



The Action

THE A C A A A NEWSLETTER

May 2016

TalkPoverty.org's Greg Kaufmann Among Speakers



Greg Kaufmann

One of America's most prominent voices for the under-represented will be lending his own voice to the proceedings of the upcoming 2016 Annual Conference of the Arkansas Community Action

Agencies Association, as Greg Kaufmann—the creator of *The Nation* magazine's highly-regarded "Week in Poverty" blog and the current editor of *TalkPoverty.org*—will be the conference's Opening Luncheon speaker on Wednesday, May 25, beginning this year's annual assembly on a high note.

Kaufmann, a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, has made it a personal and professional mission to see the expansion of media coverage on the subject of poverty; political commentator Melissa Harris-Perry described him as "one of the most consistent voices on poverty in America." Some readers may recognize him from his appearances not only on Harris-Perry's program, but also *Moyers & Company* and PBS's *Tavis Smiley*.

Formerly *The Nation*'s "poverty correspondent," Kaufmann continues his work to cast a light where others may hesitate to look through his role as editor of *TalkPoverty.org*—a project for the Center for American Progress whose mission is "lifting up the voices of advocates, policymakers, and people struggling to make ends meet."

See Conference speakers, p. 3



ACAAA 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TO THE WORLD, YOU MAY
BE JUST ONE PERSON
BUT TO ONE PERSON,
YOU MAY BE THE WORLD!

Community Action representatives from around the state will convene for a four-day gathering to exchange ideas and recognize the achievements of the preceding year as the Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association (ACAAA) holds its 2016 Annual Conference in North Little Rock from the 25th to the 27th with a special pre-conference training session being made available on the 24th.

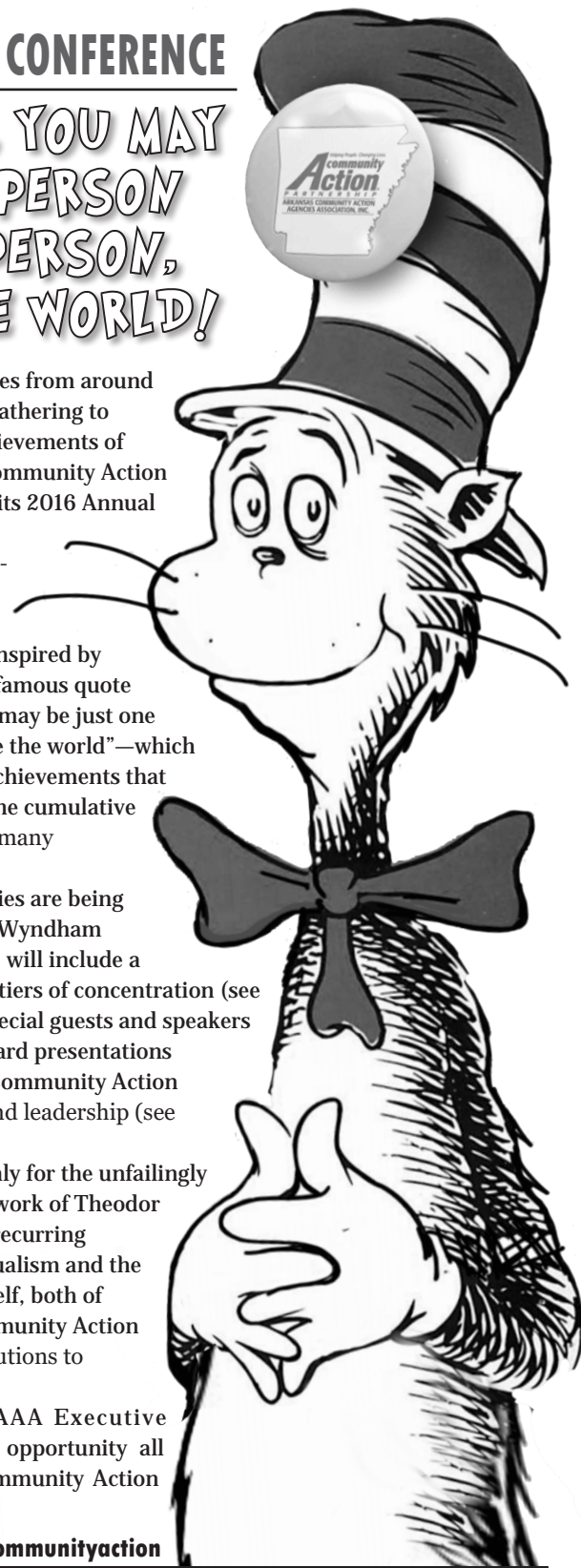
This year's conference theme is inspired by the work of Dr. Seuss, in particular a famous quote attributed to him—"To the world you may be just one person, but to one person, you may be the world"—which perfectly captures all the wonderful achievements that have been encouraged into being by the cumulative effects of Community Action staffers' many individual efforts.

This year's agenda, whose activities are being accommodated in the facilities of the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in North Little Rock, will include a series of workshops divided into four tiers of concentration (see lineup, page 4), an exciting slate of special guests and speakers (see sidebar, left), and a variety of award presentations that celebrate the year's very best in Community Action programs, clients, staff, volunteers, and leadership (see nominees, page 6).

2016's theme was selected not only for the unfailingly infectious good spirits evoked by the work of Theodor Geisel—a.k.a., Dr. Seuss—but for his recurring message of the importance of individualism and the transformative power of faith in oneself, both of which are key ingredients in the Community Action mission to seek area-specific local solutions to encourage greater self-sufficiency.

Said Rebecca Reynolds, ACAA Executive Director, "This is the best training opportunity all year to be witness to the best of Community Action in Arkansas."

The 2016 conference hashtag: #becommunityaction



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Meet the ACAAAA Staff

REBECCA REYNOLDS • EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rebecca Reynolds has spent her entire career advocating for human rights. She began her career in Early Childhood Education as a Head Start teacher with NADC before moving on to accept the position of Executive Director for Family Violence Prevention in Batesville for over three years. As Development Coordinator at the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Rebecca drafted, advocated and successfully passed stalking legislation in the 89th Arkansas General Assembly.

Rebecca transitioned to ACAAAA from her role as Cabot Program Administrator and Director of Waiver for Lonoke Exceptional Development Center serving individuals with disabilities. She holds an Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education from UACCB and a Bachelor of Science in Human Services Management from the University of Phoenix. Rebecca is currently in the process of completing her Masters of Business Management and is an upcoming ROMA NCRI candidate. She is involved in a number of volunteer efforts including Arkansas Black Hall of Fame Hospitality Committee, Little Rock Zoo Wild Wines of the World Steering Committee, Special Olympics, Women's Own Worth, Arkansas Housing Trust Fund and Arkansas Advocates For Children and Families Kids Count Coalition; she also serves as a board member for Real Images. She previously served on the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence Board of Directors, Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault Advisory Council and Batesville Rotary Club Board of Directors.

TERRY BEARDEN • PROGRAMS AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Terry Bearden, NCRMT, provides results-oriented management and accountability (ROMA) and other relevant training and technical assistance to community action board members, managers, frontline staff, and community partners. She is certified as a Master Trainer by the Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers (ANCRT), where she serves on the board of directors. Terry serves on several ROMA Next Generation workgroups, committees, and learning communities convened by national partners. She is a certified grant-writer, MACA Poverty Simulation facilitator, CFED IDA Financial Literacy Trainer, CFPB Your Money, Your Goals facilitator, and graduate of the University of Central Arkansas Community Development Institute—Central. Terry has presented and served on panels at local, state, regional, and national conferences. She is a member of the ACAAAA ROMA, IT, Peer Assistance, and Conference committees, Arkansas Homeless Coalition, and National Fair Housing Alliance. Terry is currently seeking Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) certification through the Community Action Partnership..

JOHN MORAN • COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

John Moran joined the Association after having spent over a decade previously serving as the Media Coordinator for the Arkansas State Employees Association—invaluable nonprofit-arena training for the art of trying to generate a maximum amount of attention on a minimum amount of budget. Since joining ACAAAA, John has been endeavoring to usher the Association forward into more up-to-date modes of communication while still maintaining the respectfulness and seriousness with which the subject matter of Community Action deserves to be treated.

The Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association represents 16 private, nonprofit community action agencies in the state, providing them with information, training, technical assistance, and other support. The agencies are among more than 1,000 throughout the country established under the national landmark legislation approved by Congress in 1964 to eliminate "the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty." This newsletter is funded, in part, with a grant from the state Office of Community Services of the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION • Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the 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.

Conference speakers

continued from page 1

The conference, which is being held May 25-27 at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in North Little Rock, will also welcome a pair of Community Action representatives from the nation's capital as Denise Harlow,



Denise Harlow

CEO of the national Community Action Partnership (CAP), and David Bradley, Executive Director of the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), will each address those assembled.

Harlow will speak at the Wednesday, May 25, Opening General Session to kick things off with an update on the latest big-picture developments affecting Community Action at both the national and state levels. Bradley—a critical figure in the history of Community Action, as not only the founder of NCAF but also the principal author of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) that provides so much critical program funding—will bookend the conference's final day with a legislative update at Friday, May 27's Closing Session, offering his unique perspective into the behind-the-scenes decisions can have such an important effect on the fortunes of Community Action.



David Bradley

ACAAA's Annual Awards Luncheon—being held that same Wednesday to recognize the year's finest volunteer efforts as well as its happiest client success stories (see list of nominees, page 6)—will boast the distinction of being introduced by special guest speaker Arkansas Lieutenant



*Lieut. Governor
Tim Griffin*

Governor Tim Griffin. Another representative of the State of Arkansas will appear later in that day's lineup as Mary Franklin—Interim Director of the Arkansas Department of Human Services's



Mary Franklin

Division of County Operations, will provide a state update assisted by Lorie Williams, Assistant Director of the Division's Office of Community Services.

Wednesday's Opening General Session will also include an update on "ROMA Next Generation"—i.e., the latest developments in the Results-Oriented Management & Accountability reporting system employed by the state's agencies to measure programs' effects—from Dr. Barbara Mooney, Research Fellow with the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) and Director of the Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers.

Thursday's conference luncheon will come served with a side of inspirational insight as motivational speaker Dr. Charles Petty, founder and president of Family Success Unlimited, addresses those gathered. Petty, a native Arkansan "raised in the farming communities of England and Stuttgart," has been a counselor; visiting professor; and, for seven years, a member of the senior staff of the Governor of North Carolina.

While the Annual Conference proper begins Wednesday, May 25, a special "pre-



Barbara Mooney

Conference day" of training for frontline staff and agency boards of directors will be held the Tuesday beforehand. Paige Teegarden, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives with Garrett County Community Action in Oakland, Maryland, will be Tuesday's guest luncheon speaker with a talk on "The 2(Gen) Framework," a look at how a two-generational approach can create opportunities for addressing needs of both vulnerable children and their parents together.

Additional presenters will include Richard "Toby" Atkinson, ACAA President and Executive Director of Ozark Opportunities, Inc. (OOI); Beverly Buchanan, Department of Human Services CSBG Unit Manager; Charles Cunningham, former executive director of Central Arkansas Development Council (and the namesake of the "Charles Cunningham Leadership Award" being presented at Wednesday, May 25's Awards Luncheon); ACAA Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds; and Mae Frances Rowlett, Program Coordinator with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families.



Dr. Charles Petty



Paige Teegarden

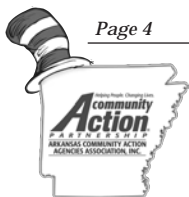
TRANSITIONS

Leslie Paschal Barnes is the newly named Executive Director for Community Services Office (CSO) in Hot Springs, which serves the Garland County area. A native of Hot Springs, Barnes has spent more than 20 years serving children, families, and communities in the Memphis and surrounding areas.



*CSO's Leslie
Paschal Barnes*

Barnes has worked for the State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services and the Shelby County Community Services Agency and, for the past six years, has served as a Program Manager for the Memphis and Shelby County School Systems. She and her husband, Marcus, have two grown children who live in Washington D.C.



HOP ON WORKSHOPS!

ACAAA 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Annual Conference workshops will be held Thursday, May 26.

TRACK ONE: VISION AND DIRECTION

Horton Hears a Who...
...What, and How of Advocacy

One Dollar Two Dollar, Old Dollar New Dollar:
Introduction to Nonprofit Fundraising

Oh, the Places You'll Go!:
Maximizing Your Strategic Plan

The Cat in the Hat Comes Back:
ROMA Next Generation

TRACK TWO: ADMINISTRATIVE

If I Ran the Circus:
Human Resources: What to Watch

How to Be Great at Rating a Trait!:
*Performance Management:
Beyond the Evaluation*



**Thing One Plus Thing
Two Equals Thing Three:**
Preparing for Your Audit



On Beyond Zebra!:
What's New in Community Action

TRACK THREE: DIRECT SERVICE

Fox in Socks:
Weatherization Plus Health

Hop on Pop:
Utilizing a Two-Generational Approach

The above is the agenda as currently scheduled as of press time; ACAA reserves the right to make adjustments to the ultimate workshop lineup in advance of the conference.

TRACK THREE, CONT.

The Science of Triumphs with Clients:
*Integrating Financial Empowerment
in Community Action*

You're Only Old Once!:
Senior Services – Forming Programs that Work

I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew:
Transportation for Rural Communities

Oh, the Thinks You Can Think!:
*McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless
Children and Youth Assistance Program*

No Laughing Matter:
Substance Abuse 101

TRACK FOUR: CONNECTING THE DOTS

Re-Tweeting the Sneetches:
Utilizing Technology and Social Media

I Can Read with My Eyes Shut!:
Resources for Arkansans with Disabilities

One Fish Two Fish, Red Fish Blue Fish:
Equal Justice

**And to Think That I
Saw It on Mulberry Street:**
Building Assets from the Ground Up

Nothing to Joke About:
Domestic Violence Dynamics



Show your support
for Arkansas

COMMUNI **tee** ACTION!



Thursday at the Annual
Conference is **T-shirt Day**, so
you know you'll want to be
sporting your new ACAAA top!

With your very own
ACAAA T-shirt!



T-shirts will be on sale at the ACAAA Annual
Conference. If you're not going to be able
to make it but know someone who is,
have 'em pick one up for you!

ONLY
\$15.00
(\$17.00 SIZES 2XL
AND UP!)



T R A I N I N G

In conjunction with the New York State Community Action Association, ACAAA is offering a series of free instructional webinars on the Microsoft Office Suite—Word, Excel, Access, and Outlook—to members of the Arkansas Community Action network. These webinars are being held on the first Wednesday of the month for the remainder of the year—those interested should contact ACAAA Programs and Development Director Terry Bearden at tbearden@acaaa.org or by phone at (501) 372-0807.

whoa, baby!

Have you checked out the new ACAAA website?

**REVISED!
REVAMPED!**

SAME WEBSITE ADDRESS...

ACAAA INVITES YOU TO PLEASE VISIT US AT

www.acaaa.org

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WE TIP OUR HATS TO OUR NOMINEES!



Every year, ACAA takes the opportunity of its annual conference to present a variety of awards to a wide spectrum of deserving recipients.

ACAAA's "Action awards" salute the achievements of both the givers and the receivers of Community Action assistance: While the Supporter Action award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed

so selflessly over the past year, the Client Action award highlights those recipients of aid who have managed to take strides towards self-sufficiency and even, in some cases, "paid it forward."

Meanwhile, the "CAPPY Awards"—named after the national Community Action Partnership (a.k.a. "CAP") of which ACAA is a member—honor the very best programs the state's community action agencies have to offer, as well as honoring the agencies' very best employees. The CAPPYs are given in three categories (with titles patterned after the Oscars): "Best Production,"

for outstanding and innovative programs; "Best Performance in a Leading Role," to recognize the finest efforts of program managers and coordinators, center directors, supervisors and senior administrative staff; and "Best Performance in a Supporting Role," to celebrate the achievements of program and frontline staff, including those with LIHEAP, Weatherization, Head Start, family development/advocacy, case management, community development, home health, and administrative support.

CLIENT ACTION AWARD

Monika Andrews

Central Arkansas Development Council

Dennis Blackmore

Northcentral Arkansas Development Council

Stacy Byerley

Ozark Opportunities, Inc.

Ferrin Carlton

Ozark Opportunities, Inc.

Keyana Flint

Central Arkansas Development Council

Kevin Harper

Pine Bluff Jefferson County Economic Opportunities Commission

Darrin Ros

Crowley's Ridge Development Council

Lerin Zavala

Community Action Program for Central Arkansas

SUPPORTER ACTION AWARD

Freedom House & Russellville Adult Education Partnership

Arkansas River Valley Area Council

Virginia Annette Pate

Central Arkansas Development Council

Jim Sprott

Ozark Opportunities, Inc.

Dr. Norman Stafford

Crowley's Ridge Development Council

James Mack Street

Northcentral Arkansas Development Council

Shana Wells

Community Action Program for Central Arkansas

Olen West

Central Arkansas Development Council

CAPPY • BEST PERFORMANCE SUPPORTING ROLE

Shaneice Batton

Community Development Specialist
Central Arkansas Development Council

Rhonda Brown

Accounts Payable
Crowley's Ridge Development Council

Kim Collins

Family Service Specialist
Pine Bluff Jefferson County Economic Opportunities Commission

Cheryl Howard

Health, Food, and Safety Coordinator
Arkansas River Valley Area Council

Greg Hunter

Technology Coordinator
Community Action Program for Central Arkansas

Ginger Lackey

Family Support Worker
Ozark Opportunities, Inc.

Faye Leaks

Interim Director of Finance & Administration
Southeast Arkansas Community Action Corporation

Kathy Ruminer

Special Grants Coordinator/
Stone County Coordinator
Northcentral Arkansas Development Council

CAPPY • BEST PERFORMANCE LEADING ROLE

Staci Albert

Human Resources/Operations Director
Northcentral Arkansas Development Council

Charlsie Barton-Stine

Cleburne County Community Services Assistant
Community Action Program for Central Arkansas

Audra Butler

Chief Operations Officer of
Community Programs
Arkansas River Valley Area Council

Ann Cooper

Cleveland County Coordinator
Pine Bluff Jefferson County Economic Opportunities Commission

Pamla Jones

Family Community Service Manager
Southeast Arkansas Community Action Corporation

James McNeal

IT Manager
Central Arkansas Development Council

Wanda Nelson

Licensing/ Safety/ Nutrition Coordinator
Ozark Opportunities, Inc.

Julie Parker

Chief Financial Officer
Economic Opportunity Agency of Washington County

Patty Riley

Program Manager for the
Emergency Solutions Grant
Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council

Awanna Smith

Director of Substance Abuse Services, NEARRC
Crowley's Ridge Development Council

CAPPY • BEST PRODUCTION

Cleburne County Angel Tree
Community Action Program for Central Arkansas

CRDC Housing
Crowley's Ridge Development Council

CSBG
Central Arkansas Development Council

DREAM For Success: Nostos
Arkansas River Valley Area Council

SUCCESS
Ozark Opportunities, Inc.

Advocacy 2016

The Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association has recently embarked upon a new undertaking to bring fresh emphasis to its role as an advocate for the state's Community Action Agencies and, in turn, the clients that those agencies serve. Two recent such examples of this new focus were a visit by a substantial Arkansas contingent to the National Community Action Foundation's 2016 Legislative Conference held in Washington, D.C.—which allowed for a number of visits and good exchanges with our national spokespersons on Capitol Hill—as well as, on the local front, a recent ACAA-hosted “Legislative Breakfast,” which provided a great opportunity for members of the Community Action network to have a meeting of the minds with their area Senators and Representatives on how we might all better work together to encourage families and individuals towards self-sufficiency.



ACAAA Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds (left) and ARVAC E.D. Stephanie Ellis are pictured with U.S. Congressman Steve Womack.



Pictured (from left) are PBJCEOC Executive Director Roger Lutrell, ARVAC Exec. Dir. Stephanie Ellis, ACAA E.D. Rebecca Reynolds, CADC Board Chair Annette Pate, U.S. Senator John Boozman, CADC Executive Director Larry Cogburn, CADC Deputy Director Jean Harper, and CADC Systems and Program Director Todd Anderson.



Pictured from left are ACAA Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds, ARVAC Exec. Dir. Stephanie Ellis, U.S. Congressman Bruce Westerman, and PBJCEOC E.D. Roger Lutrell.



From the Legislative Breakfast: Representative Charlene Fite of Van Buren (left) speaks with Office of Human Concern Executive Director Susan Moore (right), ACAA Exec. Dir. Rebecca Reynolds (second from right), and Crowley's Ridge Development Council E.D. Tim Wooldridge (second from left). (Seen in the background, center, is Southwest Arkansas Development Council E.D. Jim McPhaul.)



Representative George B. McGill of Fort Smith speaks with ACAA Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds at the association's recent Legislative Breakfast.

**ACAAA's mission is to
provide education, advocacy,
and a unified voice for
Community Action Agencies
to reduce poverty and
promote thriving
communities in Arkansas.**

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