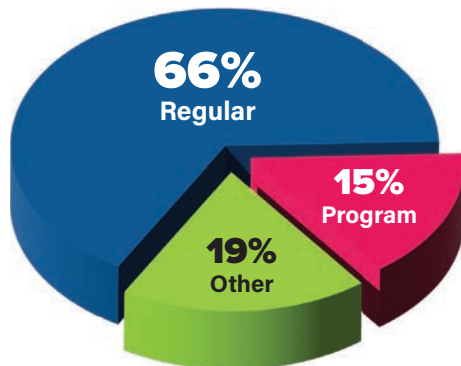


CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF NARSOL'S FOUNDATION: VIVANTE ESPERO

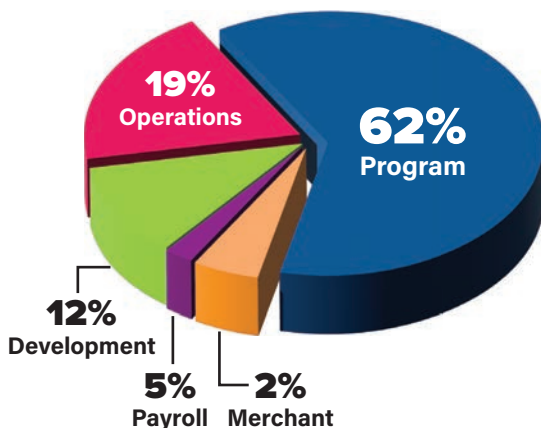
Year Ending December 31, 2023

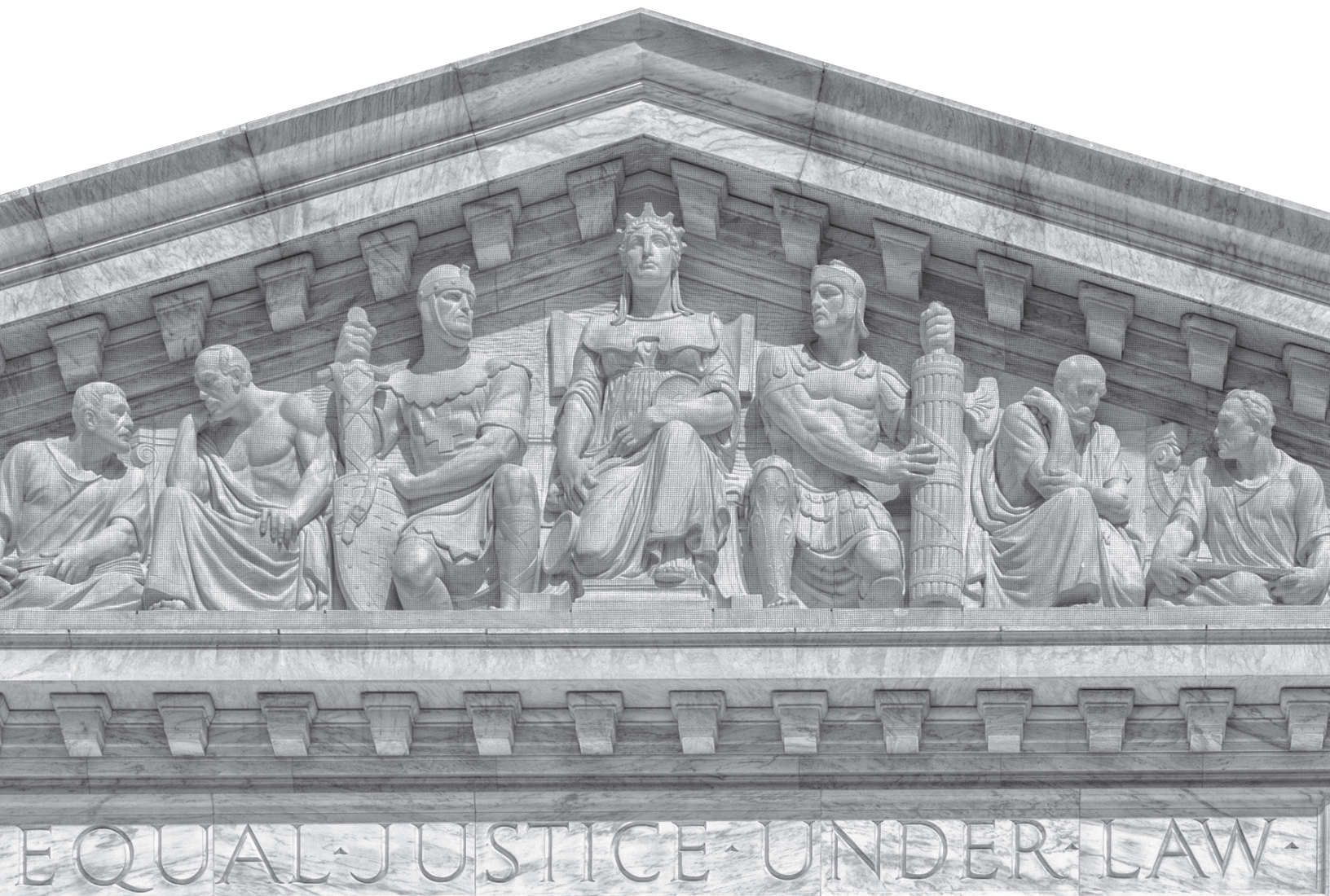
	2023 TOTAL		2023 TOTAL
REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHERS SUPPORT		EXPENSES	
REGULAR		DEVELOPMENT	
Amazon Smile	\$1,767	Fundraising	\$13,992
Business Contributions	\$4	OPERATIONS	
Individual Contributions	\$191,766	Business	\$3,398
Income - Miscellaneous	\$11,085	Finance	\$1,095
PROGRAM		Mail	\$4,507
Conference	\$36,925	Office	\$3,916
Digest	\$10,173	Personnel	\$668
OTHER		Retreat	\$3,383
Banking Interest	\$77	Technology	\$5,251
Reimbursements from NARSOL and Affiliates	\$27,452	Operations - Miscellaneous	\$1,000
Reimbursements from Scarlet Legal Action Program (SLAP)	30,000	PROGRAM	
TOTAL INCOME	\$309,249	Member Acquisition	\$1,806
		Member Retention	\$6,584
		Conference	\$29,668
		Digest	\$27,150
		Scarlet Legal Action Program (SLAP)	\$8,740
		Program - Miscellaneous	\$428
		PAYROLL	
		Gross Pay	\$4,000
		Processing	\$414
		Taxes	\$1,580
		MERCHANT	
		iATS Processing	\$2,148
		PayPal Processing	\$299
		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$120,028
		NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$189,221
		GRANTS & INVESTMENTS	
		Vivante Espero Endowment	\$137,500

VIVANTE Income



VIVANTE Expenses





OPERATIONS

PO Box 36123
Albuquerque, NM 87176

HEADQUARTERS

PO Box 25423
Raleigh, NC 27611

call (888) 997-7765 • visit NARSOL.org