ANCA
A North Country for All

North Country Economy News | November 2026

A Season of Gratitude and Reflection



2026 has been a remarkable year for the ANCA team and the Adirondack North Country region. As we gather with our families and communities this season, we're grateful for and reflecting on much, and thrilled to be planning for the year ahead.

Just as we welcomed our new Executive Director, Emily Nobel Maxwell, in October, we wished Audrey Schwartzberg our very best as she moved on to new adventures strengthening our region after more than 10 years as our incredible communications leader. We are grateful for her steady, exceptional storytelling direction and will sincerely miss her.

We are also welcoming two new members to our Board of Directors, Kaila Kelleher and John VanNatten (learn more about Kaila and John here), as we also said farewell and good luck to two departing directors, John Bartow and Brittany Davis. We are so grateful for their service.

In the coming weeks, we'll share more about our plans for 2027 and opportunities for the year ahead, and invite you to join us as we continue to build our commitment to *a North Country for All*.

We are grateful to be part of this community and in partnership with you.

A few additional reflections:

- We're honoring Native American Heritage Month (see below) and National Veterans and Military Families Month. Tell us: how are you honoring veterans and showing up for Native people in our community this month?
- We're making plans to shop small this holiday season. What are your favorite North Country small businesses that you will support this season?
- We're proud to be part of a strong coalition of organizations building strength for the region, and encourage all who value our work to make an end-of-year gift -- even before Giving Tuesday! -- to ANCA or to an organization that has positively impacted your life.

Make a Year End Gift to ANCA Today

Honoring Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month is here but Native people are here all year. Here are some ways from the Adirondack Diversity Initiative team to keep showing up:

- Educate yourself about the Native history in your own backyard. Here are a few suggestions:
  - **The First Adirondackers: 12,000 Years of Indigenous Peoples in the Adirondack Uplands** by Curt Stager and David Kanietakeron Fadden
  - **Rural Indigenous: A History of Iroquoian and Algonquian Peoples of the Adirondacks** by Melissa Otis
  - **Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Wall Kimmerer (Citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and lives in Upstate NY)
  - View a fantastic collection of books by Native American authors at independent Birch Bark Bookstore broken down by categories (info only as they don't ship). Or visit Powell Books for their in-depth Native American Heritage Month list.
  - Check out past ANCA *What's Up North* blog posts
    - From Ember to Earth: Honoring Indigenous Biochar Practices
    - Celebrating Indigenous Excellence
    - Rebuilding Thanksgiving for All
- Shop from Native artists and businesses, especially Haudenosaunee and Abenaki makers.
- Learn whose homelands you live on, and what those nations are working on today.
- Support Native-led organizations with your time and your dollars.

Small Business Opportunities

Winter Small Business Webinar Series

ANCA's Small Business Team is excited to share our winter virtual program offerings for small businesses. We hope you'll join us for multi-part webinars on topics including E-commerce, Product Development, Brand Building and Generative AI for Businesses. *Supported with funding from a USDA Rural Business Development and NY SSBCI grant programs.*

E-Commerce for Businesses:

- **Session 2: Making Your E-Commerce Work for You:** Tues., December 1, 12-1:30 p.m. Hear from a panel of small business owners on the way they utilize their e-commerce platforms to track their businesses' success. Learn tips on tracking market trends, customers, inventory and more.

Learn More & Register



Welcoming Makers and Retailers

Are you a maker who would like a gentle on-ramp to try out wholesaling at a small scale, or are you already wholesaling and want more opportunities to meet local and regional retailers? Share your interest below!

Are you a retailer looking for unique local gifts for your shop? Register for free below!

Join us for ANCA's annual Adirondack Buyer Days trade show, where retail buyers connect with local makers of handmade gifts *(like Abby Kirkman Quilts, pictured at the 2026 show).*

- **What:** 2027 Adirondack Buyer Days
- **When:** Sunday, March 14 and Monday, March 15, 2027
- **Where:** Saratoga Springs City Center

Learn More **Vendor Interest** **Buyer Registration**

Climate & Energy Corner

Community Partner Stipends Available

The North Country Clean Energy Hub has just launched a $5,000 Community Partner Stipend to organizations across the 7-county North Country region who serve low- to moderate-income individuals *(like Emmanuel Congregational Church in Watertown, pictured)*. The stipend is designed to support organizations interested in partnering with the Hub to help residents improve home energy efficiency, safety and comfort while also advancing their organization's goals.

Learn More & Apply



Local Food Systems



High Peaks Market

Stock up on local farm products for Thanksgiving. Saranac Lake Farmers' Market has moved indoors to the Hotel Saranac lobby for the winter season, running October through December.

We have also launched a new website for Park-It. Customers can now shop local food and products from multiple vendors with ONE checkout. It's a long requested improvement that makes shopping local easier. Orders are placed online for pick up outside Hotel Saranac.

Ag Service Provider Gatherings

Building off our first gathering in 2025 in Tupper Lake, ANCA and our Compost for Good team are partnering with the Adirondack Food System Network, Lake Champlain Basin Program, and the NY Farm Bureau to convene agriculture service providers throughout the North Country.

We have one remaining convening on the calendar:

- **Friday, November 20 at CCE Lewis County in Lowville, NY**

Attendees are also invited to participate in a site tour before each gathering. We encourage all organizations working to uplift our farmers to attend and share.

Learn More & Register

Adirondack Diversity Initiative

SUNY Plattsburgh Black Solidarity Day

ADI was honored to join this year's Black Solidarity Day at SUNY Plattsburgh, a day-long Social Justice Teach-In themed "Honoring Our Past and Empowering Our Future," with more than 50 sessions. ADI Community Initiative Manager Tamara Jolly joined Jacqueline Madison, President of the Northstar Underground Railroad Museum, and Helen Nerska, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of the North Country, on the opening panel. They talked about the history of Black and Indigenous peoples in the North Country and their current work on cultural competency, civic engagement, and building a more equitable region. Historian and activist Carlos E. Russell founded Black Solidarity Day in 1969, and it's observed on the first Monday of November. SUNY Plattsburgh students

Community Policing Program

ADI has concluded the 2026 cohort of ADI's Community Policing Program, which trained more than 65 participants over three full-day sessions. This year's cohort included officers from New York State Police Troop B, the Essex County Sheriff's Office, the Saranac Lake and Lake Placid Police Departments, and the SUNY Plattsburgh University Police Department. As part of the program, ADI also hosted its first open Community Policing Forum, which brought community members and law enforcement together to discuss the training and its impact across the Adirondacks and North Country. We are busy scheduling the three sessions for our 2027 training Cohort.

got it added to the academic calendar in 2022.



Build Shared Prosperity for All

ANCA members are building shared prosperity across northern New York by supporting programs that strengthen small businesses, local food systems, climate & energy initiatives, and welcoming & belonging. Thank you for powering this important work.

Join Today

Adirondack North Country Association | 67 Main Street Suite 201 | Saranac Lake, NY 12983 US

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