

*A Publication of the New
York Association of
Pretrial Service Agencies*

NYAPSA NEWS

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**NYAPSA NEWS is
published annually.
Articles for submission
relating to pretrial
release and diversion are
always welcome.**

**Send your article (in MS
Word format), along
with your full name, title,
and organization via e-
mail or on a disk to:**

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President's Letter

By Cathy Lane

I hope everyone had a healthy and happy holiday season. We are all facing some very challenging financial times that affect the very important work that we do. Now, more than ever, it is important to understand the benefits that pre-trial services gives to the community, courts and defendants.

For many, particularly the poor, the setting of bail even in small amounts is beyond their means, resulting in unnecessary incarceration. The primary purpose of bail or restriction of a pretrial defendant is to ensure the defendant's attendance in court when required. Pretrial release is an alternative to the bail system that uses objective criteria to determine one's eligibility regardless of his/her financial status. Pretrial Services is not solely for the benefit of the defendant. Unnecessary pretrial detention results in substantial waste. Pretrial Services eases the burden on jails and provides courts with an alternative to bail.

The New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies is an organization of professionals who are dedicated to the advancement of pretrial-release services and community-based, non-incarcerative alternatives for the disposition of criminal cases. NYAPSA's history of networking and involvement in statewide issues is rich, dating back to 1978. NYAPSA has worked with the New York Association of Counties, the New York Defender's Association, the National Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (NAPSA), the Pretrial Services Resource Center, and the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) to provide training, respond to legislation, and provide an open forum for debates on important issues.

NYAPSA was very involved in writing the Statewide Standards and Goals for Pretrial Release and Pretrial Diversion. These standards were studied by an advisory committee established by DPCA and were followed by statewide hearings to establish standards for the new ATI Pretrial Release programs. Our membership is very important to us and your membership dues help support our statewide training events and collaborative work with key agencies and associations.

The Board of Directors of NYAPSA is in the process of developing affordable training to the regions of New York State in 2011. We will continue to communicate with our membership as our conference planning progresses. Please check our website at www.nyapsa.org for additional information about NYAPSA.

News from NAPSA

By Peter Kiers, NAPSA President



Dear NYAPSA Member:

I want to thank all from New York who participated in the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA) conference this year in San Diego. I have received many positive statements on the quality of the sessions and workshops. It is our commitment to provide a meaningful training and conference experience. The NAPSA Conference is one of the only venues where pretrial practitioners from around the country can come together for meaningful exchange and training each year. It is instrumental in the training and development of pretrial practitioners nationwide. Our 2011 conference will be September 11 – 14 in Louisville, KY. I hope New York pretrial folks will seriously consider attending.

NAPSA has broadened its base with Federal Pretrial. Federal memberships have increased and Federal participation in our conference has grown to such an extent that we have added more workshops, and a dedicated Federal track of workshops that address the needs of those programs. It has been our distinct pleasure to work with the Administrative Office of the US Courts to ensure that the needs of the federal system are met.

Our certification program is strong. We have over 142 members certified. The next test will be in June 2011, with the on-line application process in May. Watch the NAPSA website (www.napsa.org) for details.

Over the past year the Association has created a Diversion monograph — *Promising Practices in Pretrial Diversion*. This is a product from the NAPSA Diversion Committee. It is an excellent document of work that includes promising and emerging practices and recommendations for programs.

We presently have 11 Affiliate Associations and would like to welcome Colorado and North Carolina as our newest regional associations. NAPSA has been able to provide affiliates with technical assistance and financial support for area conferences and trainings. We hope to assist NYAPSA with their upcoming training and technical assistance.

NAPSA has received numerous requests from local jurisdictions for advice and assistance in dealing with the onslaught of the bailbond industry to limit or eliminate pretrial programs. As a result, NAPSA has formed a Legislative Committee to discuss issues pertinent to local jurisdictions and work with PJI to train members in educating the public and local officials on the benefit of pretrial.

In 2007, the Board came together for a strategic planning session. It was time for the Association to take a major step in expanding outreach and delivery of services. Working from our Road Map, we committed ourselves to implement an ongoing education and advocacy program; design and deliver expanded education and training; write and launch the program accreditation process; prepare a long-term funding plan; and staff NAPSA with a full-time Service Director and support. As a result, we contracted with PJI for full-time service director services and accounting services; partnered with them to apply for grants to fund technical assistance; formed a committee that has begun the process of accreditation; and have started a legislative committee to assist programs dealing with issues that affect pretrial programming in jurisdictions. Due to growing demands, PJI will no longer be able to serve as our Service Director. We are committed to continue with a full-time Director, and we will be issuing an RFP to identify and recruit a replacement.

Starting in January 2011, the NAPSA Board will have another strategic planning session to review what we have accomplished and fine-tune and expand our plan for the next 3 years. It is an exciting time for us, and I will certainly keep all members apprised of the result of our meeting.

Please visit www.napsa.org for updates on pretrial issues around the country and for a comprehensive library on pretrial and diversion topics.

It was time for the Association to take a major step in expanding outreach and delivery of services."



We'd like to know your email address for future correspondence.

**You can email it to us at:
yreece@nycja.org**

**or visit our website:
www.NYAPSA.org**

LIFE ON THE OTHER SIDE

By Wayne D'Arcy

As many of you know, I retired from the Rensselaer County Probation Department at the end of March 2010. I worked at Probation for 33 years, the last 21 of which I was the Supervisor of the Pretrial/Day Reporting Program. Since I retired, everyone seems to ask me the same questions, "So, how's retirement? Keeping busy?" And I always have the same response, "I don't know how I ever got anything done while I was working because I'm busy with something every day." For the most part, that has held true since the end of last March. I have to admit, however, that things have slowed up some since golf season ended in October. But the thing I enjoy the most is the ability to do whatever I choose to do without having to consider whether to use Personal Leave or Vacation Time to get it done.

Before retiring I decided to continue involvement on some level with the Probation/Pretrial field. One of my first adventures as a new retiree was attending the NYAPSA Conference on April 25 and 26 in my hometown of Troy. It was a great time and all went extremely well thanks to the planning and hard work of the NYAPSA Board. Judging by the evaluations, all those who attended also enjoyed the presentations and networking opportunities. I have remained on the NYAPSA Board, allowing me to stay abreast of what is happening in the field and maintain the friendships I developed over the years with fellow board members.

In addition to the NYAPSA Board, I continue to co-chair OPCA's (formerly DPCA) Probation Qualifications, Recruitment and Retention Task Force and I remain a member of the New York State Probation Commission. All of these activities give me the opportunity to continue contributing to the discussion and hopefully help shape the future of Probation and Pretrial Services in New York State.

So, I know what you're thinking, "Is Wayne nuts to stay involved with this stuff after retiring? Why not just go lie on a beach?" Well, I hope to do that often too. But, if you recently retired or are about to do so, my advice is to find something that gives you pleasure and, just maybe, helps somebody else out as well. Volunteer at Food Pantry or build a house with Habitat for Humanity. And, yes, do whatever it is that gives you peace and pleasure. As one of my fellow high school graduates recently told me, "Every day above ground is a good day." I wish you all the best.

Puzzles Submitted by Craig McNair

PRETRIAL WORD SEARCH

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| BAIL | INTERVIEW | PRETRIAL |
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| DETENTION | NAPSA | STANDARDS |
| | NYAPSA | VALIDATION |

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New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (**NYAPSA**) is an organization of professionals who are dedicated to the advancement of pretrial release services and community-based, non-incarcerative alternatives for the disposition of criminal cases. Through its statewide Board of Directors, **NYAPSA** provides advocacy and education, participates in pretrial and alternatives to detention and incarceration conferences and workshops, and releases an annual newsletter.

If you are interested in pretrial and diversion, alternatives to incarceration, and community corrections, and would like to become a **NYAPSA** member (or renew your membership), please fill-out the membership form below.

If you know anyone who may be interested in joining NYAPSA, please give them a copy of this form.

Name _____

Title _____

Agency _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

Annual NYAPSA Membership Dues:

\$25 individual

\$10 student

Make check payable to NYAPSA and mail, with a copy of this application form, to:

Aida Tejaratchi

NYAPSA Treasurer

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52 Duane Street, 8th floor

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SPECIAL OFFER TO NYAPSA MEMBERS!

Because **NYAPSA** is an affiliate member of the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA), as a member of **NYAPSA** you are eligible to join NAPSA at a special "affiliate" membership rate of \$20.00 annually -- that's \$55.00 off their annual rate for management and supervisor staff and \$30.00 for line staff! (The only difference in memberships is that you have limited voting eligibility.) You are also entitled to a discounted registration fee for NAPSA's Annual Conference and Training Institute. For more information regarding this special offer, **NYAPSA** members should contact Katie Green, NAPSA Southeast Director, via e-mail at katieg@james-city.va.us, or by phone at 757-564-2312.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO NYAPSA BOARD MEMBER CHRISTINA VANASCO

We all send a fond farewell to NYAPSA Board member Christina Vanasco. Christina, former Assistant Deputy Director of the Nassau County Probation Department, represented Region II. She served on the NYAPSA Board of Directors from 2007 until her retirement in July of 2010.

In her letter to the NYAPSA Board of Directors, Christina stated, "When I was promoted to Assistant Deputy Director in 2006 and was assigned to oversee the Pretrial Services Program I knew how the program functioned, but I must admit I never really understood the philosophy behind what we did. My boss allowed me to attend the NAPSA conference in Texas where I met Peter and Barb. They stood out to me as shining stars of Pretrial. It was at that conference that I began to understand and appreciate Pretrial's place in the criminal justice system. It has been an honor to be on the NYAPSA board with all of you."

We will miss Christina and thank her for her years of service in the pretrial services arena and on the NYAPSA Board of Directors.

New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies Board of Directors

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Monroe County Pre-Trial Services 40th Anniversary

By Cathy Lucisano

September 2010 marked the 40th anniversary of Monroe County Pre-Trial Services. On 12/14/10, an anniversary luncheon held at the Hyatt Regency celebrated the longevity and success of our programs.

The luncheon featured the ever-dynamic speaker Tim Murray, Executive Director of the Pre-Trial Justice Institute in Washington D.C. Mr. Murray reiterated the importance of release options and of our current services to the community. He thanked our Executive Director, Barbara Darbey, for leading Monroe County's Pre-Trial programming and for her assistance nationally. Following the presentation, Mr. Murray was able to spend some of his valuable time with staff members during a wonderful question and answer session.



The luncheon was attended by many, including our supportive Senator Joseph Robach. Judges, deputies, and court personnel were present and thankful for the assistance Monroe County Pre-Trial Services has provided throughout its 40 years of service. Nearly 10% of our staff has been working at Pre-Trial Services for over 10 years, and our Board of Directors rewarded their dedicated service by presenting them with plaques and formally recognizing their efforts.

The luncheon was inspirational and necessary during these difficult financial times. We were all comforted in knowing that our work has been appreciated and will be consistently relied upon. We look forward to the next

40 years of providing quality service to the justice system in Monroe County. Happy New Year!

NYAPSA NEWS

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We're on the
web.



Visit us at:
www.Nyapsa.org