

## **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. 7-15<sup>th</sup> 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