

**North Carolina Open Government Board meeting  
Wednesday, September 10, 2008**

**Board members attending by phone: Jon Buchan, Judi Burke, Pauletta Brown Bracy, Beth Grace, Jim Hefner, Monica Hill, Mark Prak, Steve Riley, Hugh Stevens, Bill Walker, Rick Willis, Sue Price Wilson**

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

President Sue Price Wilson called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

New website launch: Connie Book updated the board on the transition of the website to Elon University's server system. Board members were asked to review the beta site and provide feedback to Connie by October 1.

Endowment/Financial update: Jordy Whichard updated the members on the current balances in the operating accounts and the endowment fund. The endowment fund balance is \$138,910. A review of outstanding requests was provided (\$40,000 to the broadcasters, \$5,000 from the NCCTA). The board discussed asking for a gift from Frank Daniels and board member Hugh Stevens agreed to ask for his support. Sue Price Wilson and Connie Book agreed to provide any materials Hugh might need. Sunshine Day's nominal fee and the membership funds continue to allow a break even on the operational budgeting process, thanks to a grant from the National Freedom of Information Council. The NC Open Government continues to utilize the \$35,000 grant which was designed to cover 100% operating in its first year and support 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year efforts.

Sunshine Center director Connie Book indicated that the Sunshine Center had received 184 calls since January of 2008. The bulk of these were about the Sunshine Day activities. Book asked for clarification of the litigation policy of the organization. President Wilson asked that a subcommittee be formed to explore litigation issues and the role of the organization. Board member Monica Hill agreed to chair the subcommittee and she was joined by board members Jon Buchan, Pauletta Brown Bracy and non-voting member Dale Harrison. The group agreed to explore the issue and report back in the next board meeting.

Sunshine Center is planning an eastern state workshop at the request of Sandy Semans of the Sentinel. The date has been set for October 21 (First Amendment week) in Dare County. The County will provide space at no charge and Dale Harrison is working with Semans and the County to establish an agenda. The event will be at no cost.

Summer activities/Membership Update was provided by Connie Book. The Sunshine Center mailed to all members (current and past) a second edition of the Forecaster along with a call for membership. Additionally, the Sunshine Center continues to send around the Sun-e Brief on a monthly basis via email. Book encouraged the board to provide any ideas for content. Dale Harrison presented to a new organization NC3, North Carolina County Communications employees. The Sunshine Center presented to journalism high school students at the N.C. Scholastic Media Conference at Chapel Hill. She attended

the NC Cable Association and Broadcasters meeting. Board member Paul Parsons attended the NC Press Association meeting.

President Sue Wilson announced that Sunshine Day is scheduled for March 15 to the 21. Hosting Sunshine Day in Charlotte was discussed. Jon Buchan was asked if he would be willing to help lead the effort and he preliminarily agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.