



NEWS RELEASE

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COARC Members Welcome New Directors

Mellenville, NY: COARC members elected three new Directors to their Board at their Annual Membership Meeting on June 21 in Mellenville. They also honored Lenore Whitbeck, who retired from COARC's Board and who previously served as a member of the Board of Governors of NYSARC, Inc. In the 1970's, she helped establish COARC's Happy Day Pre-School for children with developmental disabilities, which was the first early intervention program in Columbia County.

"But I did not want our pre-school and other COARC programs just for my son. I wanted these programs and services to continue for other children and their families. To this day I am an active COARC member and I have served on our Board of Directors for many years. My membership reflects my beliefs and commitment to COARC's activism from the beginning," Lenore Whitbeck stated.

COARC's new Directors are Jennifer K. Harvey, Patricia Stockman and Mary Anne VanDenburgh. Jennifer Harvey, Kinderhook resident and an attorney and associate at the firm Couch White, LLP in Albany, rejoins the Board after previously serving ten years that began in 1996. Patricia Stockman, of Coxsackie, co-founded The Executive Connection, which specializes in direct placement recruiting and human resources consulting. Mary Anne VanDenburgh, from Stockport, recently retired from Taconic Developmental Disabilities Service Office in Valatie. Elected as COARC Board Officers for the coming year are President Mary Ann Harris of Ghent, Vice President Annette Dennis from Spencertown, Secretary Priscilla Moore of Hudson and Treasurer Andrew Small from Kinderhook.

At the meeting, COARC members also celebrated the organization's 45th anniversary of expanding abilities, supporting individuals who experience disabilities. Founded in 1965, COARC is the Columbia County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. and it provides services and programs to more than 500 individuals, including pre-schoolers who attend The Starting Place in Hudson. COARC is primarily supported through state and federal funding, and also by individual and corporate members, donors and foundations. Information about COARC services, employment, membership and donation opportunities is available at www.COARC.org or 518-672-4451.

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(See photos next page)



Luke Whitbeck held flowers for his mother, retiring COARC Director Lenore Whitbeck, who was honored for her years of service by COARC President Mary Blass at COARC's Annual Membership Meeting in Mellenville.



(l to r) New COARC Directors are Jennifer K. Harvey, Patricia Stockman and Mary Anne VanDenburgh, with COARC Executive Director Ken Stall.