

New York Coalition for Open Government

Thursday March 9, 2023, 6:30 PM

Via Zoom

Email paulwolf2@gmail.com for the meeting link

Public Comments Are Welcome At Any Time During Our Meetings. Don't Be Shy To Ask A Question Or To Make A Point!

AGENDA

- 1) Meeting Minutes from February 9, 2023 **PG 3-5**

- 2) Treasurer's Report – 88 total paid members (from 28 counties) **PG 6**
\$4,616.15 with 67 being current

- 3) 2023 Calendar **PG 7-9**

- 4) Open Meetings Law Committee **PG 10-13**
 - A) Working on report regarding live streaming of meetings, purpose is to determine how many local governments are doing live streaming and to assist others to do so.
 - B) Committee recommends that the Board support doing a petition for elected officials to sign committing to not discussing public business in secret caucus meetings:

We the undersigned elected officials pledge to not discuss public business in a closed door political caucus meeting.

We support the enactment of a local law and a state law, eliminating the ability to discuss public business in political caucus meetings.

It is our position that political caucus meetings should be limited to discussing political party issues and not public business.

- 5) Freedom of Information Law Committee **PG 14**
 - A) Assemblymember Phil Steck has agreed to introduce our legislation to make it easier for people to obtain attorney fees if they are successful in an FOIL or

Open Meetings Law lawsuit

- B) Reviewed legislation introduced by Senator Tedisco which would impose penalties for FOIL violations, tabled for further discussion.

6) Public Relations/Education Committee Minutes **PG 15-16**

- A) Sunshine Week event, March 16th, 11:00 am via Zoom
- B) Continuing to research the idea of fundraising and the development of a litigation policy
- C) Committee supports board approval for holding a Zoom social event the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, for people to connect and get to know each other better

7) Poughkeepsie, in person meeting, Saturday May 6th, 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm. There is a train that leaves Buffalo at 7:39 am and arrives in Poughkeepsie at 2:15. Train stops in Rochester, Syracuse, Albany etc. and others are welcome to hop on. There is a restaurant a 3 minute walk away from the train station, where we can meet. Will take a 5:10 pm train to head home the same day.

8) State budget letter to NY State Legislators **PG 17-20**

9) Letter to Sheridan NY regarding meeting violations **PG 21-22**

10) Letter to Franklinville, NY regarding meeting violations **PG 23-24**

11) New Business

12) Next Meetings

Open Meetings Law Committee March 16th, at 4:00 pm

Freedom of Information Law Committee March 23rd, at 1:00 pm

Zoom social, March 23rd 6:30 pm?

Public Relations April 6th at 3:00 pm

Coalition Board Meeting April 13th, 6:30 pm