

# Sun e-Briefs • February 2012

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## **NCOCG News**

### **JOIN US FOR SUNSHINE DAY MARCH 14**

Please join us for Sunshine Day from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 14 at Elon University. Speakers will include veteran journalists from North Carolina and more than a dozen experts and advocates for open government, including our keynote speaker Barbara A. Peterson, the president of the First Amendment Foundation. We encourage citizens, journalists, government employees, librarians, lawyers, public officials, anyone and everyone to attend.

The cost is \$30, and it includes lunch. The student fee is \$18. You may also sponsor a table at the event. A full table (8 seats) is \$400, and half a table is \$250.

The registration form is attached to this email. It can also be downloaded at <http://ncopengov.org>. If you have any questions, you can contact us at [ncopengov@elon.edu](mailto:ncopengov@elon.edu).

### **NCOGC looking for Open Government Hero Award nominations**

Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond to keep records or meetings open? Someone who deserves statewide recognition? The N.C. Open Government Coalition seeks nominations for its Open Government Hero Award, with a preference for someone in government who is doing it right. Please send an email with your nomination to [ncopengov@elon.edu](mailto:ncopengov@elon.edu).

### **Schools' lawsuit settlements recorded in closed session**

*Winston-Salem Journal*: The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school board can decide to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to settle lawsuits in closed sessions. Apparently, the board is working within its legal limits, but questions of openness have arisen.

Read more about the closed meeting here: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=957312>

### **Greensboro city councilman defends open meetings**

*Greensboro News & Record*: Trudy Wade was the only Greensboro city councilman to defend a policy that would prohibit closed-door meetings. She was on the short side of an 8-1 vote.

Read more about the change here: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=957522>

### **Lee County commissioners will fine-tune public records policy**

*Sanford Herald:* Lee County Attorney Dale Talbert will spend a month fine-tuning the country's public records policy, which was amended Nov. 14. The board has asked for some language to be clarified.

Read more about the vote here: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=957501>

## **Cost of records requests may rise**

*Raleigh News & Observer:* The Wake County school system may begin charging more for public records. A new Democratic board member has suggested charging for staff time for handling requests.

Read more about the records request here: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=957311>

## **Greensboro City Council working around open meetings laws**

*Rhino Times:* The Greensboro City Council has been meeting in small groups to conduct business out of the public eye.

Read the newspaper's staff editorial here: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=957251>

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**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](mailto:ncopengov@elon.edu).

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