



*Association of  
New York State  
Youth Courts*



*Mission Statement:*

*To assist in the development and expansion of Youth Courts and peer based diversion opportunities as an essential part of both the juvenile justice system and school disciplinary proceedings; to promote positive youth development, restorative practices and evidence based programs within these systems; and to establish and foster a strong network of practitioners to provide resources and support as well as collaborate and strategize on best practices.*

## Happy New Year!



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As we welcome in the new year we are offered an opportunity to close one chapter and start a brand new one. With 2017 behind us, chapter 2018 has finally begun. We are given 365 new pages, in turn, offering us 365 new chances. Lets take this opportunity to write our story the way we want it to be written. The best way to make it happen is to set goals, stay positive, work hard, live well, love often and laugh always.

# Nassau County Youth Court



*Congratulations*

*City of Elmira*

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, the City of Elmira Youth Court and Lisa Miller, held a New Member Induction. They have honored and introduced 37 new members into their already thriving program. All boys and girls that were inducted were each given a certificated of completion signed by the ANYSYC President, Claire McKeon. We understand that life gets in the way and schedules, for some, can be very congested. We would like to congratulate all those who have successfully completed their training and made it to Induction Day. Dr. Seuss once said "Step with care and great tact, and remember that life's a great balancing act."

## Don't Quit

Your body can stand almost anything, It's your mind that you have to convince not to quit. Good luck to all those counties and towns that are currently in the middle of training. Classes can be rough and very time consuming but its all worth it in the end. Induction is around the corner and the greatest positions await.

For those counties and towns who have made it to induction, Congratulations. We know that it is not easy when school schedules and extra curricular activities combine, but we know that these volunteers are outstanding individuals. Making it through to induction speaks volumes of one character, and I like to think they have their Youth Court Directors, Co-Directors or Coordinators to thank for a part of that.

Congratulations to all who have successfully completed yet another great year. We look forward to seeing pictures in the Newsletters to come.

# LAW DAY!



Separa-

tion of

## Powers: Framework for Freedom

The U.S. Constitution sets out a system of government with distinct and independent branches—Congress, the Presidency, and a Supreme Court. It also defines legislative, executive, and judicial powers and outlines how they interact. These three separate branches share power, and each branch serves as a check on the power of the others. “Ambition must be made to counteract ambition,” James Madison explained in Federalist 51. Why? Madison believed that the Constitution’s principles of separation of powers and checks and balances preserve political liberty. They provide a framework for freedom. Yet, this framework is not self-executing. We the people must continually act to ensure that our constitutional democracy endures, preserving our liberties and advancing our rights. The Law Day 2018 theme enables us to reflect on the separation of powers as fundamental to our constitutional purpose and to consider how our governmental system is working for ourselves and our posterity.

For more information on this year’s Law Day, [click here](#)

## ANYSYC'S ANDY PLACITO

Andrew “Andy” Placito, joined the New York State Department of Corrections after the Attica riots where he instituted a release program for those incarcerated with a year to their parole board. The program was designed to address recidivism of career offenders and assist them in the readjustment into their home and community. Although this was a step forward in the criminal justice system it still did not address the root of the problem. Corrections had shown that those incarcerated started their criminal activities at an early age and their recidivism rate kept rising. Andy believed that something more could be done and had to be done. Andy transferred to the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) where he worked with various state and federally funded programs throughout the state. His role was to assist these programs to grow and become self sustaining in their communities. The most rewarding of these programs was Youth Court.

Then Governor George Pataki, included in his State of the State address the establishment of youth courts, as a deterrent to juvenile crime, across New York State. Andy was asked to be the program manager/DCJS representative of this pilot program. Thirty-five (35) communities across the state were selected to establish a youth court in their community modeled after the Colonie Youth Court Program. Those 35 selected communities were brought to Albany for a one day information/intensive training program. Their charge was to establish a youth court program in their community, with funding made available from DCJS.

A year later over 75 youth courts reconvened in Albany for their first Youth Court Conference in November 1999 to exchange matters of interest, to share ideas and develop the Association of New York State Youth Courts. An organizing committee was established with members of the youth courts and shortly thereafter the Association was incorporated and granted a 501C3 not-for-profit status from the federal government. The number of youth courts in New York State has grown to over 100 and has become one of the nations leading youth court programs in the country offering training, technical assistance and leadership.

Since Andy’s retirement in 2007, he has remained involved with the youth court program. The most rewarding and fulfilling part of his retirement are his grandchildren. Andy also fills his time by volunteering at assisted living facilities as a barber, traveling, fishing, golf and making wine with his sons.

## ***A Message from the President...***

***Hello and Happy Summer!***

***We adopted a revised mission statement at our last meeting and it is my hope that we all embrace the spirit of these words:***

***To assist in the development and expansion of Youth Courts and peer based diversion opportunities as an essential part of both the juvenile justice system and school disciplinary proceedings; to promote positive youth development, restorative practices and evidence based programs within these systems; and to establish and foster a strong network of practitioners to provide resources and support as well as collaborate and strategize on best practices.***

***Many thanks to Arianne Reyer for so eloquently putting our thoughts into words.***

***Best Regards,***

***Claire McKeon***

## ANYSYC MEMBERSHIP

**General Membership:** The general membership of the Association shall consist of a NYS youth court employee assigned to full or part time work with young offenders/ activities. The general member has the right to vote when in attendance of a quarterly business meeting by phone, video conferencing, or in person and includes lunch at meetings. (May sign up one person on a general membership)

**Preferred Membership:** The preferred membership of the Association shall consist of a NYS youth court employee assigned to full or part time work with young offenders/ activities. The preferred member has the right to one vote per court when in attendance of a quarterly business meeting by phone, video conferencing, or in person. Additional privileges at this level of membership include travel stipends to meetings, a youth scholarship option, lunch at meetings, reduced conference fees, and additional website accessibility. (May sign up two persons on a preferred membership)

**Advisory Membership:** Any persons in allied fields of delinquency prevention or persons who support the objectives and purposes of this Association and do not qualify for general or preferred membership. This level of membership includes lunch at meetings, but does not include the right to vote or hold office in the Association.

**Full Court Membership:** Any active NYS Youth Court program can purchase a group youth membership for all its youth members for the period of one school year—September 1—August 31. This can also be purchased in addition to one of the 3 levels of membership above.

**Youth Membership:** High school or middle school student actively involved in a youth court program.

For more information regarding membership and pricing please contact

[Violet Palombo](#)

**Association of New York State Youth Courts**

**C/o Violet Palombo**

**Colonie Youth Court**

**312 Wolf Road Latham, NY 12110**

## Next ANYSYC Meeting

Conference call

**Thursday, March 29 2018 - 11AM**



### ANYSYC OFFICERS

President	Claire McKeon, Town of Babylon Youth Court
Vice President	Katherine Chambers, Warren County Youth Court
Treasurer	Violet Palombo, Colonie Youth Court
Secretary	Katrina Charland, Bethlehem Youth Court

### BOARD OF ADVISORS

Amy Fialkowski, Wyoming County Youth Court  
Katrina Charland, Bethlehem Youth Court

Submissions for the ANYSYC Newsletter must be received by deadline date  
Deadline for the next Newsletter is Thursday, March 23, 2018

Please direct all questions to Rebecca at the contact information below

### Contact Us

Claire McKeon—  
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Katherine Chambers—  
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Membership Questions?  
Violet Palombo—  
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### ANYSYC NEWSLETTER

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