



## Meeting of the Law, Youth and Citizenship Committee

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

Monday, May 20, 2013  
Hilton Albany, Albany, NY  
Empire A&B  
4:45 - 5:45 p.m.

#### **The meeting was called to order at 4:47 pm**

**Present:** Richard Bader, Seth Gilbertson, Sarah E. Gold, A. Thomas Levin, Barbara Piazza, Susan Katz Richman, Mark Ventrone, John Williamson, Jay Worona, Oliver Young

**Staff:** Eileen Gerrish, Stacey Whiteley

**Present via phone:** Craig Bucki, Susan Deith, Michele Horan, Stuart Kahan, John Owens, Jonah Triebwasser

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The January 2013 minutes were approved as submitted. Motion by J. Worona; seconded by B. Piazza.

#### **Chair's Report; Richard Bader:**

- Thank you to Committee Members/New Committee will be announced June 1
- Chair outlined the steps that have been taken to try and keep the We the People program housed at NYSBA. A request for \$32,000 for the 2014 program year was considered by the NYSBA Finance Committee. It approved a \$25,000 budget line for 2014 for regionals and a state hearing. The Finance Committee also requested that before submitting a budget request for the next year, LYC look to start a Restricted Fund through the Foundation, a project which LYC already is pursuing since May 2011.
- Bar Foundation Proposal – R. Bader had a discussion with Foundation President Cristine Cioffi. She will send a Memorandum of Understanding to outline how a Restricted Fund would be approved and carried out.
- Advocacy – Chair Bader reported that, after a meeting with David Schraver, that included LYC Committee members Jonah Triebwasser and Tom Levin, Mr. Schraver urged the LYC Committee to prepare a report for consideration at the November 2013 or January 2014 House of Delegates meeting to propose an official NYSBA Policy on Civic Education. Related State legislation would also be proposed for endorsement by the House of Delegates. It was suggested that as part of any such report to the HOD, a short demonstration involving students be included as has been done in the past.
- Chair urged committee members to attend the LYC October Conference – Geneva NY – Oct. 17 & 18, especially the LYC Committee meeting on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013.

## **Director's Report; Eileen Gerrish:**

- We the People State/National Finals - Forest Hills High School earned the top honors at the NYS We the People Hearings in Albany, and raised the needed \$40,000 to make the trip to Nationals in Washington, DC. The bulk of the money was donated by the Justice Resource Center in NYC, Debra Lesser, Director. NYSBA/LYC was able to contribute \$3000. There are no LYC funds available in 2014 to assist a winning team in its trip to Nationals. LYC Chair Richard Bader served as a judge for the National Hearings.
- Robert H. Jackson Essay Contest 2013 & 2014 – The new state and national education mandates had a quieting effect on this year's Jackson Center Essay Contest. Very few schools participated. The three statewide winners were feted at The Center, and were able to meet the author of the essay contest book, Hana's Suitcase, Karen Levine. Next year, the Center hopes to have the essay themed on Jackie Robinson and his struggle for civil rights in baseball.
- LYC/PATCH Summer Institute – Long Island, June 25-28. Mary Beth Tinker will be one of the presenters. The Institute is funded by TNYBF and LYC.
- Law Day 2013 – LYC partnered with the Newspaper in Education Program to offer a five part series in keeping with the Law Day theme of Equality. LYC also helped sponsor the Law Day Moot Court Tournament at Northport High School. B. Piazza suggested that LYC act as a clearinghouse for Law Day events next year.
- LYC Conference – the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference has been scheduled and includes 15 workshops and a keynote by Michael Rebell, Esq., executive director of the Campaign for Educational Equity and Professor of Law and Educational Practice at Teachers College, Columbia University. The 2014 conference has been scheduled for Oct. 9 & 10, 2014, at Stony Brook University, with a theme of Media Literacy.
- LYC @ NYSBA Annual Meeting, January 2014, will be scheduled. Jay Worona will oversee the planning of the three-hour CLE presented by LYC. It was suggested that the session possibly include the topic of ethics.
- The LYC Director noted several new initiatives: a youth voting project w/Rockefeller Institute; Commons (iCivics partner); SEED Grant application to assist with We the People Professional development for teachers; and joining the ABA's Civics Honor Roll project.
- A summary of the many groups and organizations with which LYC works was distributed. It showed the large network that has formed around civic and law-related education in the state/nation in which LYC is a respected partner. The web statistics also showed that LYC is reaching a wide audience, including other nations.

## **Mock Trial Report; Stacey Whiteley:**

- State Finals – case this year was well received and the tournament had very few issues this year. It was noted that many noticed a heightened sense of civility among the teams and individuals. Third Department Presiding Justice Karen Peters will preside over the final found argument the following day between The Mount and William Floyd High School. (William Floyd was victorious the next day)
- Mock Trial Summer Institute – the number of interested students has grown, and there will be a full-house this summer, 48 students, for the MTSI, July 14-19 at Silver Bay Camp on Lake George.

**Old Business:** Discussion of the proposal for a two year term for the Chair, and for appointment of a Vice-Chair who would success the Chair every two years.

It was noted that the State Bar Bylaws do not permit two year terms. The appointment of the Chair is for a one year term, and it is custom to have two consecutive such appointments with a possible third year, and the appointment is the prerogative of the NYSBA President.

The discussion of establishing a vice-chair was reopened. S. Gilbertson moved to authorize the Chair to appoint a Vice-Chair to fill in when the Chair is unavailable, with the understanding that the Vice-Chair would not necessarily become the next Chair. A vice-chair will be established starting June 1, 2013. Motion was seconded by S. Katz Richman. The committee voted unanimously to approve.

**New Business:** It was noted that a NYSBA.org service disruption would take place over the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Email will not be disrupted. NYSBA will be getting a new website design and enhanced capabilities in August which will further the goals of LYC and enable the committee, subcommittees and our teacher network to improved communication and social networking.

**Next Meetings:**       **October 17, 2013;** 11:30 – 1:30 @ Lakeside Ramada; Geneva, NY  
                              **Jan. 27-Feb. 1, 2014** – NYSBA Annual Meeting (NY Super Bowl, Feb.  
                              2) LYC Day – tentatively **Jan. 29, 2014**  
                              **May 2014** – Albany, Mock Trial – TBA  
                              **Oct. 9, 2014;** 11:30 – 1:30 pm @ Hilton Garden Inn, Stony Brook, NY

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm on a motion by J. Williamson;  
                              seconded by M. Ventrone.