



Chapter Bulletin

Number 12

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TO: All Chapters

FROM: Laura J. Kennedy, President

DATE: October 4, 2017

RE: 2017 Annual Fall Meeting

NYSARC's 68th Annual Fall Meeting will be held October 26-27 at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Our annual meeting gives board members, staff, and families an opportunity to gather together to learn, share, and make decisions. It is a time to reflect upon our past, discuss the present challenges, celebrate our victories, and plan for our future—and we will be coming together for the first time as The Arc New York!

What we have accomplished together in 68 years is remarkable, but we still have much to do. Taking advantage of all that our annual meeting has to offer is important as we work together to keep our organization strong and relevant to the people we support and their families. It is the one time of year when we all get to come together under one roof!

On Thursday night, we are delighted to have Dr. Stephen Birchak, a nationally recognized speaker who uses humor, research, and personal reflection to examine our most common reactions to change in today's high-pressure world, kick off our two-day meeting. Dr. Birchak's principles involving human character have been used by parents, teachers, executives, corporate leaders, and children to respond positively to change and live fulfilling lives.

Friday morning, the Board of Governors meeting agenda includes the elections, the launch of our rebrand to The Arc New York, and the introduction of Mark van Voorst, the search committees' recommendation for State Office Executive Director.

The Board of Governors meeting will be followed by our Awards Luncheon where we will honor four outstanding direct support professionals.

Member The Arc

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Friday afternoon will offer two informative workshops. Denise Jones, Executive Director, Chautauqua County Chapter, will be moderating an informational panel session on the upcoming OPWDD transformation to care coordination and the health home model. Panelists include Nicole Haggerty, LMHC, Director for the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and Care Coordination, Office of Mental Health; and Peggy Elmer, LCSW, Director, Health Home Policy and Program Development, NYS Department of Health, and OPWDD leadership. This panel discussion will allow NYSARC to learn from other service systems who have already undergone the care management transition, identifying best practices, challenges, and opportunities.

The second session, "Managing Change When the Path is Unclear," will be presented by Bruce Parsons, Principal Consultant with Mahoney Performance Institute. This session will explore how to share ideas, provoke thought, and inspire people to embrace uncertainty, and choose to be a catalyst for intentional change that enhances the value delivery experience for employees and volunteers alike.

On Friday evening, we will enjoy a cocktail reception where the winner of the annual art competition will be announced. We will also be entertained by a very talented singer, Olivia Esposito, an apprentice from our Fulton County Chapter's *Transitions* program.

This year's banquet will include a special recognition of our Developmental Center Chapters who have played a unique role in the history of our organization. I have asked Judy O'Rourke, Chairperson of our Advocacy and Oversight Committee for State Operated Programs, to accept a Board Resolution on behalf of our D.C. Chapters in appreciation of their many years of committed advocacy.

Rounding out the evening, we will enjoy our banquet dinner and dessert reception as we congratulate our 2017 Self-Advocate of the Year, Scott Kamakaris from our Livingston-Wyoming Chapter, and our Volunteer of the Year, Edith Niedert, from our New York City Chapter.

So, as you can see, we will have a busy and much needed couple of days together. I look forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks!

P.S. If you have not yet had a chance to register for the fall meeting, please do so as soon as possible. [Please click here to register.](#)

LJK/baf