The Alliance of New York State YMCAs

March 2012

33 Elk St., Albany, NY 12207

www.ymcanys.org/

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ACCORD ADVOCACY RECAP

THANK YOU TO ALL THE ATTENDEES, VOLUNTEERS & SPEAKERS WHO HELPED MAKE ADVOCACY DAY A SUCCESS!

February 13th - Attendees gather at the registration table at the Albany Marriott prior to entering the Key Advocates' Dinner.

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QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Contact Alliance of New York State YMCAs

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518.462.8241

KEY ADVOCATES DINNER HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND, HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED . . .

On the afternoon of Monday, February 13th, the Alliance of New York State YMCAs, Inc. welcomed one hundred fifty volunteers, staff and YMCA friends to Albany for the YMCA's Key Advocates' Dinner and annual meeting at the Albany Marriott. Attendees united with colleagues from across the state for a night of information and fellowship as they discussed priority issues and prepared for a day of meetings with state lawmakers.

A Few Memorable Moments . . .

- Paige Hughes, NYS Youth & Government Youth Governor, gave a moving invocation describing her experience with YMCA Youth & Government.
- Jason Lilien, Bureau Chief of the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, discussed an ongoing effort to streamline regulations under the Nonprofit Revitalization Act.
- Barb Sweitzer, Senior Resource Director for YMCA of the USA updated attendees regarding several new Y-USA initiatives.
- Marie Christie, Schenectady YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program Participant, discussed how the program helped her make meaningful change in her life and learn to make time for herself.
- Matt Longjohn, Senior Director of Chronic Disease Prevention at YMCA of the USA highlighted the importance of healthy living programs at the Y.
- Kyle Stewart, Executive Director of the Alliance of NYS YMCAs, gave a briefing and talking points on our 2012 Priority Issues.

Chair of the Alliance of NYS YMCAs Board of Directors David Brown spoke briefly about the work of the Alliance and introduced various presenters throughout the evening.

EDITOR'S NOTE

2012 ADVOCACY DAYS AND LEGISLATION TO WATCH

Kyle A. Stewart
Executive Director

Thank you to everyone that attended our 2012 Advocacy Days! It was yet another tremendous event, made successful because of the support and commitment of member YMCAs to the State YMCA Alliance. Working together, we continue to raise the visibility of the Y and make great strides to influence public policy!

In addition to Advocacy Days, another key component of any proactive advocacy organization is a strategic, comprehensive system to monitor and affect legislation. Currently, at the Alliance of New York State YMCAs, we are closely monitoring more than 200 bills which have the potential to impact YMCAs in New York State. The chart below outlines a few pieces of legislation which have been introduced by lawmakers in New York State this year which may affect your Y. We will continue to keep you informed as more legislation is introduced and existing bills are considered.

For more in depth information about a specific bill, please feel free to contact my office at (518)462-8241 or kstewart@ymcanys.org.

2012 LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION FOR YS		
FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	**FOR HEALTHY LIVING**	**FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
Child Care – Implements QUALITYstarsNY (A8203) – Child Care tax credit (S4087/A783) – Enables Universal Pre Kindergarten funding to cover transportation costs (S5722/A8441) **Child Safety** – Training & Education for Anti-Bullying (S4921/A8504) – Clearance Checks for Camps (S734) – Prohibit Sex Offenders Access to Children (S260/A4151) – SCR Clearance Fee Exemption – We are working with legislators to introduce legislation to provide mandated SCR Clearances available at no cost to 501(c)(3) nonprofits.	**Physical Activity and Nutrition** – Creates the New York state governor's council on physical fitness, sports and health (S2856-A/A7323) – "New York state healthy kids act" (S3376/A4824) – Statewide school nutrition standards (S1584/A4363) – Creates a PE Pilot Program (S649/A1417) **Outdoor Learning** – Requires a study to enhance outdoor learning and activity (S5207/A8013) – Create a State Task Force to expand outdoor activity & environmental education (S5205A/A7819)	**Wage Theft Prevention Act** – Adjustments to the Wage Theft Prevention Act (S6063/A8856). Eliminates costly annual salary notification requirement. **Nonprofit Revitalization Act** – Attorney General Eric Schneiderman recently announced a plan to streamline nonprofit regulations. You can read about it here. We expect to see bill language for the "Nonprofit Revitalization Act" soon. **Minimum Wage Bill** - Increases the State Minimum wage rate to $8.50/hour.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT IS BACK!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW COMMUNITY BENEFIT TOOLKIT IN THE COMING WEEKS

The Alliance of New York State YMCAs aims to collect Community Benefit data from all 45 Ys. Your responses will be used to compile statewide figures and will help to highlight the community strengthening work of the Y. Updated community benefit information is an extremely useful tool which will enable us to better communicate the Y's impact on the lives of all New Yorkers.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

FACEBOOK.COM/YMCANYS

Keep up on policy news from Albany and see what other Ys are doing across the Empire State

HOW CAN WE MAKE ADVOCACY DAY BETTER NEXT YEAR?

CLICK HERE TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

Please take a minute to complete our Advocacy Day survey (link above). Your comments and ideas are very important to us. Survey results will play a significant role as we begin to plan next year's annual advocacy events.

ADVOCACY DAY PHOTO GALLERY

PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE 2012 KEY ADVOCATES DINNER AND ADVOCACY DAY

Albany, NY

New York State YMCA Youth and Government staff and participants assemble at our Key Advocates' Dinner.

Advocates from the YMCA of Greater Rochester prepare for meetings while enjoying breakfast on Advocacy Day.

Attendees gather at the Key Advocates' Dinner in Albany and catch up with colleagues from Ys across the state.

Marie Christie introduces Matt Longjohn after sharing her story about the impact the YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program had on her life.

Jason Lilien, Chief of the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau informs attendees about upcoming nonprofit revitalization legislation.

MORE ADVOCACY DAY PHOTOS

Alliance of NYS YMCAs Executive Director, Kyle Stewart updated attendees with 2012 priority issues and advocacy tips.

Advocates from the YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley pause for a photo at the Key Advocates' Dinner prior to the opening remarks.

Youth Governor Paige Hughes recognizes individuals who have helped to promote the statewide Youth and Government Program.

Chair of the Alliance of NYS YMCAs Board of Directors David Brown provided short remarks to kick off the formal program at our 2012 Key Advocates Dinner.

Key Advocates' Dinner attendees take a moment to network with YMCA Advocates from across the state at the registration table.