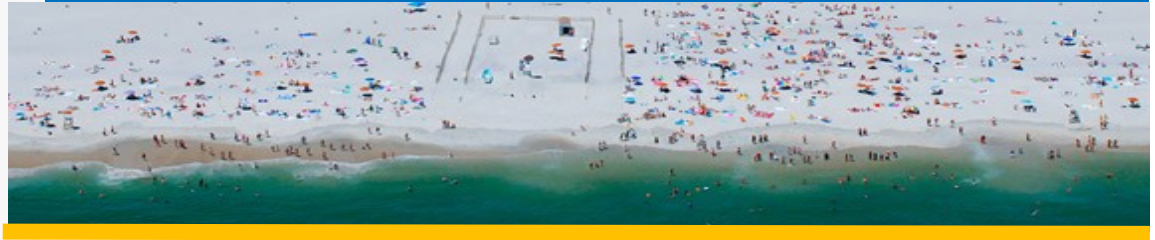




*Association of
New York State
Youth Courts*



Mission Statement:

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 seek to improve juvenile justice outcomes for all community youth.

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Law Day 2016

MIRANDA more than words

LAW DAY, U.S.A., 2016

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Underpinning American democracy and upholding the founding principles of our Nation, the law enshrines our bedrock belief in equality and justice for all. Central to securing these ideals is ensuring that every American's fundamental, constitutionally-guaranteed individual rights are protected, and by respecting these rights, our Nation demonstrates its unwavering dedication to the law. Our fidelity to the rule of law has guided our country in times of trial and triumph, and it helps us keep faith with our Founders and with generations to come.

On this year's Law Day, we celebrate 50 years since the Supreme Court's ruling in *Miranda v. Arizona*. This landmark decision made clear that the Fifth Amendment "...serves to protect persons in all settings in which their freedom of action is curtailed in any significant way from being compelled to incriminate themselves." *Miranda v. Arizona* institutionalized the important practice of explaining constitutional rights prior to interrogation. And it established the important general rule that individuals interrogated in police custody cannot have their answers admitted into evidence against them unless they had first been informed of their rights -- including the right to remain silent and the right to have an attorney present.

The Court's decision in *Miranda v. Arizona* affirmed that "Equal Justice Under Law" is more than just words, but a cornerstone of our Nation's legal system - the idea that no matter who you are or where you come from, you will be treated equally and afforded due process. Today, our society faces new challenges to this age-old tenet. Our criminal justice system is in serious need of reform; disparities in stops, arrests, and sentencing persist; and in too many places distrust exists between community members and law enforcement officers. I am committed to ensuring our Nation's criminal justice system is fair, smart, and effective. By engaging people across America, my Task Force on 21st Century Policing has provided a roadmap for strengthening

relationships between local police and the communities they serve, helping to uphold the integrity of our criminal justice system. My Administration has also taken action to address unfair sentencing disparities that undermine the equitable application of the law, and we will continue working to bring greater fairness to our criminal justice system and to ensure that the rule of law remains the foundation of our country.

Miranda v. Arizona imparts an important lesson: Knowledge of our constitutional rights is an essential component to fully exercising those rights. Safeguarding the promise of equal justice requires the participation of all our citizens, and across America, community and court programs that offer civic education and prepare members of the public to fulfill their civic responsibilities are vital to this task.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, the author of the Supreme Court's decision in Miranda v. Arizona, once observed that, "In civilized life, law floats in a sea of ethics." The law informs right from wrong -- it affects the daily reality of our lives and safeguards the birthrights of all Americans. On Law Day, let us recommit to building a future rooted in the rule of law, in which our laws apply equally to everyone and all our children know a fair and just world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, in accordance with Public Law 87-20, as amended, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2016, as Law Day, U.S.A. I call upon all Americans to acknowledge the importance of our Nation's legal and judicial systems with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and to display the flag of the United States in support of this national observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

BARACK OBAMA

Genesee County Youth Court Celebrates Law Day



The Genesee County Youth Court's members participated in a Mock trial on Tuesday May 3rd.

The group also acknowledged its seniors who will be attending college this fall.

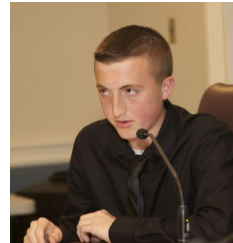
The Youth Court has 26 members representing six area school districts. Some of its senior members were sworn-in back in December 2011.

Submitted By: Chelsea Dillion

Babylon Youth Court Celebrates Law Day



The Town of Babylon Youth Court celebrated Law Day on Wednesday May 18, 2016 with a Mock Trial that focused on the importance of an individual's Miranda rights. Several members of the Youth Court dedicated weeks of training and preparation work to the Law Day mock trial. The Law Day celebration is also a special occasion because it is one of the few times the parents of the Youth Court members actually get to witness their kids "in action." There were distinguished guests in attendance that evening as the Youth Court members performed their mock trial for two Babylon Town board members Tom Donnelly and Jackie Gordon, two Youth Board members Al James and Lamont Wilson, the Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature DuWayne Gregory and the newly appointed Suffolk County Police Commissioner Tim Sini. Commissioner Sini is a former federal prosecutor and had a very moving and encouraging speech he delivered to the Youth Court members at the conclusion of the mock trial. There were several senior members of the Youth Court present that were also recognized by Claire McKeon and Melissa Morman for their dedication and hard work they have shown over the past few years.



Submitted By:
Melissa Morman
Babylon Youth Court
Coordinator

Bethlehem: May 2016

Bethlehem Youth Court recently wrapped their spring training program for new members. In total, 17 new volunteers were inducted during a ceremony held at Bethlehem Town Hall on May 10th. The Induction Ceremony was combined with the annual Law Day celebration and featured a keynote address delivered by Albany County District Attorney, David Soares. The event also highlighted the Judge Jordan Memorial scholarship competition, during which senior Youth Court members presented oral arguments to a panel of judges in front of the entire audience. The first place, \$750 scholarship recipient was senior Youth Court member, Timothy Mueller. The second place, \$250 scholarship winner was Nanaka Suzuki.

The combined Induction Ceremony and Law Day event was a tremendous success and a wonderful opportunity to showcase Youth Court members' talents to the broader community.



Left to right: Officer Berben representing the Police Benevolent Association; Nanaka Suzuki, second place winner of the Judge Jordan Memorial scholarship; Timothy Mueller, first place winner of the Judge Jordan Memorial Scholarship; Sgt. Steve Kraz of the Bethlehem Police Supervisors' Association.

Submitted By: Katrina Charland

Bethlehem Youth Court



CONGRATULATIONS
2016 ANYSYC SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS!

YOUTH COURT ESSAY WINNERS

SOPHIA CASABONNE FROM COLONIE YOUTH COURT
&
JOSEPH LOFFREDO FROM ONTARIO COUNTY YOUTH COURT

JUDGE JUDITH KAYE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER
KELSEY SCOTT-AVERY FROM GENESEE COUNTY YOUTH COURT

PLEASE READ ON FOR THE WINNING ESSAYS AND BIOS OF THE WINNERS.

What do you want to be when you grow up? This seemingly simple yet deceptively profound question has been poised to me countless times in my eighteen years. My answer has changed drastically over time: a princess at three, a teacher at five, and a doctor at eight. Now when people ask me this all-too-familiar question they expect to hear a concrete answer, but I cannot give them one. I do not know exactly what I want to be, but I know what I want to do—I want to serve.

I aspire to become an individual who will shape our world with vision, charity, and justice. Youth Court has guided me in the pursuit by allowing me to forge a critical and compassionate perspective on both society and myself through volunteerism. My decision to become a member of Colonie Youth Court during my sophomore year of high school was the most profound choice I have made so far in my life. I fell in love with Youth Court at my first training meeting. I looked around and realized that only community service could unite people of different races, religions, and backgrounds. We were all striving to make our community a better, more welcoming place, and our differences ultimately seemed irrelevant. I decided to dedicate my high school career to servant leadership that night, and I have not looked back since.

During my time as a member of Youth Court, I have been granted the opportunity to serve my community alongside countless individuals who inspire me every day with their dedication and empathy. I have witnessed some terrible circumstance through my journey with Youth Court, such as teenage homelessness and substance abuse. Though there are awful and unfair occurrences in my community every day, I refuse to let myself become jaded. How could I not be inspired by the Youth Court participants who fulfill their sentences and strive to transform their lives? When I get discouraged about a particular case, I remember how empowered I felt at that first meeting. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve my community through the Youth Court program. Servant leadership has taught me to tackle the challenges of tomorrow by setting our world aflame today.

I have chosen to continue my education next fall at American University, located in Washington, D.C. I believe an American University education will guide me in my pursuit of service by developing me both as a student and a leader. The rigorous, engaging curriculum at the School of International Service will undoubtedly push me to academic success through its interdisciplinary approach to international relations. My time in Youth Court has taught me that any single disciplinary perspective cannot solve today's world issues. Rather, creative and informed responses cultivated by many different viewpoints are our only hope at resolving complicated global dilemmas.

I believe I deserve the ANYSYC scholarship because I have demonstrated great civic responsibility through my dedication to the Youth Court program. Youth Court impacted my life in so many ways, and I hope to continue to grow as a servant leader during college. I want to bring my Youth Court experiences with me to college, so I can make a positive impact on my community and the world. This scholarship would allow Youth Court to continue to influence my life even after I graduate high school.

SOPHIA CASABONNE IS A SENIOR AT SHAKER HIGH SCHOOL AND A MEMBER OF THE COLONIE YOUTH COURT. SHE WILL STUDY IN THE HONORS PROGRAM AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN THE FALL, WHERE SHE WILL DOUBLE MAJOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND RUSSIAN STUDIES. SOPHIA HAS BEEN A COLONIE YOUTH COURT MEMBER FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, AND HAS GREATLY ENJOYED HER TIME IN THE PROGRAM. YOUTH COURT INSPIRED SOPHIA TO WISH TO ATTEND LAW SCHOOL AFTER HER UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM, AND BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER. SHE IS VERY GRATEFUL TO HAVE RECEIVED AN ANNUAL YOUTH COURT SCHOLARSHIP, AND HOPES TO CONTINUE THE GREAT WORK OF COLONIE YOUTH COURT IN COLLEGE!



Every month for the past four years, I have walked into courts with the goal of achieving justice in our society. I have listened to the stories of youth in need of a second chance. I have prosecuted, defended, judged and deliberated on those who have experienced tough circumstances. Put simply, over these years I have come to define Youth Courts as an opportunity. Youth Court is not only an opportunity for defendants to take responsibility for their actions and to gain life skills, but it's an opportunity for youth like me to make a difference and to have a positive impact on our society. I am grateful for my membership in Youth Court, and proud of the work I have done.

I joined Ontario County Youth Court during my freshman year in order to gain experience in a profession I hope to one day join. Like many, I believe Youth Court was a chance to practice courtroom procedure, but I have found that Youth Court is something bigger. The things I've seen and done have affirmed my belief that we are doing amazing work. Youth Court has allowed me to meet people of various backgrounds and I am proud to say I have helped make a difference in many lives. As a member of OCYC Steering Committee, I have been able to lead our program, helping create new sentences, recruit volunteers and design our first website. Furthermore, my dedication to helping youth through OCYC has allowed me to be the first youth representative on the Partnership for Ontario County's Partnership for Success Coalition, a group of community leaders working through a grant focused on opiate abuse in our county. Heroin is a growing issue and as a part of this coalition, I have helped organize forums in order to communicate this problem to the community.

Without Youth Court, I would not have this opportunity and this is why Youth Court means so much to me. Overall, I believe my experience has made me a more responsible and compassionate citizen. Our work has shown me the importance of advocating for children and ensuring their well being. In turn, these experiences have shaped my educational and occupational goals.

Academically, I have two main interests: computers and politics. In today's digital world, patterns in elections and social problems can be uncovered through big data. Through this, our society can be sure that we will not make the same mistakes that have brought us some of our darkest moments. In college, I plan to study computer science and political science because I dream of being a person who can utilize skills in technology, and apply them to the social spectrums. Through my experiences with OCYC and the coalition, I have seen patterns in juvenile crime and drug addiction. I believe if we can numerically determine the red flags for these problems, we can develop policies and education to solve these issues. Simply, Youth Court has inspired the way I want to help society.

Youth Court has done so much for me and earning a scholarship would be an honor. I believe I deserve this scholarship because I have been a staunch supporter of everything our program does. I firmly believe in the principles of restorative justice and have worked hard to share these ideas. I am proud of what I have done as a part of OCYC and I hope to be able to continue this work throughout my life.

HERE IS A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME:

I AM FROM VICTOR, NEW YORK AND THIS YEAR I AM GRADUATING FROM VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS. I HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE ONTARIO COUNTY YOUTH COURT SINCE NOVEMBER 2012 AND HAVE SERVED ON OCYC'S STEERING COMMITTEE SINCE MAY 2013. DURING THIS TIME, I HAVE HELPED CREATE NEW SENTENCING OPTIONS AND WAS PART OF THE GROUP THAT CREATED OCYC'S FIRST WEBSITE. ON BEHALF OF OCYC, I SPOKE AT THE NEW YORK BAR ASSOCIATION'S LAW, YOUTH AND CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE IN 2013 TO DISCUSS THE BENEFITS AND ROLE OF YOUTH COURTS IN OUR SOCIETY. I HAVE REPRESENTED OCYC ON ROCHESTER'S WXXI RADIO SHOW "CONNECTIONS WITH EVAN DAWSON" TO DISCUSS OUR FIFTEEN YEARS OF OPERATION AND THE GREAT WORK OUR ORGANIZATION DOES. I AM ALSO PROUD THAT MY DEDICATION TO HELPING YOUTH THROUGH OCYC HAS ALLOWED ME TO BE THE FIRST YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION OF ONTARIO COUNTY, A GROUP OF COMMUNITY LEADERS WORKING THROUGH A FOUR YEAR STRATEGIC GRANT FROM THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, FOCUSED ON OPIATE MISUSE AND ABUSE IN THE 18-25 POPULATIONS. IN MY SPARE TIME, I RUN TRACK, PLAY SOCCER AND LOVE SPENDING TIME WITH MY FAMILY. NEXT YEAR, I WILL ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER TO STUDY DATA SCIENCE AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.



The first woman to serve as New York State's Chief Justice and the longest serving Chief Justice, the Honorable Judith Kaye, passed away in January 2016, leaving behind a tremendous legacy in her field. Judge Kaye's motto "when you are inspired to act, do it. Don't waste time wondering how, wonder if. Use your life to make an impactful change or don't bother" also applies to my future career as a school counselor. Judge Kaye impacted her field just as I will be able to impact mine, with a strong dedication to the people she served, passion for the proper education of youth, and commitment to problem solving over punishment.

Judge Kaye was dedicated to the people she served in New York State. The influential Judge was named Chief Justice of the New York State Appeals Court on February 22, 1993. Shortly after her appointment, she was offered a position on the Supreme Court. She declined this position in order to give the Court of Appeals and New York State Unified Court System stability following the scandalous resignation of her predecessor. Her dedication to the people of New York was very beneficial for the State as she improved the Court System. I have a similar dedication to helping youth. I plan to continue to help youth after I graduate by becoming a school counselor. As a school counselor, I will constantly be available to help them through their challenges and struggles, to make better choices, and to achieve their goals.

Judge Kaye was also passionate about proper education for youth in New York State. In one case, Judge Kaye ruled that the State was liable for not providing New York City public school students with "sound basic education" which was required by the State Constitution. She recognized the importance of and ensured the education of these youth. Just as Judge Kaye recognized the importance of proper education, I will have the opportunity as a school counselor to ensure the education of all students. I can work with parents and teachers to ensure that each student learns the material thoroughly at their own pace so that they will have all opportunities open to them.

The Honorable Judge Kaye was recognized for her commitment to problem solving over punishment for crimes. She ensured that New York Judges would have alternatives to jail for crimes involving drugs and domestic violence. Some restorative alternatives were treatment for addiction and mental illness and providing social services for victims of abuse. Restorative justice has proven to work better at ending misbehavior than punishment. There are many students who act out in school in minor and major ways for multiple reasons. As a counselor, I will investigate why students are misbehaving so that I can recommend positive alternatives to punishment.

Judge Kaye's strong dedication to the people she served, passion for the proper education of youth, and commitment to problem solving over punishment is an inspiration to impact my field in a similar way. Throughout her long tenure serving as Chief Judge, Judge Kaye improved the lives of the citizens in New York. By applying these principles, I plan to positively impact the lives on young students as a school counselor.

I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF GENESEE COUNTY YOUTH COURT FOR THREE YEARS. FOR THE MAJORITY OF MY TIME IN YOUTH COURT, I HAVE TAKEN THE ROLE OF DEFENSE ATTORNEY. THIS ENTAILS STUDYING THE CASE, MEETING WITH THE FAMILY, AND REPRESENTING THE YOUNG PERSON IN FRONT OF THE JUDGES. I PLAN TO CONTINUE HELPING YOUTH AFTER I GRADUATE BY BECOMING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR. I WILL ATTEND GENESEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE FALL AND TRANSFER AFTER ONE YEAR TO FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE.



Jefferson County

The Youth Court of Jefferson County proudly announcing an expanded program for youth 16-18 years old from the support of grants from the United Way of Northern New York (\$2000) and The NYS Bar Association (\$4500). This program is in collaboration local law enforcement, public and private defense attorneys, the District Attorney’s Office, and the Magistrates Association.



Submitted By: Tammie Miller



**United Way
of Northern New York, Inc.**



New York State Bar Association

The 2016 Mock Trial Summer Institute will be held:

◇ Sunday, July 17 through Friday, July 22 in Silver Bay, NY.

The New York State Mock Trial Summer Institute (MTSI) is an intensive week-long educational camp for high school students who are involved with mock trial. During the week, the students attend sessions presented by experienced Mock Trial teachers and attorneys. Counselors are educators who teach law related educational classes and have involvement with their schools' Mock Trial teams. All points of Mock Trial are covered from, "Evaluating the Case" to "Closing Arguments." The students are put in teams on the first evening of camp. During the week, they work on a past Mock Trial case, incorporating their new skills and techniques into their presentation. Guest speakers, local attorneys, and additional educators are brought in throughout the week to assist in instruction. The cases are presented on the final day before a judge. Time is built into the daily schedule for the students to engage in organized team and confidence building activities, as well as free time to enjoy the numerous recreational activities.

Students are selected to attend MTSI through an application process. The application is available online at [MTSI Applications](#). Teachers and attorneys must provide letters of recommendation for the student to be considered. Applications are accepted in the spring for consideration for that year's MTSI.

MTSI typically takes place at [Silver Bay YMCA](#) on Lake George, during July and runs from Sunday to Friday. The number of students accepted varies, but MTSI can accommodate up to 48 students. There is one adult counselor for every six students, a nurse, a camp director, and a Law, Youth and Citizenship representative on site all week. The students are bunked two or three to a room in a typical camp-style dorm with shared bathrooms. Meals are served in the cafeteria, buffet style.

The fee for New York State students is \$250.00 and \$1,000.00 for out of state students. The fee includes the room, all meals, classroom materials, and activities. A deposit is required and the balance is due upon acceptance. Some financial assistance is available to qualified attendees. For more information regarding financial assistance, contact Kim Francis at kfrancis@nysba.org

We are also seeking **Educators** who teach law related educational classes and have involvement with their schools' Mock Trial teams **to be Counselors at our Mock Trial Summer Institute (MTSI)**. Attorneys who are interested in participating as a judge may email Kim Francis at kfrancis@nysba.org

The New York Bar Foundation provides funding for this program in conjunction with The New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth and Citizenship Program.



ROCK THE VOTE!

Its an election year! Some of our Youth Court members will be eligible to vote for the first time! If any of them have questions or if you would like to make the information available to them please see the information below:

Qualifications to Register:

- ⇒ Be a US Citizen
- ⇒ Be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other elections in which you want to vote
- ⇒ Live at your present address for at least 30 days before any election
 - ⇒ Not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction
 - ⇒ Not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court
 - ⇒ Not claim the right to vote elsewhere

There are a few ways a person can register. Please visit

<http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>

For more details.

There is going to be a face to face meeting held in the Albany region this coming Fall.

It is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27th.

The purpose of this meeting is going to be to set up a conference for the following year.

There will be more details to follow.

Those who may be interested in attending the face to face meeting, please notify [Claire McKeon](#) so we can start a head count.

Thank You.

A Message from the President...

Summer is finally here! The Association has been busy reorganizing and making plans for the future. One of the items of importance is the annual face-to-face meeting which is being held in Albany on Tuesday September 27th. I hope to see you there!

The next items of great importance are bills that have been presented to the New York State Senate and Assembly but have not come out of committee. We need to reach out to our Senators and Assemblyman to ask why no significant actions have been taken. The bills are as follows:

SO1742 and AO1729: "Raise the Age Legislation"

SO5311 and AO8024: Both speak to the establishment of youth courts and authorizing criminal and family courts to transfer the dispositional phase of proceedings to youth court and to amend the criminal procedure law and the family court act...

We have a responsibility to the youth that we serve to advocate for them. Please reach out to your legislators. We can affect change if we work together.

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.

Youth Membership: High school or middle school student actively involved in a youth court program. This level of membership includes lunch at meetings

For more information regarding membership and pricing please contact Violet through email or in writing :

[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

Thursday, August 11, 2016 11AM – Conference Call

[ANYSYC Group Email: anysyc@googlegroups.com](mailto:anysyc@googlegroups.com)



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	Jamie Hudson, Wyoming County Youth Court

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Amy Fialkowski, Wyoming County Youth Court
Jennifer Smith, NYSBA Committee on Youth Courts
Katrina Charland, Bethlehem Youth Court

Submissions for the ANYSYC Newsletter must be received by deadline date
Deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday, September 19, 2016

Please direct all questions to Melissa at the contact information below

Contact Us

Claire McKeon –
cmckeon@townofbabylon.com

Katherine Chambers –
warrenctythrct@yahoo.com

Membership Questions?
Violet Palombo –
palombov@colonie.org

ANYSYC NEWSLETTER

Melissa Morman
Town of Babylon Youth Court
melissa.tobyc@gmail.com

