

4-13-2023 NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING ON ZOOM

Present: Michelle Allen, Sonia Dusza, Lawrence Vito, Janet Vito, Marylou, Maria Tisby, Annemarie Reeb, Linda Bond, Robert Godlewski, Cory Morris, Ken Guarino, Paul Wolf, Alberta Roman (Recorder)

Meeting called to order 6:33 pm 4-13-2023 by President Paul Wolf.

Meeting Minutes from 3-09-2023; Motion made to accept last month's meeting minutes by Michelle Allen and seconded by Marylou. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report; With \$809.12 in dues and donations income and \$185.00 in expenses, total is \$5,540.27 as of 3-31-23. Celebrating the most money we have ever had. Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Maria Tisby and seconded by Michelle Allen. Motion carried.

2023 Calendar; The calendar for informational purposes is included pgs 6-8.

NY Press Association Conference; Michelle and Axel gave a presentation at the NY Press Association regarding the Open Meetings Law & Freedom of Information Law which was well received. Michelle attended the Tug Hill Conference with some interesting connections and power points.

Open Meetings Law Committee; Report by Michelle. The Committee is working with Cornell students on a report regarding live streaming of meetings with more info to come once the students have completed their work.

Petition for elected officials to sign committing to not discussing public business in secret caucus meetings has been distributed with 17 signers so far. Distributors are needed.

Gathering info for report to support amending the Open Meetings Law to mandate that public comments occur at meetings. Annmarie has compiled much information and gotten many volunteers including Ken who is present tonight.

Work on a monthly Call-to-Action to assist members and the public in advocating for open government is in progress.

Freedom of Information Law Committee; Report by Maria, Chair. Assembly Member Phil Steck has introduced our legislation to make it easier for people to obtain attorney fees if they are successful in a FOIL or OML lawsuit.

Assemblymember Amy Paulin has expressed interest in sponsoring a Constitutional Amendment to add a right to open government. Some states have this and NYS does not. Another Member-McDonald-is interested in taking this now, not Paulin.

Report regarding enforcement reforms is completed.

Public Relations/Education Committee Minutes pg 13-14;

Michelle reported sunshine week event on March 16th went well. A litigation policy was discussed which is not completed yet. The Annual meeting is May 17th, 7 pm. Our first social event on zoom was held with 15 people and will occur on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm for people to connect and get to know each other better.

Albany Meeting; This will be in person on Saturday May 6th at 1 pm to 3:30 pm with 19 people signed up. There is a train that leaves Buffalo at 7:39 am and arrives in Albany at 12:36 pm with several stops in between. There is a restaurant-Evans- an 8 minute cab/uber ride from the train station, where we can meet. There is a 4:05 pm train home to Buffalo on the same day.

New Business; None spoken. Motion to end meeting at 7:36 pm made by Maria and seconded by Marylou. Motion carried.

Next Meetings; Open Meetings Law Committee April 20th 4 pm

Freedom of Information Law Committee April 27th 1 pm

Zoom Social April 27th 6:30 pm

Public Relations/Education Committee May 4th 3 pm

NY Coalition Board Meeting May 11th 6:30 pm

Albany In Person Lunch Meeting May 6th Saturday 1 to 3:30 pm

Annual Meeting May 17th 7 pm