

9-14-23 NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING

PRESENT ON ZOOM; Maria Tisby, Michelle Allen, Janet Vito, Lawrence Vito, Annmarie Reeb, Marylou Kling, Carol Calvin, Linda Bond, Axel Ebermann, Christine Czarnik, Felicia, Robert Godlewski, Sue Kelly, Paul Wolf. Paul Andreassen came late as new member.

NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:32 PM ON 9-14-23 BY President Paul Wolf.

MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 10, 2023; Approval of meeting minutes 8-10-23 on motion made by Janet Vito and seconded by Maria Tisby. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT; 91 total paid members from 31 counties with \$5,258.56 in bank as of 7-31-23. Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Michelle & seconded by Maria.

CALENDAR; This is provided in Agenda for informational purposes only.

DESIGNATE THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AS COMMITTEE Co-CHAIRS; Motion made by Marylou Kling to accept as Committee Co-Chairs Annmarie Reeb- FOIL, Robyn Gray –OML, Ken Guarino-Public Relations and seconded by Lawrence Vito. Motion carried.

OPEN MEETINGS LAW COMMITTEE; Michelle Allen Chair spoke.

A. Report to support amending the OML to mandate that public comments occur at meetings was released on 9-14-23 at 11 am. Article already posted and youtube channel avail. Annmarie acknowledged group effort of volunteers in this.

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

C. The Committee recommends doing training about executive sessions and discuss dates as on Thursday 10-19-23 at 5:30 pm so as not to interfere with the Board meeting. Michelle make motion for 10-19-23 5:30 pm and Janet second. Motion carried.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE; Report by Maria.

A. FOIL project tracking state agencies tracking FOIL requests on going.

B. Article 78 training set for Sept. 21 at 12 n on zoom with Attorney Mike Higgins as presenter. Recording to be made available.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE; Report by Axel.

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. The PDF is ready to go. No questions posed.

B. Axel is working on a new Coalition website. Michelle made a motion to go live with the new website and Maria seconded. Motion carried. Axel acknowledged for developing site.

C. The Committee is working on a lobbying plan for getting our legislative bills passed in Albany. There is arranged a meeting with David to explore lobbying on Oct 5th Thurs.

D. Albany in person meeting SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18TH AT 1 PM TO 6:30 PM HAMPTON INN HOTEL. Train travel works for same day from Buffalo.

E. Committee recommends that the Board support the establishment of a process to provide titles to our members, when appropriate which will be subject to Board approval. Motion made by Michelle for the Board to support the establishment a process to recognize volunteers' work and seconded by Axel. Motion carried. Discussion on what work areas are needed and what job entails, especially in communication with other people. All are subject to delegation by Board.

NATIONAL FOI COALITION ONLINE CONFERENCE OCTOBER 3-5, 2023:

Registration can be done at www.nfoic.org, for \$30 or \$25 if a Coalition Member.

NEW BUSINESS: Paul invited to speak to speak at Town of Tonawanda Republican committee re open government. Christine who is Head of this Committee is here with us tonight. Also Paul is invited by Journalism professor in Albany to speak to her class on Zoon. Paul A. new member here tonight and has filed many FOIL requests and lives near Kingston-Ulster Co.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm on motion by Maria and second byn Marylou. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETINGS:

ALBANY IN PERSON MEETING SAT. NOV. 18TH 1-6PM

PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT PRESS CONFERENCE SEPT. 14TH AT 11 AM

ARICLE 78 TRAINING ON SEPT. 21ST AT 12 NOON

OPEN MEETINGS LAW COMMITTEE SEPT. 21ST AT 6:30 PM

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE SEPT. 28TH AT 6:30 PM

PUBLIC RELATIONS OCTOBER 5TH AT 6:30 PM

COALITION BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 12TH AT 6:30 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION TRAINING OCTOBER 19TH AT 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Alberta Roman Secretary- communicated absent- with assist from Annmarie Reeb and video recording.