

FaFNY

Volume 1 Issue 1
January 2003

FaF Capital News

The Newsletter of the Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc. covering events relative to families in the State Capital of Albany, the State of New York and Nationally.

FaF Board Members:
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Mr. Randy Dickinson, VP
Mr. David Mysliwicz, Treas.
Mr. Jeff Baseel, Board
Vacant-Secretary
Mr. Stephen Campbell, Board
Mr. Jim Naiven, Board

FaF is a non profit tax exempt family support organization that is
"Working to Keep Fathers and Families Together"

Where's My Newsletter!

I paid my dues, where's my newsletter! And FaF should be doing something about those people who..... We hear it all the time. Somebody should be doing something to fix this or that.

All it takes is time and money.....but remember, FaF is an ALL volunteer organization. It is made up of members and VOLUNTEERS. If something needs to be done and isn't getting done then it is up to YOU to do it!

FaFNY has set an aggressive agenda for the 2003 calendar year. But, time and money?

- We have monthly meetings scheduled in Saratoga Springs and are looking for volunteers to do outreach meetings in counties across NY.
- We are committed to opening a Fatherhood Institute. To this end we will need \$20,000 in operating money. As we have no paid staff we also will need volunteers to do the day to day work and provide outreach to families in crisis. It's time to step up and do something!
- The Office of Child Support standards review is up this year and won't be looked at for another four years. Our opportunity to modify this draconian system is NOW. If we do not do so then we have to suffer for four more years before opportunity knocks again. To this end we need \$10,000 for professional studies and to bring in a professional economist to testify.
- We need Legislative change in NY. For a start shared parenting legislation and terminology changes labeling parents as parents. We have had our bills stalled in committee and we need every involved person and organization to step up. Have you freed up April 1 to come to Albany and do ALL of your government representatives know your views on this issue?
- We continue to represent the 2.5 million non custodial parents now residing in New York State. Those who do not send in their dues get services for free. Have you joined FaFNY or sent in your donation? 10,000 basic members is \$65,000.
- I was cleaned out and can't afford those dues! A common complaint (and true). So how much time did you volunteer? We accept volunteer time in place of the FaF dues.

Monthly meetings, quarterly newsletters, Web page development, membership and referral data bases, meetings with government and other organizations, legal filings such as the IRS, Charities Registration and Lobbying Commission, outreach to members and others, board meetings to run the organization, operation of the Fatherhood Institute, research on father and family issues and compiling valid information; all this goes into an effective organization.

Time and money. Have you done your part? Join, pay your dues, donate some extra if you can afford it, VOLUNTEER, a day at least. We have two options, accept this system that destroys families or change it. The choice is ours.....Together.

Upcoming Events-see inside

- Monthly Meeting List, Saratoga Springs, NY.
- Legislative Education and Awareness Day, Albany, NY on Tuesday April 1, 2003.
- Tulip Fest May 2003 Washington Park, Albany, NY.

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At Left: Tifanie Sondak, Proud Dad Ron Weremeichik, Dylan Weremeichik and Jeremy Weremeichik show their support for families.

Photo by Mom, Sue Sondak.
FaFNY will be producing and distributing lines of promotional materials in the coming year. Please send your suggestions for product lines to Jim Hays at FaFNY

From the Desk of Mr. James Hays, FaF President

In 1995 I joined the local father organization. I soon found out that it was lacking in resources and suffered from poor public relations due to its radical "rights" name and the negative actions of some of its prior members. Additionally, even though they told their members they were for legislative change, it wasn't organized to allow it to lobby the government in NY. Over the years I formed two political action committees (Men's Action Network and FRA PAC) attempting to work along side the non profit service organization and volunteered to help provide those services (local president, at large state board member and statewide legislative coordinator). While much good was done over those years it was plainly apparent that the organizations in NY weren't effective when it came to fostering legislative, social and political change. Over the past ten years circumstances in NY have gotten worse while much of the country was moving forward. The organization in NY was overly bureaucratic and adversarial and was not properly serving its members. The Capital District Chapter, one of the largest local chapters in the nation, was blessed with a Board of Directors with over 50 years of Father and family advocacy experience. This Board recognized the shortcomings and as a unit decided the time for change had come.

The Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc. (FaFNY) is the answer to this need for change. FaF is incorporated in NY and is registered as a charitable organization with the NYS Attorney General's Office. We have filed with the IRS and received non profit status and additionally have filed for an "h" designation which allows us to lobby for legislative

change. We will be registering as lobbyists in New York State with the Lobbying Commission and are the ONLY organization that is authorized to lobby on behalf of the 2.5 million non custodial parents and their families in NY. We are affiliated Nationally with the American Coalition of Fathers and Children (ACFC) and encourage all persons to sustain their membership in both organizations to be represented at both the State and National level. Our name reflects that affiliation.

We are a streamlined Statewide organization formed to allow volunteers to help others and provide services and foster social and political change without bureaucratic obstacles and parliamentary procedures interfering with those who step forward to help families. Our structure allows us to address both the family in crisis faced with separation and in need of help and to work for change in the future for those that already suffered that fate and to help ALL families, and our own children, and reduce the need for crisis services.

We have put together an aggressive agenda (see page 3) to open a Fatherhood Institute, provide unbiased educational information to the public, advocate for our members and foster social and political change in the NY Legislature, the Governors Office and executive agencies such as Office of Child Support Enforcement and the Courts and their Administration. The infrastructure is there.

All we need now is your financial support and volunteered time.

FaF Schedule of Upcoming Events

Tuesday April 1, 2003 9:00AM to 4:00PM L.E.A.D. (See Page 7 for flyer). Legislative Education and Awareness Day. Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY. Press Conference at 11:00AM, Events and displays scheduled all day. Coordinator Randy Dickinson (518) 899-3302. Call now to volunteer!

General Meeting Dates (open to the public and members) SCHEDULED for:

Thursday March 20, Thursday April 24, Monday May 12, Tuesday July 8, Tuesday August 5, Tuesday September 2, Tuesday October 7, Monday November 10, Tuesday December 9, 2003. All meetings are at 7:00PM to 9:00PM at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. General Meetings are open to the public and free of charge. Topics TBA. Mark your calendar and plan on attending. The Saratoga Springs Public Library is located in the city at 49 Henry St., Saratoga Springs, NY between Caroline and Phila Streets just one block east of Rt. 9. Refreshments will be available.

Tulip Festival Sat. and Sun. May 11 and 12 at Washington Park, Albany, NY. Volunteers Needed. Call now to help at this or other events, 383-8202.

Our Thanks to Dave!

At the January 14, 2003 General Meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY Dave Mysliwicz (as he does every year) held a presentation regarding taxes for this year and planning for next year. As a disenfranchised father, Certified Public Accountant and Certified Financial Planner Dave was able to explain finances and taxes and planning for the future in the context of our unique situation. Thanks again Dave and his firm: TMB, T. M. Byxbee Company, Certified Public Accountants, NY, PC, 21 Aviation Rd., Albany, NY 12205-1131 Ph. 518-458-2213 Fax. 518-458-9193

The Coalition of Fathers' and Families NY, Inc. is a non profit corporation of men and women that are *working to keep fathers and their families together through public education, father/family/child advocacy and lobbying for social and political change.*

FaF Meets with Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (Division of Child Support Enforcement)

FaF representatives have met, and continue to meet with, OTDA staff regarding issues that affect fathers, families and children. We insisted that OTDA allow FaF participation in the upcoming review of the child support standards to represent the views of the 2.5 million non custodial parents in NY.

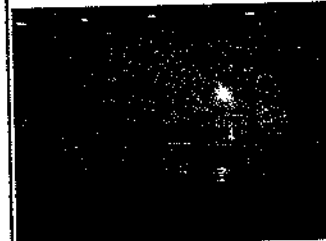
OTDA states that they are not biased towards the custodial parent over the NCP and refer to both as their "clients". We were clear that we do NOT view them as serving the needs of non custodial parents and additionally they do NOT serve the needs of our children. They represent the financial interests of the custodial parent only and to state otherwise is politically correct propaganda. They enforce policies that harm children and NCP clearly do not view them as representing any of their interests and view them as an adversarial organization.

We will continue to hold them responsible and accountable for their actions and point out the inequities of this system. We continue to work within the system to bring forth the truth and seek justice for our families here in New York. If you have had a problem with child support collections (whether custodial or non custodial) let us know and we will bring the issue to their attention and seek resolution.

We would like to have an economist come to NY to testify at the upcoming review child support review process and refute the accountability of the entire system. Please support us in this effort. FaF is determined and committed to having our voice, the voice of fathers, heard regarding the make up of our families and the right to raise our children in the context of our individual heritage and culture.

Governors Office Meeting News

FaFNY continues to meet with representatives from the Governors Office on a continuing basis. We have brought a list of items relative to fathers and families and additionally have brought them volumes of information on the plight of New York's families. They are reviewing the information and meetings are scheduled for the near future. We will continue to educate the Governors Office on our issues and request their help to resolve many of the problems.



At Left:
FaFNY
Display at the
Governors
State Address
on January 8,
2003 in
Albany, NY

Fatherhood Institute News

FaFNY has always been committed to opening a Fatherhood Institute in New York. We hope one in the Capital District would give us a central location near government centers and also that this would be the impetus to other Fatherhood Centers opening throughout the State. To that end we have been in negotiations with operators of facilities where we can open and also with those people who have the ability to fund the Fatherhood Center.

With your support we hope to have this facility open in the first half of 2003 to serve families throughout New York State.

Legislative Meeting News

Recent meetings have been held with the Assembly leadership. On Jan. 8 we had a display at the Legislative Office Building. Informational letters will be distributed to the Legislature in the coming weeks and all will culminate in LEAD on April 1, 2003 (see page 7).

We ask every member to do their part and get involved. Everyone should call and write their government representatives, identify themselves as a FaF Member and ask that something be done to make things better for families in NY. And remember to show up at LEAD in Albany and let your voice be heard.

NY Court Administration Meeting News

Early in January 2003 we are having meeting with the Chief Judge for Matrimonial matters in New York State. Also in attendance will be the Children's Rights Council NYC Branch.

We have a large agenda of items for them and hope this will open discussion and dialogue on issues that affect our membership. This is an area that can immediately impact the membership through procedural changes in how we are treated in Family and Supreme Court.

We will report on this and other meetings in future issues of Capital News due out in March of 2003.

Information sources—Get on both of their mailing lists for info.

www.silentmajority.info

This site is the is a wealth of information on father and family issues in New York State. Silentmajority is not affiliated with any one organization but uses the information from many sources with postings and links.

www.ACFC.org

This is the site of our National Affiliate. Much information is available here for members only (as all FaF members should be). The list serve for mailings is open to anyone and everyone with an e-mail address should be on it.

www.Legalkids.com

This is the site of Clayton Giles, the Canadian youth who rode his bike across Canada and the US (and NY) in protest of child treatment by divorce courts. His is a good site for your kids as it is by kids, about kids and for kids. (Look for our site FaFNY.org to be up and running in March 2003).



Above (from left to right):
Kipp Campbell, Erin Campbell, a
Large Lobster and Steve Campbell
manning the FaF booth at Albany's
Lobsterfest on Fathers Day 2002

We are continuing our efforts to update and maintain our contact and referral information so that members can receive the latest information. To further that effort we ask that each and every member fill out the forms on page 4, 5 and 6 of this newsletter and return them to FaF at PO Box 782, Clifton Park, NY 12065. We would also appreciate your continued financial support. To that end all dues received between now and May will be applied to the 2003-04 (membership for the first half of 2003 in FaF is included, ACFC Membership starts 5-31-03 if not already a member with them).

FaFNY Membership Schedule

- Basic Membership-\$40*** Includes newsletter and organization working on your behalf for family issues including lobbying for legislation.
**First year members at the basic level will be charged a \$25 application fee which will be applied to ACFC dues for the first year. FaF reserves the right to deny any membership application at the discretion of the Board.*
- Premier Membership-\$65** Includes Application Fee, Basic membership and ACFC Membership and membership card.
Members are encouraged to renew at the premier level to ensure continued membership in FaF and ACFC for both State and National Advocacy on your behalf and for families and children.
- Bronze Membership-\$130** Includes Premier membership plus member recognition certificate and discounts on merchandise and events.
- Silver Membership-\$260** Includes Bronze membership plus 2 FaF/ACFC memberships (husband and wife, mother and son). Family membership cards for entire family.
- Gold Membership-\$500** Family Membership. Includes Silver benefits plus up to 4 combined FaF and ACFC Memberships (entire family) and family recognition on certificate.
- Platinum Membership-\$1000** Includes Family Membership and separate announcements of recognition for continued support of families (if authorized). Advance notice of events and increased discounts on merchandise and events.
- Patron Membership-\$2500** Includes all the benefits of Platinum Membership and a seat on the Father and Family Advisory Board which meets at their discretion and sits to advise the executive board on family policy and direction in NY State on an as needed basis through interaction with the FaF Executive Board and FaF President.
- Family Patriarch and Matriarch-\$5000** Includes Husband and wife listing and seats on the Advisory Board and all the benefits of Patron Members for both spouses and their family.

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MEMBER INTAKE FORM— Please fill out and return to FaFNY

I'm a new member and need an intake packet Circle method of packet delivery (e-mail or snail mail)

First Name Middle Last Name

Dues Paid for 6-01-03 to 5-31-04\$: (amount) \$_____

Address:

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

City: State: Zip:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-mail:

Occupation:

MEMBER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES EVALUATION FORM

This form is used to evaluate professionals in the field of Family Law and should be completed by the FaF member for each and every Attorney, Psychologist, Law Guardian, Judge, Court Clerk, Mediator, and ANY OTHER PERSON providing input into their case in which they come in contact with. Fill out one form for each individual. This form is the Property of Fathers and Families and is not to be reproduced or distributed without the express and written permission of its Board or its Officers

Title First Name Middle Last Name

Rank: 1-best 2-better than average 3-OK
4-not very good 5-do NOT use this person.

List reason for good or bad evaluation:

County of Operation:

Date(s) of contact :

Address of professional:

City: State: Zip:

Work Phone:

E-mail:

Web Page or other contact:

Occupation: FJ-Family Court Judge HE-Hearing Exam
SC-Supreme Court AP-Appeals Court TC-Town/City Judge
OJ-Other Judge CC-Court Clerk AT-Your Attorney
LG-Law Guardian PA-Paralegal OT- Other Atty PS-Psychologist
PY-Psychiatrist CO-Counselor DV-Domestic Violence Representative
OA-All others (specify) _____

This Person Represented: __Court __ FaF Member __Opposing Party

Member Name:

I (DO) (DO NOT) agree to be contacted by other members regarding this evaluation. Ph# _____

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

MEMBER BUSINESS TO MEMBER DIRECTORY FORM

This form is used to list business and/or services that individual members provide. It is provided as a service to the members and is NOT an endorsement or an evaluation of the competency of the services provided and is to be used as a reference to services provided by members only. Copies of this will be made available to FaF members on joining and as requested. Fill out one form for each individual member wishing inclusion in the listing. This form is the Property of Fathers and Families and is not to be reproduced or distributed without the express and written permission of its Board or its Officers.

Business Name:

Name of Member:

County(ies) of Operation:

Discount to FaF Members? N, Y (how much?) _____

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Work Phone:

E-mail:

Web Page or other contact:

Occupation or service provided:

Member Name:

I agree to be listed in the Father Resource Directory. I understand that this is a resource listing only which will be freely distributed and hold harmless FaF or its members for any liability in listing and distributing this information. Signature (required) _____

Where Do My Dues Go?

FaF is an all volunteer organization. No one gets a percentage of your dues for providing "services". We use NO professional fundraisers. None of your dues goes to benefit anyone within the organization and Board Members donate both time and money to further the health and welfare of fathers, families and children.

Dues \$65.00 minus \$25, ACFC dues = \$40 for FaFNY Operations. Of that \$8.50 goes to new member packets, mailings and informational and educational assistance, \$5.50 goes to general meetings and public presentations, \$10.00 goes to the Capital Newsletter production and mailing and the Web site development and maintenance, \$5.00 goes to advertising flyers and literature promoting the organization, \$5.00 goes to phone costs and office expenses and \$6.00 goes to lobbying for social and political change on behalf of families in New York State.

We are currently soliciting government and foundation financial assistance to open and operate a Fatherhood Institute and will be using member donations to that end also.

For further organization financial information check the web site Guidestar.org and put in the FULL name of FaF or ACFC or contact the NYS Attorney General Office Charities Registration Bureau online or at 120 Broadway, NY, NY 10271 phone (212) 416-8393. Specific requests for information can be directed to Mr. James Hays at FaF by mail or electronically.

ATTENTION FAMILY MEMBERS:

IF YOU ARE A CHILD, PARENT OR GRAND PARENT WHO HAS BEEN MISTREATED IN FAMILY OR SUPREME COURT REGARDING DIVORCE/SEPARATION/CUSTODY OR SUPPORT ... YOUR DAY HAS FINALLY COME:

Let your voice be heard at this year's LEAD in Albany, NY.
(The event is free and open to the public)

FaF, Taking the LEAD in Educating the NYS Legislature (Legislative Education and Awareness Day)

WHEN: Tuesday April 1, 2003 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM.

WHERE: Well of the Legislative Office Building (LOB), State St., Albany, NY. Rally TBA.

WHO: Past attendee's included FaF, Children's Rights Council (CRC), Family Policy Council, Office of Child Support Enforcement (information available), fathers, mothers, grandparents and children and other family advocates from across NY and the northeast.

PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11:00AM (LOB) with PRO FAMILY LEGISLATORS. Rally at Noon.
Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

FaF, together with other pro family individuals and organizations, will have displays and informational material available in the Well of the Legislative Office Building in Albany, NY speaking of the importance of terminology such as "parenting time", pre-divorce parental education to lessen the impact on children, the value of BOTH parents (Shared Parenting) to children and the need for Family Court Reform and Court Restructuring.

Attendees are free to meet with legislators throughout the day to hear and discuss pro-family issues and legislation.

Child and Family Advocacy Organizations wishing to participate should contact Mr. James Hays at (518) 383-8202 to register to be included in presentations or display materials.

The event is free and open to the public. Individuals wishing to attend need not pre-register.

CONTACT PERSONS:

Mr. James Hays, Event Coordinator: Phone (518) 374-2346 E-mail DadLobby@localnet.com

Mr. Randall Dickinson, Co-coordinator Phone (518) 899-3302 E-mail Dickins895@aol.com

Web:Http://www.ACFC.org or FaFNY.org

FaF is a non profit tax exempt family support organization
that is
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PERMIT NO 24

PO Box 782
Clifton Park, NY 12065

ACFC.org

FaFNY.org

**Contact Information for FaF
(state chapter) and
ACFC (national affiliate)**

1-800-978-Dads

The Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc. is a non profit corporation

All Donations Are Tax Deductible

FaF: Fathers and Families, PO Box 782, Clifton Park, NY 12065 Telephone: (518) 383-8202
Web page: <http://www.FaFNY.org> E-mail (Mr. James Hays, President): DadLobby@localnet.com

ACFC: American Coalition for Fathers and Children can be contacted at <http://www.ACFC.org>
or at 1-800-978-DADS or by mail at 22365 El Toro Rd. #335, Lake Forest, CA 92630

Membership includes individual and group peer support, public education campaigns, lobbying for change, the Capital News, monthly meetings, public events and presentations, local, state and national networking with a cadre of dedicated family advocates and experts all working to enhance the father-child-family relationship regardless of marital status of the parents.

JOIN NOW. *The only thing you have to lose by not joining is your children.*

FaF Basic Membership (includes ACFC membership) is \$65.00. Membership dues are tax deductible.