

ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE YOUTH COURTS

QUARTERLY MEETING—COLONIE, NY

FEBRUARY 12, 2008

**PRESENT:** Violet Colydas (Colonie Youth Court), Maria Danisi (Huntington Youth Court), Dawn Knight (Saratoga County Youth Court), Lisa Chamberlain (Saratoga County Youth Court), Nancy Cormier (Ulster County Youth Court), Susan Taskin (Clinton County Youth Court), Katherine Chambers (Warren County Youth Court), Courtney Strune (Warren County Youth Court), Stacey Whiteley (Bethlehem Youth Court), Judy Wolfe (Syracuse City School District Student Court), Jackie Sherman (Center for Courts and the Community), Dottie O'Neill-Marble (Livingston County Youth Court), Deb Holland (Ontario County Youth Court)

ANYSYC President Judy Wolfe called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM. Introductions were made.

**Membership Report:** The report was given by Violet Colydas. There are 26 active members, 28 total members, 2 youth members and 1 associate member. Susan Taskin will be responsible for updates to the directory.

Katherine Chambers initiated the discussion of the importance of having regional representatives. The following regional representative assignments were made:

<b>Michael Torrillo</b>	<b>Western</b>
<b>Maria Danisi</b>	<b>Long Island</b>
<b>Nancy Cormier</b>	<b>Mid-Hudson</b>
<b>Susan Taskin &amp; Katherine Chambers</b>	<b>Northeastern</b>
<b>Deb Holland</b>	<b>Finger Lakes</b>
<b>Judy Wolfe</b>	<b>Central</b>

At the previous quarterly meeting the need for committees was expressed. Those committees were identified. Discussion ensued regarding responsibilities of the following committees. The committees were staffed as follows:

**Membership:** Susan Taskin , Violet Colydas, Nancy Cormier

<b>Regions:</b>	<b>Lisa Chamberlain, Katherine Chambers</b>
<b>Special Events: Chambers</b>	<b>Maria Danisi, Nancy Cormier, Katherine Chambers</b>
<b>Training:</b>	<b>Katherine Chambers, Judy Wolfe, Deb Holland</b>
<b>By Laws &amp; Legislation, Elections:</b>	<b>Dottie O’Neill-Marble, Claire McKeon, Andy Placito, Jackie Sherman</b>
<b>Meetings:</b>	<b>Judy Wolfe, Katherine Chambers</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>Andy Placito</b>

Various revisions to the bylaws were discussed—position for past president, position of regional reps (purpose to encourage involvement, identify new courts, share information) and change to attrition of officers. When the committee makes their recommendations for amendments Judy will have the original creator of the bylaws review them.

Pros and Cons of creating a Youth Advisory Board were discussed. Since Youth Courts are youth driven, such a committee or discussion group is vital, yet getting youth out of school for meetings creates difficulty. Also they must have an advisor or moderator to keep on task. Jackie Sherman volunteered to look into ways of meeting electronically.

It was suggested by Andy Placito that a resolution be proposed to create an Advisory Board for the Association. That advisory board would reflect the agencies and associations that work with Juvenile Justice. Examples being, Chief Judges, Lawyers Association, NYS United Teachers, State Probation, etc. They would be "guides" to help us achieve our goals and perhaps meet at a yearly summit. Association members were encouraged to share with Andy any names they felt were appropriate. Judy would send a letter to those selected.

Nancy Cormier suggested that we be represented at annual state meetings of Probation and Juvenile Officers. Also, it would be useful for the head of NYS Probation to meet with us and talk about the referral process.

The New Mexico Youth Court Association is planning a golf tournament in April which will be a fundraising event for the National Association of Youth Courts. There are several opportunities for support and sponsorship with a request that each association sponsor a hole for \$250.00. There are now 21 associations in the nation. This would also require an electronic vote.

Andy shared that the 5 cent bottle deposit fund has not been encumbered and offered to look into the possibility of directing those \$ to YC.

Violet Colydas was one of 200 invitees to the "America's Youth Initiative" celebration. She went to the White House reception on 2/7/08 that was hosted in the East Room. Both the President and Laura Bush spoke and Violet shared her pictures with all present. More info. at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

Judy Wolfe suggested that the Association begin providing certificates recognizing YC trainees who successfully complete the program.

Jackie Sherman shared the January, 2008 NYS Bar Association Journal that featured an article written by her and Dory Hack. The article, "Preparing Young Citizens for Democracy", featured YouthCourts as a path to civic engagement.

**NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING: MAY 13, 2008 HOSTED BY ONTARIO COUNTY YOUTH COURT**

Respectfully Submitted by,

Deb Holland, Co-Secretary ANYSYC