

## **N Y Coalition for Open Government 7-14-22 Meeting Minutes**

**Present on Zoom;** Maria Tisby, Robert Till, Mike Franklin, John Fisher, Sonia Dusza, Steven Lyle, Janet Vito, Larry Vito, Robert Goodlowski, Casey Jones, Gary Dickson, Michelle A., Danielle Girard , Paul Wolf, Alberta Roman(recorder)

**Meeting Minutes;** The meeting minutes from June 9, 2022 submitted by Alberta Roman and in attached packet were unanimously approved on a motion made by Janet Vito and seconded by Michelle Allen-Gregory.

**Treasurer's Report;** Janet Vito provided a written report as of June 30, 2022, which is attached in meeting packet, showing \$4,502.24 with 72 paid members from 24 counties. The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted on motion made by Alberta Roman and seconded by Sonia Dusza.

**2022 Calendar;** Attached on pages 7 and 8.

### **Email Policy FOIL Report;**

Our report regarding how 18 counties complied with a FOIL request we made regarding email policies, will be released in a press conference next week. The Press conference will be held via Zoom on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Open Meeting Law Committee;**

The Open Meetings Committee met on June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Committee recommends that the Board approve the revised legislative priorities drafted by Casey Jones. A motion approving the revised legislative priorities was made by Michelle, seconded by Maria and unanimously approved.

The Committee is working on gathering information for a report regarding private caucus meetings held by governmental bodies at the local level.

### **Freedom of Information Law Committee;**

The Freedom of Information Law Committee met on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Committee discussed holding a press conference regarding our Email Policy/FOIL report and determined that it was better to do this after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

The Committee will be taking a look at what enforcement penalties other states utilize to address violations of their Freedom of Information Law.

### **Public Relations/Education Discussion Group;**

The first meeting of this group will occur on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adopting a Non-Partisan Policy;**

At our last Board meeting, we had a good discussion regarding the importance of our organization being nonpartisan. We currently do not have a nonpartisan policy in place as far as something in writing which describes what that means. Paul drafted a policy for the Board to consider based on a League of Women Voters policy.

Michelle made a motion to refer discussion of the policy to the Public Relations/Education Discussion Group. The motion was seconded by Maria and unanimously approved.

### **Should We Form Local Chapters?**

Paul proposed that we consider forming local chapters like the League of Women Voters. Paul suggested that we could start with Regional Advisory Councils.

Maria made a motion that we refer discussion of this idea to the Public Relations/Education Group, motion seconded by Michelle, which was unanimously approved.

### **New Business;**

Paul discussed some news article that he provided regarding FOIL, which mentioned the Coalition from the NY Post and Niagara Gazette.