

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 5, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Audrey Schwartzberg, ANCA, (518) 891-6200 or aschwartzberg@adirondack.org

Connie Prickett, Adirondack Foundation, (518) 523-9904 or connie@adkfoundation.org

What: Common Ground Alliance Forum

When: Thursday, July 19, 2018, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Lake Placid Golf Club House, Lake Placid, NY

Registration fee: \$35, and \$20 for students; includes light breakfast, lunch and refreshments

Common Ground Alliance focuses on policy and impact in region

Adirondack leaders, residents convene for annual forum

LAKE PLACID, NY — Informed policy and lasting impact for Adirondack communities are the desired outcomes of the annual Common Ground Alliance (CGA) Forum, where community leaders, business owners and residents are invited to participate in action-oriented conversations about a variety of regional issues. The 12th annual CGA Forum will take place Thursday, July 19, at the Lake Placid Golf Club House.

Topics for this year's forum range from promoting electric vehicle use and developing charging stations to workforce issues to managing burgeoning tourism impact in the High Peaks. Community stakeholders from all over the Adirondacks will come together to seek common ground on these and other regional issues in order to coordinate their efforts for collective action.

"This forum is the place to be for any and all people who want to have an impact on social, economic and environmental issues in the Adirondacks," said Ross Whaley, retired President of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and CGA Core Team Member.

"It's the priorities and passions of people who live and work here that decide what issues we address at the forum," Whaley said, pointing out that this year's topics were selected based on survey responses from nearly 200 community leaders, business owners, government officials and residents from around the Adirondacks.

"The energy of the forum is contagious and the topics are engaging. It gives all of us an opportunity to chart a path forward with intention and cooperation," said Cali Brooks, Adirondack Foundation President and CEO and GCA Core Team member.

The goal of the meeting is to gain community and stakeholder input on key issues so that action and policy are more likely to succeed and have lasting impact for Adirondack communities. Recent examples of success include statewide voter approval in November to amend the constitution with the Forest

Preserve Health and Safety Land Bank Act and the strategic distribution of free boat wash stations and lake stewards throughout the park to protect lakes from the negative impacts of invasive species.

This year's forum will address the following topics:

- Clean Energy Economy: Electric Vehicles in the Adirondacks
- Shaping the Future of Our Communities
- Managing Success in the High Peaks
- Workforce Issues
- Private Land Stewardship
- The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan
- Challenges and Opportunities for Adirondack Vacation Communities
- Climate Change: Building Regional Resilience through Climate Literacy and Action

The agenda will also include presentations from a selection of local entrepreneurs and organizations about successful projects and initiatives taking place across the region.

Action items from the 2017 CGA Forum, including policy and budget considerations, were added to the [Blueprint for the Blue Line](#), a list of the alliance's priorities for the Adirondack Park. The updated list includes recommendations for improving redevelopment and investment in downtowns, fostering entrepreneurship and supporting sustainable tourism that preserves the natural environment.

The CGA Forum will take place at the Lake Placid Golf Club House in Lake Placid, NY, on Thursday, July 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The cost of registration is \$35, and \$20 for students. The fee includes a light breakfast, refreshments and lunch. To register, visit ANCA's website at adirondack.org/CGA. For more information about registration, please contact Jake Vennie-Vollrath at (518) 891-6200 or jvennie-vollrath@adirondack.org.

Please direct media inquiries to ANCA Communications Associate Audrey Schwartzberg at (518) 891-6200 or aschwartzberg@adirondack.org, or Adirondack Foundation Vice President of Communications & Strategic Initiatives Connie Prickett (518) 523-9904 or connie@adkfoundation.org.

###

Attached:

PDF file for press release

PDF file for [2018 Blueprint for the Blue Line](#)

Photo courtesy of Adirondack Common Ground Alliance: 2016 CGA Forum attendees at View arts center in Old Forge