

New York Coalition for Open Government

Thursday August 10, 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 July 13, 2023 **PG 3-4**

 - 2) Treasurer's Report – 78 total paid members (from 31 counties) **PG 5-6**
\$4,958.56 as of 7/31/2023

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

 - 4) Open Meetings Law Committee
 - A) Report to support amending the Open Meetings Law to mandate that public comments occur at meetings to be released in September.
 - B) Next report seeking to have advisory committees covered by the Open Meetings Law, which is the case in 31 states.
 - C) Will be doing a training on executive sessions in October.

 - 5) Freedom of Information Law Committee
 - A) FOIL project regarding state agencies tracking FOIL requests ongoing.
 - B) Article 78 training set for September 21st at 12:00.
 - C) D) Utilizing A Hearing Officer System Similar To Tax Assessment Cases – introduced by Assemblymember Rosenthal
 - D) E) Require State Agencies to Track FOIL Requests – Assemblymember Epstein & Senator Hoylman have agreed to sponsor
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6) Public Relations/Education Committee

- A) Committee is working on an open government booklet that can be distributed to the public electronically and physically. The document will provide a brief overview of FOIL and the OML, which will be helpful to the public.
- B) The Committee recommends that the board consider having a co-chair designated for each committee.
- C) Axel is working on a new Coalition website, which is not ready to be previewed yet.
- D) The Committee is working on a lobbying plan for getting our legislative bills passed in Albany. Committee needs more information regarding what a 501c3 organization like ours can and cannot do.

7) Albany in person meeting Saturday November 18th, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

8) New Business

9) Next Meetings

Open Meetings Law Committee August 17th, at 4:00 pm

Freedom of Information Law Committee August 24th, at 1:00 pm

Zoom Social, August 31st 6:30 pm

Public Relations September 7th at 3:00 pm

Coalition Board Meeting September 14th, 6:30 pm

Article 78 Training, September 21st 12:00

7-13-23 NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Ken Guarino, Janet Vito, Annmarie Reeb, Axel Ebermann, Jane Curtin, Sue Kelly, Michelle Allen, Linda Bond, Caitlin Curtin, Mrs. Harris, Karen Seymourian (new), Alberta Roman, Paul Wolf.

START MEETING ON ZOOM AT 6:35 pm: There is no Quorum present.

MINUTES FROM 6-8-2023 SUBMITTED; Accepted without comment. (In packet)

TREASURER REPORT; 73 total members from 29 Counties in NYS with \$4,958.56 reported as of 6-30-23 by Janet Vito Treasurer.

2023 CALENDAR; Informational only in pages 6-8.

OPEN MEETINGS COMMITTEE; Report by Michelle Allen, Chair (Page 9) that meeting July 11 from invitation to Committee on Open Gov. Report is on line. Regarding live streaming of meetings and press conference held Thurs. 7-15th was well received and reported on by news outlets.

Report to support amending the Open Meetings Law (OML) to mandate public comments occur at meetings to be released in July.

Next report seeking to have advisory committees in NYS covered by OML, which is the case in 31 other states

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE; Report by Paul Wolf as Maria Tisby, Chair not present. Report being started to have State Agencies tracking FOIL requests. There are 70 State Agencies that could track how many requests received, when filled, and result. Annmarie Reeb is heading up this effort, which is going well and spoke about Gov.Qa agency to process FOIL. Problems with this.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE; This Committee did not meet in July. Michelle Allen report. We now have a free Face Book group for paid members only where members can talk and explore among themselves. Members must sign up and about half of current members have done so. Send Paul Wolf a message so he can let in and must be FB member.

NY COMMITTEE ON OPEN GOVERNMENT; We have been invited to submit ideas for the Committee's Annual Report. We have submitted a letter with following proposals; A. Constitutional amendment. B. Mandatory Attorney Fees. C. Mandate live streaming. D. Enforcement powers by restructuring the Committee or by the start of Hearing Officer System. E. Requiring State Agencies to track FOIL requests. F. Mandate training. (See pages 11-16)

NEW BUSINESS; Axel Ebermann spoke about article 78 Training. Caitlin Curtin happy to do zoom program on executive session training. End meeting at 7:31pm.

NEXT MEETINGS; NY COG 8-10-23 6:30 pm

OML 7-20-23 4 pm

FOIL 7-27-23 1 pm

Zoom Social 7-27-23

Public Relations 8-3-23 3 pm

Zoom Meeting August 10, 2023

NEW YORK COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

Treasurer's Report July 31, 2023

Paid Members = 78 as of 7/31/2023

Bank Balance - as of June 30, 2023	\$4,958.56
Deposit - 7/3/2023 - Bank - Mail In (\$20.00 + \$80.00 Donation)	100.00
Deposit - 7/24/2023 - Direct Online Deposit - \$100.00	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$5,158.56

Expenses:

7/26/2023 - Ck#170 Thomas Fish - \$200.00 (NYCOG Website 2023-2024)	<u>200.00</u>
Bank Balance 7/31/2023	\$4,958.56


Janet Vito
Treasurer

THOMAS FISH
 8512 September Sky Ct
 Sarasota, FL 34238

Date 7/17/2023

For Year: 2023-2024
 Account: nyopengov.org
 Paul Wolf

paulwolf2@gmail.com

Quantity	Unit	Description	Unit Price	Total Price
1	year	WinHost Max Webhosting	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
1	year	Site Lock Prevention	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
1	year	Backup and Restores	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
1	year	Use of my website software	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
		The first 3 items are out of my pocket. Each year		
		My normal rate for my software use for a year is \$200. This is a huge discount		
Total			\$	200.00

Check or money order can be made to Thomas Fish and sent to the above address.
 Payment is due on 8/31/2023

Payment can also be sent via VENMO at @fishtr or
 PayPal at <http://paypal.me/TRFish1>

New York Coalition for Open Government 2023 Goals

Internal Goals

- Increase membership (81 as of 12/31/22)
- Start Sharing Our Stories Through Videos
- Increase Facebook followers (579 as of 12/31/22)
- Increase Twitter followers (242 as of 12/31/22)

Project Goals

- Report On The Need For An Enforcement Entity, Which Will Include Reforming The Committee on Open Government, The Need For Mandated Training and The Need For Mandatory Attorney Fees
- Report Highlighting How Local Governments Are Doing Live Streaming
- Report On Mandating Public Comments
- FOIL report regarding state agency tracking of FOIL requests
- Lawsuit Regarding Posting of Meeting Documents & Minutes
- Sunshine Week Event
- Annual Meeting
- Regional Meetings/Events

January

Op-Ed regarding open government resolutions for New Year
January 1, 1977, anniversary of Open Meetings Law
Plan Sunshine Week Event for March
Start gathering info Report on the need for an enforcement entity
Press conference regarding caucus meetings report

February

Plan Sunshine Week Event for March
Draft Op-ed for Sunshine Week
Press Conference regarding need for an enforcement entity
Plan May Annual Meeting
Start gathering info for report regarding live streaming of meetings

March

Sunshine Week Op-ed
Sunshine Week Event (March 12 to 18 Sunshine Week)
Membership Renewals
Plan May Annual Meeting
Continue gathering info for report regarding live streaming of meetings
Plan regional meeting in Albany

April

Planning for Annual Meeting
Press Conference regarding Live streaming report
Start gathering info regarding public comments
Regional meeting Albany

May

Annual Meeting
Continue gathering info for report regarding public comments

June

Press conference regarding public comments report
Start gathering info for FOIL report

July

Op-ed regarding anniversary of Freedom of Information Act
Continue gathering info for FOIL report

August

Continue gathering info for FOIL report

September

FOIL report press conference
Sept 1, 1974, anniversary of FOIL
Sept 15th, Democracy Day
Sept 17th Constitution Day, 17-23 Constitution Week

Sept. 28th universal access to information day

October

October 17th, School Board Recognition Week
Plan upstate regional meeting

November

Regional Meeting Upstate

December

End of year review, 2024 goals
Plan Board and Officer elections for 2025