

# **New York Coalition for Open Government**

**Thursday August 11, 2022, 6:30 PM**

**Via Zoom**

**Email [paulwolf2@gmail.com](mailto: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 14, 2022

2) Treasurer's Report – 72 members (from 24 counties), \$4,302.24

3) 2022 Calendar

4) Email Policy Report Press Conference

Report received newspaper coverage in: Watertown, Hudson Valley, Malone, Livingston County, Batavia

Hudson Valley 360, the Jamestown Post Journal and the Daily Gazette all did editorials calling for more teeth in open government laws.

Radio interviews were done with Alan Chartock's Capitol Connection and WAER in Syracuse.

5) Open Meetings Law Committee Minutes

Report by Committee Chair Joe Kissel

- A) Prioritized top 3 legislative items to pursue as: Creating an enforcement entity; Mandating public comments and Mandating live streaming of meetings.
- B) Reviewed enforcement penalties from across the country. NY does not have any penalties. 8 states impose criminal penalties; 8 states impose fines from \$100 to \$1,000 and 4 states provide for removal/recall of elected officials.
- C) Gathering information on Report Regarding Private Caucus Meetings Held By Governmental Bodies At The Local Level

6) Freedom of Information Law Committee Minutes

Report by Committee Chair Maria Tisby

- A) Reviewed enforcement penalties other states utilize.
- B) Committee recommends that the Board support amending the law to mandate that elected officials must complete two hours of training annually on the Open Meetings Law and Freedom of Information Law.
- C) Committee recommends that the Board support amending the Freedom of Information Law to require state agencies to submit an annual FOIL report to the Committee on Open Government.
- D) Attorney Cory Morris is willing to take on open government lawsuits.

7) Public Relations/Education Group

Report by Michelle

- A) The Group recommends that the Board of Directors adopt the Public Information and Education paper prepared by Casey to serve as the Group's goals and purpose.
- B) The Group recommends that small press releases should be able to go out with the approval of the Group Chair and or Coalition President.
- C) The Group recommends that the Legislative Priorities recently adopted by the Board be placed on the Coalition website and that the document be disseminated to the Coalition's media list, Coalition members, good government groups and the State Legislature.

8) New Business

9) Next Meetings

Open Meetings Law Committee August 18th at 4:00 pm

Freedom of Information Law Committee August 25<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm

Public Relations Education Group September 1<sup>st</sup>, 3:00?

Coalition Board Meeting September 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm