

Sunshine Law

The Sunshine Law affects a lot of people. Are you one of them? You are if you serve on a board that receives public funds. Even if the organization is not a governmental agency, if they receive government funded grants or tax credits, they must comply with the Sunshine Law. So that could include your local utility board, soil and water conservation board, hospital board, library board . . . the list goes on.

That's a lot of people! And most of those people are volunteers who may not have a lot of opportunities to receive training. But even if you don't understand the requirements of the Sunshine Law, that doesn't excuse you from abiding by it.

For that reason, workshops on the Sunshine Law are being offered in the region. Tom Durkin, Public Education Director for the Missouri Attorney General's office, will be presenting a free workshop on Thursday, July 30 at 6:00 p.m. at the Benson Center in Clinton (1004 E. Sedalia St.). The workshop is specifically designed for volunteers who serve on boards that receive public funding.

The Sunshine Law is Missouri's open meetings law which requires publicly funded organizations to conduct open meetings and make records available to the public. Missouri's Sunshine Law was written to ensure that the public has the opportunity to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

The July 30 workshop will be conducted by the office of the Missouri Attorney General and is locally sponsored by University of Missouri Extension and the Henry County Economic Development Council.

Should interested persons not be able to attend the July 30 evening session in Clinton, they are also welcome to attend either a session at 2:00 p.m. on July 29 at the Johnson County Fairgrounds near Warrensburg or a session at 7:00 p.m. on July 29 at the Community Center in Higginsville. For more information or to register for one of the workshops contact the Extension Center at 660-885-5556.

This is a great opportunity for board members to receive highly credible information. Be sure to share this information with anyone you know who serves on a public board.