

Sun-e Briefs • 2009 September

Sun-e Briefs are a service of the Sunshine Center made possible through a grant from the Knight Foundation. This monthly news update will keep you in the open-government loop by bringing you news about access issues from across the state and updates on the Sunshine Center and North Carolina Open Government Coalition. Coming to you from Elon University, home of the Sunshine Center, we think you'll find **Sun-e Briefs** a valuable addition to your inbox. If you would like to contact us to let us know about a story or to remove your name from our list, please write ncopengov@elon.edu.

Access Update 2009 General Assembly

General Assembly session produces cacophony of sound with little results

By Sandy Semans, Special to the Sunshine Center

"This General Assembly's legislative actions pertaining to open government ended up amounting to lots of noise, but few finished symphonies. The Open Government Act was reintroduced this year, but again stalled before approval ..."

See Semans' analysis of the legislative year and access the text of key bills at:

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=939472&type=atom&departments=NC0&ecast=true&max=8>

NCPA 'Legislative News' provides key information, positions on proposed legislation

The North Carolina Press Association keeps track of all legislation affecting media, including public records and open meetings laws. The NCPA site features links to roll call vote tallies, NCPA position statements, the text of bills and more.

Visit the NCPA "Legislative News" page at:

<http://www.ncpress.com/ebackgroundsite/ebackgroundlegislature/ebackgroundleg09.html>

Sunshine Center in Action

Fall Open Government Workshop Planned for Oct. 22

A workshop on best practices in requesting public records is being planned in partnership with the City of Greensboro. Sessions are tentatively scheduled for 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. More news on the event will be posted at www.ncopengov.org as the event is developed.

2010 Sunshine Week scheduled

The Board of Directors for the national Sunshine Week celebration has set its week-long celebration for March 14-20, 2010. The N.C. Open Government Coalition will host a day-long workshop during that week and is currently reviewing potential locations.

NCOGC Board Meeting

The Board of Directors for the NCOGC met at 2 p.m. Aug. 26

North Carolina Scholastic Media Association • Chapel Hill

Sunshine Center Assistant Director Dale Harrison spoke to a select group of international students the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on July 23. The gathering session was part of the annual Chuck Stone Program for Diversity in Education and Media. Harrison spoke about legal and ethical issues for writers, including state and federal sunshine laws. Students in the program produced a blog, newspaper and streaming video as part of their intensive onsite training. Other speakers at this year's program included UNC Prof. Napoleon Byars, who is the faculty coordinator for the Stone program, and Craig Lindsey of The News & Observer. For more information on the Chuck Stone Program for Diversity in Education and Media, visit:

<http://www.jomc.unc.edu/stoneprogram>

© 2009 N.C. Open Government Coalition
Elon University
School of Communications
CBX 2850
Elon, NC 27244
(336) 278-5506
ncopengov@elon.edu