

The Newsletter



ANYSYC's Mission

To act as a catalyst for the comprehensive development of Youth Courts across New York State, to maintain a juvenile justice alternative that is operated for and by youth, and to promote Youth Courts as an important feature of the juvenile justice services that seeks to improve juvenile justice outcomes for all community youth.

What you'll be missing if you don't attend the next ANYSYC meeting:

- **A FREE Lunch**
- **Networking**
- **Offender Class Training**
- **Member Training Ideas & Games**
- **Info Re: Next National Meeting**
- **Where We Are: Legislation**
- **Survey Results**
- **And Plenty More!**

Next ANYSYC Meeting:

May 2nd, 10 AM to 2 PM

Canandaigua, NY

Deb Holland of the Ontario County Youth Court hosting

Driving directions will be posted on the web

The Association of New York State Youth Courts Launches Quarterly Newsletter

After a year of planning, ANYSYC launches a quarterly newsletter.

The idea of a quarterly newsletter developed through a brainstorming session that occurred at an Association meeting in early 2005. The idea quickly caught hold and came to fruition.

According to Judy Wolfe ANYSYC 1st Vice President, and Co-Editor of the newsletter, "We really felt it was important to publicize what good things were happening with youth courts around New York State." As far as what she would like to see accomplished through the publication of the newsletter, Ms. Wolfe said, "Not only is it impor-

tant for youth courts to know what other courts are doing, but it is equally important for policy-makers and stakeholders to realize how successful the courts are in New York. By showing that the Association serves a purpose and is a good resource for youth courts throughout the state, we hope to increase our membership. Our goal is that every youth court in New York State becomes a member of the Association."

Ms. Wolfe would like to see the

newsletter become a forum that all New York State Youth Courts can utilize for their benefit. Ms. Wolfe concluded, "Send in your stories, pictures, articles, and ideas. We welcome your input and would love ideas as to what members would like to see included in upcoming issues."



Judy Wolfe, ANYSYC, 1st Vice President

For further information regarding upcoming issues and how you can

include your court's submission, contact Judy Wolfe at jjwolfe26@scsd.us or Stacey Whiteley at byc261@yahoo.com.

OJJDP and NYCC Honor Andy Placito

Andy Placito who has been a strong advocate for NYS Youth Courts and spear-headed the creation of the Association of NYS Youth Courts was honored recently at the State Youth Court Association and Networking Group meeting in Washington, DC on



Andy Placito

March 14-15, 2005.

Former Colonie Youth Court Director and current Youth Development & Juvenile Justice Specialist for OJJDP, Scott Peterson, presented

Andy with the award stating, "Andy has a genuine interest in youth court and his dedication to the national

youth court movement in certainly reflected by what is going on in NYS. With over 110 youth courts in New York State, Andy and the dedicated folks who run these programs deserve recognition for their united approach in offering high quality services to the youth and families served in these programs."

ANYSYC congratulates Andy Placito for this honor.

HOLDING COURT FOR THEIR PEERS

By Mary Ellen Pereir (Newsday.com 2/27/05)

North Shore Oyster Bay Youth Court
-Jennifer VanderSchuyt, Director
Currently, 75 students are NSOBYC members
nsobythct@yahoo.com

A group of 54 students from Nassau high schools was recently inducted into the North Shore Boys and Girls Club's Youth Court, a court run by youth for youth. The volunteers join 19 returning members who meet weekly at the club housed at the Oyster Bay Community Center in Glen Head to hear cases of first time offenders who have committed misdemeanors or lesser crimes. The youth court members rotate positions as prosecuting and defense attorneys, judge, clerk or jurors.

sau County Probation Department and guides the proceedings with help from youth court counselor John Jackson, a counselor at North Shore Middle School in Glen Head. "The 10-week training program begins in October, and students are inducted into youth court in January," VanderSchuyt said.

Girls Club. "The cases are confidential, dealing with issues such as malicious mischief, vandalism or shoplifting." The students hold trials and are responsible for deciding the fate of their peers. Sentences usually range from 10 to 30 hours of community service to letters of apology, essays, and/or a commitment to participate in future proceedings as a bailiff or juror. Youth Court members hail from Herricks, Jericho, North Shore, Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy, Roselyn and Syosset high schools. Volunteers and offenders gain insight into the legal process and learn about the various careers within the court system.

Jennifer VanderSchuyt, director of the youth court program, trains the youth court members, chooses the cases referred by the Nas-

"I review the cases received from probation, and meet with the defendants and their parents to make sure the cases are appropriate for the court." The first time offenders have to admit their guilt and have their parents sign a consent form," said George Esernio, president of the Boys and

Youth News

Jessica Kye Fredette-SCSD Student Court



Jessica Kye Fredette

Nottingham High School senior Jessica Kye Fredette was appointed by Governor Pataki to sit as a member of the New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, which meets four to six times per year in Albany, NY. Jessica has been involved in youth courts since she was 13

years old, serving on the Onondaga County Youth Court and for the past four years as a member of the Syracuse City School District's Student Court.

She's an outstanding student who was involved in numerous leadership activities, DECA,

swimming and lifeguarding. She has won state oratorical competitions, which has enhanced her skills in court. Jessica is currently a freshman at Seton Hall, where she was a recipient of the Martin Luther King Scholarship.

Becky Rouland-Ontario County Youth Court

Becky Rouland is now a senior at Midlakes High School. According to an article published last year in The Daily Messenger, Becky was at first reluctant to get involved in Youth Court due to the amount of public speaking that was required as a participant. Now she sits on the

Ontario County Youth Court's steering committee and helps train new members. She's now a natural defense attorney, having the ability to draw out the good qualities. Becky is also involved on another court, the volleyball court. Becky believes that the skills she has learned

from team sports; cooperation and team work, have helped her in Youth Court. Becky hopes to play Division III volleyball while attending college and is considering pursuing a career in pediatrics or forensic chemistry.

"She's just a real neat person. She interacts so well with everyone. Her personal skills are great. She has a sense of self-confidence and an outstanding presence."
-Deb Holland, Coordinator
Ontario County Youth Court

Do you know a youth participant that should be featured in *The Newsletter*?

Let us know! byc261@yahoo.com

1ST QUARTER ASSOCIATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On February 16, 2006 Colonie Youth Court hosted the 1st Quarter ANYSYC meeting. A number of items were on the agenda and guest speakers, Scott Peterson, Program Manager of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and Michael Elmendorf, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Special Assistant to Governor Pataki were scheduled to address the group.

Membership numbers were first on the agenda. 33 Youth Courts have signed on as Association members. The Association is working hard to reach non-member Youth Courts and bring them on board.

Each attending Association member was assigned to act as a point of contact to

several youth courts that are not yet active participants. The role of these points of contacts is to educate and inform regarding upcoming ANYSYC meetings and to encourage their assigned Youth Courts to attend.

Also discussed was the recent "blue" survey results. In December 2005, a brief survey was mailed to all known youth courts in New York State. Fifty two courts responded, giving the Association a good starting point. A second, more detailed, "yellow" survey has been created and will be mailed to those courts that responded to the "blue" survey. It was decided that both surveys should be mailed to those courts who have not responded as of yet. The survey will also be available for download on the Association's web site. The purpose of the surveys is to collect relevant data regarding "active" courts in the state so the Association can better serve its members.

Vacancies on the board were filled by Susan Taskin (Clinton County) and Kevin

Crumb (Oneida County). Further the position of treasurer was filled by Stacey Whiteley (Bethlehem) and the position of secretary will remain open, being filled by attending members until a secretary is elected.

The Association has agreed to look into the publication of a booklet that would provide juvenile legal information in "lay person"

and on the web site). Mr. Peterson outlined the actions that will be taken on a national level for the continued expansion of the youth court movement. Mr. Peterson also suggested that the Association "piggyback" on a national conference that will be occurring in September in Colonie, NY. Mr. Peterson advised that the time is now for the creation of an action plan that will bring much needed attention (and



ANYSYC members pose with M. Elmendorf, Assistant to Gov. Pataki and A. Placito of NYS DCJS

possible funding) to the Association and to New York youth courts as a whole through the contact and education of the state legislature. Mr. Peterson offered his support and continued guidance as the Association works on this project.

Michael Elmendorf, a staunch supporter of the Youth Court movement, offered his words of encouragement for the Association and presented certificates of recognition, signed by Governor Pataki, to each of the attending youth courts. Mr. Elmendorf also presented Mr. Peterson with a special commendation and a New York State flag for his dedication to the Youth Courts of New York State.

The meeting concluded with each member leaving with an assignment and looking forward toward the next meeting on May 2nd in Canandaigua, NY with Deb Holland of the Ontario County Youth Court hosting.

terms to be made available to the public. A discussion was also had regarding the services the Association can offer its members. A reference library was suggested. It was decided that to jump start this process, at the next Association meeting, each attendee would present a brief (10 to 15 minute) presentation regarding an educational class or training session that they have had particular success with.

All relevant information (hand outs, power points) will be provided for dissemination to the Association members.

Scott Peterson was introduced and spoke regarding the recent national meeting involving state youth court associations (more details regarding the national meeting will be provided in the next newsletter



Scott Peterson, OJJD, with Michael Elmendorf



WWW.NYSYOUTH COURTS.ORG



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500 John J. Audubon Parkway
Amherst, New York 14226

WWW.NYSYOUTHCOURTS.ORG

ANYSYC NEEDS YOU!

The Association is working towards forwarding the cause of all New York State Youth/Teen/Peer and Student Courts. We can only do this if all NY Youth Courts are involved. Join the Association, there is strength in numbers. Applications are available at nysyouthcourts.org. Together we can make our voices heard!

ANYSYC Member Courts 2006

Allegany County Youth Court
Bethlehem Youth Court
Brookhaven Youth Court
Cattaraugus County Youth Court
City of Elmira Youth Court
City of Peekskill Youth Bureau Youth
Court Clinton County Youth Court
Colonie Youth Court
Greenburgh Youth Court
Huntington Youth Court
Jamestown Youth Court
Livingston County Youth Court
New Rochelle Youth Court

Niagara Falls Youth Court
North Shore Oyster Bay Youth Court
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
Olean Area Youth Court
Onondaga County Youth Court
Ontario County Youth Court
Orleans County Youth Court
Oswego County/City Youth Court
Owego Youth Court
Red Hook and Harlem Youth Courts
Red Hook Youth Court
Saratoga County Youth Court

Schenectady Youth Court
Schuyler County Youth Court
SCSD Student Court
Town of Horseheads Youth Court
Town of Stony Point Youth Court
Ulster County Youth Court
Yonkers Youth Court
Youth Court of Jefferson County



Officers

Michael Torrillo, Amherst Youth Court
President

Judy Wolfe, SCSD Student Court Program
1st Vice-President

Eric Watkins, Tioga County Youth Court
2nd Vice-President

Vacant
Secretary

Stacey Whiteley, Bethlehem Youth Court
Treasurer

Board of Directors

Two Year Term

Kathryn Barnard, Warren County YC
Violet Colydas, Colonie YC
Nancy Cormier, Ulster County YC
Sienna Markel, Allegany County YC
Michael Vincent, Jefferson County YC
Cookie Waller, Rochester TC

One Year Term

Lisa Chamberlain, Saratoga County YC
Susan Taskin, Clinton County YC
Kevin Crumb, Oneida County YC