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ANCA Board of Directors Welcomes Two New Board Members

Kaila Kelleher and John VanNatten bring finance expertise to the economic development nonprofit

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. — The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) Board of Directors has announced the addition of Kaila Kelleher and John VanNatten to its team. The two new board members bring experience in financial planning, community engagement, and small business support to the regional economic development nonprofit. Both were elected to the ANCA Board at its quarterly meeting on September 11, 2026.

“Kaila and John bring valuable expertise and perspectives that will help guide ANCA’s work across the Adirondack North Country,” said Kelly Chezum, ANCA Board President. “Their professional experience and longstanding commitment to the region will be tremendous assets as we continue working with local businesses, farms, local governments and community organizations to strengthen our regional economy.”

Kaila Kelleher is a wealth advisor with Mercer Advisors, where she develops and implements financial plans for clients. She previously served as director of client planning and strategy at Long Run Wealth Advisors, overseeing client planning and operational initiatives. Earlier in her career, she worked in financial counseling and technology project management with The Ayco Company, a Goldman Sachs company, and held a special projects role with Goldman Sachs AYCO, helping coordinate strategic initiatives across multiple regional offices.

A resident of Lake Placid, N.Y. Kelleher also brings a strong record of nonprofit and community leadership to the ANCA team. She serves as vice chair of the board of trustees for Adirondack Film and treasurer of the Housing Assistance Program of Essex County board of trustees. She previously served as treasurer of the Lake Placid Chapter of the Business Alliance Networking Group. She holds a bachelor’s degree in finance, with a minor in economics, from Siena College, and is a Certified Financial Planner.

“I’m honored to be joining the board at ANCA,” Kelleher said. “The organization’s work across the North Country is enhancing small business opportunities, fostering energy and climate resilience, and supporting a vibrant economy.”

John VanNatten serves as Vice President and Regional Market Leader for Arrow Bank in the North Country. With more than 35 years of experience in banking and financial services, John brings a deep understanding of the regional business landscape, commercial lending, and the financial needs of local businesses.

Throughout his career, John has been actively engaged in supporting economic development and strengthening the North Country community. He has served in leadership and advisory roles with several regional organizations, including the North Country Chamber of Commerce, Clinton County Industrial Development Agency, and North Country Workforce Development Board.

A graduate of SUNY Morrisville with an associate degree in accounting, John is passionate about supporting local businesses, fostering economic opportunity, and helping North Country communities thrive.

“ANCA is an essential North Country Organization,” VanNatten said. “I am thrilled to work alongside their terrific team to grow a North Country for All, ensuring robust and meaningful investments in all our communities.”

The new board members join ANCA as the organization advances its strategic priorities set out in its 2026-2028 strategic plan. Through programs that focus on climate and energy, small business, local food systems, and welcoming and belonging, ANCA supports the people, organizations and systems that contribute to a resilient and thriving regional economy.

ANCA’s new executive director, Emily Nobel Maxwell, said, “I’m so pleased to welcome Kaila and John to the ANCA team, as we work together to build a North Country where businesses and communities have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. Kaila’s financial expertise and engagement with local nonprofits, along with John’s deep knowledge of our region’s small business and finance landscapes, will strengthen our board’s ability to help guide this work. I am grateful for their service to ANCA and the people we serve, and I’m excited to work with them both in the years ahead.”

ANCA is a regional nonprofit and economic hub building shared prosperity across northern New York. Focused on small businesses, climate & energy, local food systems, and welcoming & belonging, ANCA works to ensure the long-term viability of the North Country, empowering individual wellbeing, economic strength, and regional stewardship. ANCA works with individuals, groups, and communities across 14 counties to navigate resources, cultivate networks, generate economic and community solutions, build shared capacity, and shape region-boosting narratives.

Attached: two (2) photos

Photos provided:
1) Kaila Kelleher
2) John VanNatten

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View on ANCA website




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