

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's on the Agenda for the 3rd Quarter ANYSYC meeting:

- **Member Training Ideas & Games (Rescheduled)**
- **Review of National Meeting (June 7-10)**
- **Upcoming Membership Drive**
- **Youth Court Month Plans and Celebrations**
- **Fundraising Issues**
- **Statewide Summit Discussion/Planning**
- **Networking**
- **And Plenty More!**

**Next ANYSYC Meeting:
August 8th 10am to 2PM
Syracuse, NY**

Judy Wolfe of the SCSD Student Court will be hosting

Driving directions will be posted on the web.

The First National Meeting of State Associations is Held in New Orleans

In February 2006 the first national meeting involving state youth court associations and networking groups was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Officers from eighteen associations and networking groups were invited to attend this planning conference sponsored by the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and coordinated by Scott Peterson, Federal Youth Court Program Coordinator.

The goal of this first meeting was to explore and develop



Some of the National Meeting Participants

timelines for the implementation of necessary projects and agendas that will benefit and further the cause of youth courts on a national basis. During this two and a half day conference, breakout groups were held in order facilitate discussion over methods to achieve identified goals. Topics under discussion were: the creation of a national 12 year

report; the development of a web site and logo; national fundraising activities; 100 things everyone should know; national youth court month



ANYSYC Members with Scott Peterson at the National Meeting

celebrations and proclamations; partnerships; legislation; youth summits; the establishment of a Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Advisory Board and the creation of a name for the national "association". Each state association was assigned leads or co-leads in three of the eighteen committees established to further develop these topics. ANYSYC was assigned to co-lead the Committees and Meetings committee and the National Youth Court Month Proclamation committee. ANYSYC was also assigned to a secondary role in the development of the 12 year report.

These committees were charged with working on their

respective assignments and reporting back at the next national committee meeting, which is scheduled for June 7th through 10th in New Orleans. As of this writing, the ANYSYC members who participated in the conference; Violet Colydas, Colonie Youth Court; Stacey Whiteley, Bethlehem Youth Court; Judy Wolfe, SCSD Student Court; and Eric Watkins, Owego County Youth Court report that The 12 Year Report Committee and National Youth Court Month Proclamation Committee have work in hand to present and will continue to work on the assignments at the next meeting. Development of the Committees and Meeting Committees is not moving as quickly as desired due to the fluctuation of funding and sponsorship.

A detailed report from the first national meeting is available on the ANYCYS web page.



ANYSYC Members display their state sign



National Youth Service Days 2006

Clinton County Youth Court Program created a colorful, cheerful mural in a visitation room for foster care children and their parents.

The Saratoga County Youth Court concentrated their project in the Stillwater area. The participants worked to brighten up the community center and town hall through planting flowers, removing debris, and general yard work. Several volunteers also helped with supply donations for an after school program.

The Youth Court of Jefferson County assisted the Town of Wartetown Historical Society with the conservation of a NYS map that dates back to the 1800's. The Youth Court's participation in this project has developed into a larger project that will involve the restoration of an old school house.

The Colonie Youth Court completed an Adopt-a-Cemetery project. The Fonda cemetery, which contains many of Jane Fonda's ancestors burial plots was chosen for this project. Volunteers and staff planted flowers, cleared weeds and fallen tree limbs, and painted the fencing around the cemetery. This project was done in conjunction with the Colonie Town Historian and the Town's Environmental Services.

Bethlehem Youth Court built and planted a raised vegetable garden bed for a local rest home. The vegetables that were planted were selected by the home's residents. Youth Court participants will assist the residents throughout the summer in the care and upkeep of the garden.



The City of Yonkers Youth Court, utilizing more than 50 volunteers, beautified a local park. The volunteers planted flowers and spruced up the park, concentrating on an area dedicated to a veteran's memorial.

2nd QUARTER ASSOCIATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The 2nd quarter ANYSYC meeting was held in Canandaigua NY and hosted by Deb Holland. The meeting was well attending and provided an opportunity for networking and reviewing all that our courts have been doing since the last meeting. President Michael Torrillo opened the meeting with discussion regarding the national meeting. Information was contributed by those ANYSYC members that were involved in the first meeting.



Mike Torrillo and Judy Wolfe

The state wide directory was then reviewed. Members worked over the past few months to determine what Youth Courts were in existence and to ensure

the information that was included in the directory was correct. Information collected was reviewed and the directory was updated. According to this update, at least 18 youth courts, thought to be active, are not in existence. A complete and edited directory will be available to ANYSYC members by the next association meeting.

The newsletter and website were discussed. Under discussion was the association maintaining the web-site in house. Further investigation regarding the feasibility of this will occur prior to the next meeting.

The "yellow" survey results were revealed and discussed.

These results will be made available on the web site.

A working lunch which was paid for by the association followed. Discussions were held regarding other methods that could be utilized to encourage increased member participation in quarterly meetings. Suggestions included hardship "grants" to assist courts that can not afford to travel to the meetings. Also suggested was a flat reimbursement rate to assist with travel costs. A formal discussion regarding these proposals is slated for the next meeting.



Susan Taskin and David Palen

Educational class presentations were rescheduled due to time restraints. The next association meeting is scheduled for August 8th in Syracuse, NY hosted by

Judy Wolfe of the SCSD Student Court.

Law Day Activities

May 1st

On May 1, the Smith Opera House in Geneva, New York hosted the premier of "Youth for Justice" a mock hearing featuring the members of Ontario County Youth Court. As the "stars" arrived, they were photographed and interviewed by Rochester City Teen Court members and director, Cookie Waller. Over 100 guests listened as Joan Harrison (District Representative for Senator Dale Volker) delivered the keynote address describing the benefits of civic engagement offered by the Youth Court program. Ontario County Sheriff Phil Povero congratulated Youth Court on their accomplishments and those present also learned what other civically engaged youth are achieving for the community, Project Stream, Boys and Girls Club of Geneva, Youth of the Year and mentoring programs all shared their accomplishments with a very appreciative audience. Geneva Town Justice, Mark Venuti completed the program with an interactive lesson on our civil liberties! "Youth for Justice" will be copied and sent to all the school districts in Ontario County for use as a volunteer recruitment tool.



The stars of "Youth for Justice" at the premiere

The Bethlehem Youth Court celebrated Law Day 2006 by inviting a local Girl Scout service unit to participate in a story book mock hearing based on the "Three Little Pigs" story. The Big Bad Wolf was appearing at Youth Court for sentencing for his arrest for criminal mischief. The Girl Scouts split into five juries to decide Mr. Wolf's fate. The young ladies in grades 1 through 4 arrived at a number of sentencing recommendations that ranged from community service, to restitution, to baking cookies for the little pigs. Following the mock hearing, the members and the Girl Scouts enjoyed some refreshments and got a chance to meet each other, talk about Youth Court, and discuss the sentencing recommendation. All enjoyed the Law Day celebration and plans for next year's mock hearing are already underway.



The Bethlehem Youth Court mock hearing participants with the Girl Scouts

Congratulations To...

The Town of Babylon Youth Court initiative was announced on May 1st. Their steering committee has begun their work. The first cases are expected to be heard in early 2007. Good Luck Babylon Youth Court!

And News From Livingston County Youth Court

Hillside Children's Center's (HCC) Livingston County Youth Court has been working closely in recent months with representatives from the two houses of the New York State legislature to build awareness of the program throughout the community.

HCC Youth Court Coordinator Dottie O'Neill-Marble and Hillside representatives recently met with State Senator Dale Volker (R-Depew) and Assemblyman Joe Errigo (R-Conesus) to explain the youth court program and how it benefits the community. The legislators were also asked for their guidance on methods to sustain the program.

After the initial meeting, O'Neill-Marble was invited by Assemblymen Errigo to join him as a guest on the program *Positive Talk with Steve*, which aired May 20 on radio station Legends 990 WLGZ in Rochester, NY.

"We want to take the time to acknowledge and thank Senator Volker and Assemblyman Errigo for their time, guidance, and support of Hillside Children's Center's Livingston County Youth Court," says O'Neill-Marble.

Do you have a news item or picture you would like to share with other courts? Send it to Stacey Whiteley at bye261@yahoo.com to be included in the next Association newsletter.



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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 voice 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 YC
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
Dottie O'Neal-Marlbe, Livingston County YC
David Palen, Onondaga County YC
Deb Holland, Ontario County YC