

**North Carolina Open Government Board meeting  
Wednesday, August 26, 2009**

**Board members attending by phone: Judi Burke, Pauletta Brown Bracy, Beth Grace, Jim Hefner, Monica Hill, Paul Parsons, Mark Prak, Hugh Stevens, Rick Thames, Rick Willis**

**Non-voting members attending: Connie Book, Dale Harrison**

President Hugh Stevens called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Sunshine Day 2009: Sunshine Center Director Connie Book thanked Jon Buchan and Rick Thames for their work in coordinating and organizing Sunshine Day 2009 in Charlotte. Sessions included topics such as access to e-mail and to medical records. Approximately 100 attended the conference. Book described robust conversation among those attendees. Revenue totaled approximately \$3,000 with \$2,400 in expenses.

Sunshine Day staff will offer a workshop in Greensboro on Oct. 22 regarding best practices for open meetings and public records. The City of Greensboro has requested and scheduled this event.

Knight Foundation Grant Update: Endowment account fund balance was at \$166,000 before the Sunshine Day conference. Elon University continues to provide overhead for the Sunshine Center. The coalition must raise approximately \$75,000 to meet the Knight Foundation Challenge Grant's December deadline. (Book reported that she hopes to secure an extension from Knight.) A request for \$40,000 has been made to the N.C. Broadcasters Association; Hugh Stevens had requested \$25,000 from the Daniels Family. Stevens reported, however, that Frank Daniels has made funding commitments elsewhere and will not participate this year. Board members then discussed approaching the Levine Foundation and other fundraising opportunities. Stevens and Dale Harrison discussed establishing an award honoring an individual in service to open government and public records. An annual awards/fundraising dinner might then also be established.

National Freedom of Information Coalition Summit: Harrison attended the June 5-6 event in Minneapolis. He said 47 states were represented at this summit in which Knight Foundation encouraged participation.

Legislative Update: An open government bill, which would have allowed recovery of attorneys fees and created a mediation system for public records disputes, was reintroduced but again stalled during the legislative session.

Sunshine Center Contacts: Harrison reported a quieter than usual time at the Center with seven calls and 21 e-mails. Regarding those contacts, he referenced the UNC system as continually problematic in the release of public records.

Educational Outreach: Harrison told board members of his participation as speaker at the Chuck Stone Program for Diversity in Education and Media, a program from high school students offered through UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Journalism & Mass Communication. Monica Hill relayed information on the N.C. College Media Association, offering a one-day annual traveling conference and contest for college media outlets across the state. She announced that the 2010 conference will be Feb. 20 at Elon. Book told board members that focus and energy will be directed toward additional educational initiatives such as lesson plans, interactive Web sites and curricular materials.

Elon Poll Results: Book shared encouraging news from the Elon Poll regarding the public's awareness of the Open Government Coalition and its services. She reported an 11 percent increase in awareness.

Sunshine Week 2010 will be March 14-20. Possible sites include Asheville.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.