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NYSCAA Newsletter



NYSCAA  
Newsletter  
October 2016



## FROM THE CEO

Dear Friend,

Happy fall from all of us here at NYSCAA. Autumn brings a seasonal transition of great beauty as the leaves change colors and the cool air encourages us to enjoy the sunlight and fresh air before the inevitable snow falls. But this fall comes with an even more important date of note—election day. Few of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship are more important than our right to vote. If you or someone you know is questioning whether it is worth getting out to vote, remember how long and hard our foremothers and fathers fought to assure us this right. And while our candidates and elections are far from perfect, we set a standard which countries around the world look to as an example of all that is best in a democratic government.

Do some research, get to know the candidates on every level of the ballot, and enjoy the privilege you have to take part in this remarkable, successful experience in participatory democracy.

Happy voting!!

*Karla M. Digirolamo*

[E-mail me](#)

Karla Digirolamo, CCAP  
NYSCAA

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## NYSCAA News!

### Domestic Violence Month

Domestic Violence affects the lives and compromises the safety of thousands of New Yorkers each day, with tragic, destructive and sometimes fatal results. NYSCAA is proud to support DV month and the 'Shine the Light' Campaign brought to us by the New York State Office for Prevention of Domestic Violence. Throughout the month OPDV encouraged everyone to "Shine the Light" on the issue by turning their communities purple. NYSCAA staff all wore purple and sported advocacy awareness pins to support the cause on October 20 which was "wear purple day." The entire month of



October is DV month so there's still time to turn your Community Purple!

## Poverty Simulation

NYSCAA helped host a Poverty Simulation at Mohawk Valley Community Action this month. Poverty simulations help promote a greater understanding of poverty by having participants role play living as a low-income family for one month. Simulations help people understand poverty through an experiential activity designed to help participants experience the practical challenges faced by low-income people everyday. Poverty Simulation participants can include policy makers, local community leaders, staff from non-profits and, Community Action staff. For further information regarding NYSCAA's Poverty Simulations, contact our Program and Policy Director - Kim McMann by [email](#) or phone - 518-690-0491 x 30.



## Affinity Groups

NYSCAA has organized affinity groups for I.T., Finance, and Human Resources staff in New York's CAAs. The groups communicate through scheduled phone calls and group emails. Each affinity group has a NYSCAA staff member assigned to moderate the session and help direct the conversations. The groups are designed to discuss network wide issues around topics in the I.T., Finance, and Human Resources fields. If you are interested in joining any of the groups visit our website or sign up [here](#).

## Shared Resources

Don't forget to check NYSCAA's Shared Resources. This section of NYSCAA's website allows Community Action Members to login and upload and/or view valuable resources provided by your peers. This month agencies uploaded - Community Needs Assessment Reports and various types of evaluation forms. [Click here](#) to view the resources.

## Community Action Resource Guide

NYSCAA has revamped the Community Action Resource Guide (CARG). The paper document is now a search-able form on our website. The CARG provides a full listing of New York's Community Action Agencies and the services they provide. Here are some suggested starting points for using the new guide:

- Print a full list of all agencies and the details of the services they provide
- Look for a concise list of what major service categories (children services, energy, nutrition etc.) each agency provides
- Search via text and view the results on a map
- Delve deeper into a specific service category

[Click here](#) to watch a quick video tutorial on the new Community Action Resource Guide!

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## Updates at our Agencies!

### Good Scout Award

Congratulations to Bruce Garcia, Executive Director for JCEO of Clinton and Franklin Counties, Inc., recipient of the 2016 Adirondack Good Scout Award. This award is given to members of the community who exemplify the spirit of Scouting in their daily lives through acts of cheerful service, passionate leadership, and unyielding dedication to the local community. Join us in congratulating Bruce for this well deserved award.

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### Harvest!

Economic Opportunity Program of Chemung and Schuyler Counties' volunteers gathered 25 pounds of fresh vegetables from their Victory Gardens to distribute throughout the community! Their volunteers also help with weeding and maintaining the garden throughout the harvest season.



### First Place!

EOC of Suffolk County's 'Sensationally Sweet' Scarecrow won first place in the Great South Bay Chili/Chowder Festival's Scarecrow contest. Great work by their creative staff!



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### New Shelter

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency is set to open a new shelter by November 1 for homeless and runaway youth, the first in their community. The shelter will be located in Rome, NY and will serve youth from throughout Oneida County. The shelter will be able to house six youth at one time and is targeted to serve youth 18 and under for 21 days. MVCAA Executive Director Amy Turner, highlighted the importance of this service noting that they will "be able to offer some temporary shelter to those youth for whom, going back home isn't an option or isn't a good setting for them."

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## In the News & Helpful Tips

**Clinton Vs. Trump: Who's Better for Business?** With the Election right around the corner, CFO magazine reached out to more than a half-dozen economists of wide ranging political leanings and asked them to contrast the candidates' positions on corporate taxes, global trade, health care, immigration, Wall Street regulation, and energy. The article looks at these plans and reveals two starkly different visions of the country's commercial future. [Click here](#) to read the full article. Remember, your vote counts!



**Bullying Prevention Month.** In addition to October being Domestic Violence Awareness month, it is also Bullying Prevention Month and this October the campaign is celebrating their 10 year anniversary with a decade together against bullying - united for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. National Bullying Prevention Month is a nationwide call to action, providing schools, parents, and students with the educational resources to support and better respond to bullying behavior. Research published in the American Journal of Public Health finds that kids and teens from low-income families are more likely to be bullied than others and that schools with larger economic inequality had higher rates of bullying. [Click here](#) to read more on Bully Prevention Month and spread the message: "The End of Bullying Begins with Me!"

**Energy Saver 101: Home Heating.** With the colder weather approaching and The Weatherization Program celebrating their 40th anniversary this month, [Energry.gov](#) shared a great infographic on home heating and energy saving tips. Some of the tips mentioned in the graphic include:

- Opening your curtains in winter months to bring in sunlight and naturally heat your home.
- Use a programmable thermostat to set your heater back while you are away or asleep.
- Set your ceiling fan to spin clockwise to blow the rising hot air down.



[Click here](#) to learn more!

**Race, School Ratings, and Real Estate: A 'Legal Gray Area'.** Advocates for fair housing see a potential problem with the close ties between school ratings and the effects it has in real estate. They say the common denominator for these stats, too often, is race. The problem has intensified in the last decade with new web platforms bringing information directly to home-buyers such as school rating maps, which too closely mirror a racial dot map. That, in turn, raises some complicated questions about how factors like test scores and school ratings are used to influence home-buying decisions.

For realtors, directly discussing the racial composition of a neighborhood with potential home-buyers is against the law, however, a 2006 report from the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) shows documentation of some form of racial steering in 87% of these encounters. A striking pattern regarding schools emerged from these tests. For example, white testers reported they were told to avoid Tarrytown, NY schools, serving predominately Hispanic communities and that the schools were "bad", but Latinos were told the same schools were "good."

Sites such as Zillow, state these data points serve as a starting point to do further research and connect with a real estate professional, but the use of color coding, and the ready availability of information about demographics is still cause for concern. If a realtor were to hand a home-buyer Census stats showing race and ethnicity of the neighborhood, it would most likely be an FHA violation. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

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## Webinars & Conferences:

### **NYSCAA Conferences:**

Executive Director's Seminar  
November 17 and 18, 2016  
[The Otseaga](#) - Cooperstown, NY  
[Click here](#) to register

11th Annual Symposium on Poverty & Economic Security  
March 29, 2017  
[Hilton Garden Inn](#) - Troy, NY

2017 June Professional Development Conference\*  
June 1-2, 2017  
[High Peaks Resort](#), NY

\*Note this date has changed

### **NYSCAA Webinars/Training:**

Learn to Love Your Outlook Inbox  
October 26, 2016  
1:00 - 2:00 EST  
[Click here](#) to register

### **CCAP Cohort**

Interested in becoming a Certified Community Action Professional? To learn more about NYSCAA's CCAP Cohort, contact Kim McMann by email [kmcman@nyscommunityaction.org](mailto:kmcman@nyscommunityaction.org) or by phone 518-690-0491 x 30.

### **Upcoming Events:**

2017 Community Action Partnership's Management & Leadership Training Conference (MLTC)  
January 10-13, 2017  
Long Beach, CA  
[Click here](#) to register

2017 NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Conference  
March 30-31, 2017  
Arlington, VA

2017 CAPLAW National Training Conference  
June 7-9, 2017  
Denver, CO

### **NYSCAA Help Desk:**

Have a tech question? The NYSCAA Help Desk is open to all NYSCAA Members. Call Phoebe Schimpf at 518-690-0491 x 28 or submit an inquiry [here](#).

### **Tech Tip: Sticky Notes in Outlook**

Outlook includes a built-in sticky notes feature. Press Ctrl + Shift + N from anywhere in the Outlook program to create a new note. This note can be dragged anywhere on the screen.

You can also manage your notes in Outlook...to learn how, along with other Outlook tips, register for our free webinar on October 26 at 1:00 PM: [Learn to Love your Outlook Inbox!](#)

## **FACT OF THE MONTH:**

58.8% of adults or 541,545 without a degree live in poverty in New York State. [Click here](#) to find out more in your county.

# Trivia!

## What's the Year?

1. This year was the peak of the Baby Boomer years
2. Toyota starts selling cars in the US, the first is the Toyopet Crown
3. Egypt re-opens the Suez Canal
4. Asian Flu pandemic claims over 150,000 lives world wide
5. Elvis Presley purchases a mansion in Memphis, Tennessee and calls it Graceland
6. Portable Radar Devices Used To Enforce Speed Limits
7. Popular films included 12 Angry Men and Around the World in Eighty Days
8. First Nuclear Reactor plant opens for production of electricity in Pennsylvania US
9. Martin Luther King Jr heads nationwide resistance to racial segregation and discrimination in the US
10. The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 2. On board is the first animal to enter space - a dog named Laika.

The year is 1957

## Riddle Me This!

Give it food and it will live; give it water and it will die.

The answer is fire.

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**THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION:** Community Action changes people's lives, embodies spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

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**Click on Name of Agency to Visit Website:** Action for a Better Community, Inc. \* Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc. \* Albany Community Action Partnership \* ACCORD Corporation \* CACHE (Community Action Commission to Help the Economy Inc. \* CAPC of Jefferson County \* Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. \* Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. \* Chautauqua Opportunities Inc. \* Columbia Opportunities, Inc. \* Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Capital District Region, Inc. \* Community Action Organization of Erie County, Inc. \* Community Action of Greene County, Inc. Community Action of Orleans & Genesee \* Community Action Partnership for Madison County, Inc. Cortland Community Action Program, Inc. (CAPCO) \* Delaware Opportunities \* Dutchess County Community Action Agency, Inc. \* Economic Opportunity Program Inc. of Chemung County \* EOC of Nassau County - Hempstead \* EOC of Suffolk - Patchogue \* Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc. \* JCEO of Clinton & Franklin Counties \* Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. \* Livingston County Planning Department \* Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. \* NYC Department of Youth and Community Development \* Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. \* Opportunities for Broome, Inc. \* Opportunities for Chenango, Inc. \* Opportunities for Otsego, Inc. \* Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. \* Path Stone PEACE, Inc. \* Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. \* RECAP \* Saratoga County EOC, Inc. Schenectady County EOC, Inc. \* Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc. \* St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc. \* Tioga Opportunities, Inc. \* Tompkins Community Action, Inc. \* Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. \* Warren/Hamilton Counties ACEO, Inc. \* Washington County EOC, Inc. \* WestCOP \* Wayne County Community Action Program, Inc. \* Wyoming County Community Action, Inc. \* Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc.<



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