

**North Carolina Open Government Board meeting
Friday, December 11, 2009**

Board members attending in person and by phone: Jon Buchan, Judi Burke, Beth Grace, Jim Hefner, Monica Hill, Paul Parsons, Mark Prak, Steve Riley, Hugh Stevens, Bill Walker, Rick Willis

Non-voting members attending: Connie Book, Dale Harrison

President Hugh Stevens called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes from Aug. 26 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Knight Foundation Grant Update: Connie Book reported the forwarding of a September 2009 letter to Eric Newton of the Knight Foundation. A subsequent conference call and October 2009 letter confirmed Newton was amenable to a six-month extension of the matching fund deadline. This six-month extension recognizes the effect of the economy on the raising of funds and also allows the Coalition to focus on completing the fundraising in line with Sunshine Day activities. An April 15, 2010, report is due to the Knight Foundation.

Financial Update/Treasurer's Report: Budget summary reflects an endowment account fund balance of \$176,744, as presented by Steve Riley. Book reviewed progress of installment payments and outstanding amounts. These bring actual amount raised to \$202,000, leaving a balance of \$48,000.

Board members then discussed opportunities for fundraising. Rick Willis suggested a grassroots campaign targeting libraries throughout the state. Jim Hefner reiterated the importance of all board members making a contribution. Other suggestions included the Community Foundation and the Levine Foundation.

Open Government News and Sunshine Center Activities: Book reported the Coalition was approached for possible amicus brief related to case involving State Employees Association and pension fund/campaign contribution records. Hugh Stevens updated the board on the status of the Gov. Mike Easley case, as well as Gov. Beverly Perdue's modified e-mail policy. Stevens also discussed sealed search warrants, such as those related to the death of UNC fraternity president Courtland Smith. Book discussed progress of N.C. Center for Voter Education's push for audio of General Assembly sessions. Dale Harrison discussed closed session status of government entities such as Wake County School Board Dare County Tourism. Harrison also

again suggested the formation of a Sunshine Award for the state, to be presented on Sunshine Day. He suggested that the award might allow a naming opportunity for fundraising.

Sunshine Day: The 2010 event will be Tuesday, March 16 in downtown Greensboro. The event will coincide with a Nina Totenburg speech to the Elon Law School at Greensboro's Carolina Theatre. Sunshine Day will incorporate sessions on the city of Greensboro's response to a Neighborhood Congress' open government requests. Harrison explained that he and Book had presented sessions in October to these groups.

Board Membership: The board currently has two openings, both media positions. These were previously held by Jordy Whichard and Joan Siefert Rose. Motion was made by Riley to appoint Connie Walker, general manager of WUNC, and Rick Gall, news director for WRAL. Jon Buchan seconded the motion; all approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.