

## Virtual Community News Digest October 5, 2018

### Featured Event – Thursday, October 25

The New York Peer Specialist

Certification Board's

Second Annual Conference

#### Growing While Staying Grounded



[Register Now](#)

#### *Peer Networking Dinner on Wednesday, 10/24*

The dinner on the night before the conference is open to all participants for the additional fee of \$50.00 per person. This is an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in connecting with other agencies, peers and stakeholders that offer peer services.

Dinner guests can network with other peers and agencies, learn about program offerings across the state and talk with potential employers about careers as Peer Specialists.

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Welcome to the News Digest, a summary of upcoming events, articles, research opportunities, resources, job openings and more for the peer workforce in New York State.

News Digest is developed as part of the Academy of Peer Services Virtual Learning Community (VLC) project.

Visit our VLC site:

[www.aps-community.org](http://www.aps-community.org)

#### **Do You Have a Memorable Supervision Experience to Share?**

Sign up to Join an APS Focus Group at the Conference

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## Letter from the Virtual Learning Community Coordinator



Dear APS Participants and Friends,

The Academy of Peer Services is in **week three** of our adjusted Fall Term, 2018. Due to the unanticipated outage earlier in September, this year's Fall Term was extended by two weeks and will now end on December 14, 2018.

The Certification Board is aware of the outage, which occurred between Sept 4-12, 2018, and has been working with those who had completions due during those dates.

Because the updated system is substantially different than prior terms, we are repeating the **Welcome Back to Term 3** letter, originally sent to you on September 12. This letter contains information about how to access the site, as well as your rights and responsibilities under the Academy of Peer Services Terms of Use.

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### Welcome Back to Term 3 2018, APS Learners!

by Rita Cronise - Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 12:06 PM

We appreciate your patience. All courses are now available and Term 3, 2018 will be extended two extra weeks to end on December 14, 2018.

Our site looks different, but our web address is the same: [www.academyofpeerservices.org](http://www.academyofpeerservices.org)

You will see a new Log in button in the upper right corner of the screen to get started.

A few important notes to get started:

- If you are already a registered user, click "Forgot my Password" on the Login screen then enter your email address and click the green Recover Password button. An email with your registered user name and a link to reset your password will be emailed to you. You must reset your password before you can access the system for the first time. (If the email to reset your password does not arrive, check your Junk Mail).

**IMPORTANT:** If you were a returning user but you created a new account within the last two weeks because you could not remember your user name or could not reset the password to access your account, **contact our user support team as soon as possible.** Duplicate accounts are not supported by the system.

### **Welcome Back to Term 3 2018, APS Learners! (Continued)**

- If this is your first time here, click “Create new account” on the Login screen and fill out the registration form. After you click Register, an email with your user name and temporary password will be emailed to you.

The site opens when you register, but you will need the information sent by email to log in again and reset your password. (If the email does not arrive, check Junk Mail).

An online [User Guide](#) includes step by step instructions and videos to help you get started. User Support information is also available in the lower blocks of information on the main Academy of Peer Services website. The links for these resources and the user support email address are provided at the end of this email.

### **Terms of Use**

The ability to take courses in the Academy is a privilege that comes with both rights and responsibilities. Whether you are new to the site or a returning user, take a minute to review our [Terms of Use](#) Agreement.

[https://www.academyofpeerservices.org/express/apsomh/layout/TermsOfUse\\_2018.pdf](https://www.academyofpeerservices.org/express/apsomh/layout/TermsOfUse_2018.pdf)

For example, the Academy of Peer Services supports only one email and account per user. If you register under multiple accounts (even if it is because you forgot your username or could not reset the password for your old account), the result may be a loss of your course completion data and possible loss of privilege to use the site. Register only one time and use only one email while taking courses on the site.

### **Certification Board Questions**

For questions related to how to apply, or an application or approval that is in process for certification or re-certification, contact the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board directly through the contact links on this website: <http://nypeerspecialist.org/>

### **APS Questions**

For questions related to the Academy website, approved browsers, pre-requisites or other questions about the courses in the Academy, contact our user support team. As questions are answered, we update our list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

Before contacting the user support team, first check to see if the question has already been addressed in this document: <https://aps-community.org/ui-faq/>

## Welcome Back to Term 3 2018, APS Learners! (Continued)

### APS User Support

Online helps is available to learn the new features of the updated site.

- User Guide contains quick links to step by step instructions, video tutorials, and more. <https://aps-community.org/user-instructions/>
- Virtual Learning Community provides access to a webinar about the site upgrade and much more. <https://aps-community.org>
- Before contacting our user support team, be sure to check the FAQ document to see if your answer is already there. <https://aps-community.org/ui-faq/>

If you have questions about the APS site or courses, send email to our user support team: [academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com](mailto:academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com).

Thank you,  
Rita Cronise, Virtual Learning Community Coordinator

## What is the Virtual Learning Community (VLC)?



The Virtual Learning Community is a project of the Academy of Peer Services, that is intended to bridge the gap between the online learning and developing skills to put peer support into practice.

This newsletter is one part of the Virtual Learning Community. We also hold regular webinars, networking meetings, and will be starting online groups for peer supporters and supervisors in the near future. Watch this newsletter for more.

In the meantime, if you are an experienced facilitator of peer-led support groups (in person or online) or meetings and have an interest in joining our team, click the Join button below to receive an invitation to the APS Virtual Learning Community listserv (google group). You will receive regular announcements about upcoming meetings and various projects of the Virtual Learning Community.

[Join](#)

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## What's New?

ForLikeMinds



ForLikeMinds is the first online peer support community dedicated to mental illness. Peer-based support is an evidence-based approach to recovery. Recovery from mental illness is inconceivable for many, as it was for us, until we see examples of recovery.

These examples of others in similar circumstances finding the courage, strength, and support to recover can be the greatest source of inspiration and guidance. This is what ForLikeMinds is all about. It is a place to give and receive hope and insights. The recovery journey starts with hope and is nourished by the support of like minds sharing their lived experience. Please join us.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Help Wanted



We need your help! We need your help to make ForLikeMinds a success. We would love to collaborate with partners, big and small, that share and want to promote our mental health recovery and wellness mission. These include the mentally ill and their supporters, clinicians, community groups and organizations, non-profits, students, veterans, the LGBTQ+ community, academia, government, media, and companies. We will consider any opportunity that supports and advances the needs of the mentally ill and their supporters, especially our recovery and wellness mission. Together we're stronger and better. Please collaborate with us.

**[Editor's Note: We congratulate APS Virtual Learning Community member, Katherine Ponte on the successful launch of her new social media platform for connecting people who have common lived experiences. It's a great concept. Join us there for support and ongoing learning through important conversations!]**

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## Deadlines



**Howie The Harp Peer Training Program  
Application deadline for Spring 2019**

**Fri Nov 9, 2018**

[Download application packet](#)

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## Article



### **Autumn or Fall, Which Is It, Decide if you Wish by Howard Diamond**

Is it autumn already? As Brian Hyland began his song, "*Tho we gotta say goodbye for the summer*" but it will return again in nine months. However, the seasons move and some baseball teams are getting ready for the playoffs and American professional football started last month.

Soon the leaves on the trees will come out in different colors and eventually fall to the ground. Not long from now, snow will be on the streets. Of course, let us not rush it, because the white stuff comes quickly enough. Looking at the future one day at a time might be a better way, since that is what happens whether we like it or not. For summer 2018 and as the above-mentioned song concludes, "Sealed With a Kiss".

**Article: Autumn or Fall (continued)**

Hey everyone! Has anyone noticed, The Academy of Peer Services website has a new and improved look? Let's hope and I hope that these revisions are for the better. "*She's got the look*" lyrics are used several times in the 1988 song by the Swedish pop duo, Roxette. Maybe the Academy of Peer Services also has the look. By the day this is published, all the kinks will be worked out and people are using the new and improved site. Of course, I am not talking about the rock group, "The Kinks", but the issues with the coursework classes. "*Try to remember the kind of September,*" from the initial song in the longest running off-broadway musical comedy, The Fantasticks, portrays the reflecting on the end of summer, very well.

During the middle of September, New York Peer Specialists trek upstate to a three-day conference to learn about changes and fortify their knowledge of the Mental Health System. Way back in 1597, Sir Francis Bacon wrote, "*Knowledge is Power*". Almost three centuries later, British Politician, Lord Acton stated, "*Absolute power corrupts absolutely*". These statements are just for everyone to ponder, or perhaps, not. Enough of this heavy stuff.

Peer Specialists just like most people want to learn and to be trained for something. At the Academy of Peer Services, there are a multitude of on-line classes that can be taken to gain insight on what and how one becomes a New York State Certified Peer Specialist. Since last November, I am a Certified Peer Specialist. Each term affords me and all of you the opportunity to take new and exciting courses. A commercial once said, "*Try it, you'll like it*".

One of the best part of doing the work at the Academy is completing each of them at your own pace. Like Fleetwood Mac sang, "*Go your own way*". Also, Burger King slogan was, "*Have it your way*". Now the saying is, "*Be your way*".

Everything happens in its own time and we cannot rush it. Now we have another change of season, whether we like it or not. Remember, always be grateful for what we have now, because we cannot alter what is going to happen and try to remain positive as much as one can. Yes, I am aware that this is not always easy, especially for me. Most of the time, I am focusing on the present and what I can do, not my past negativity or what I did not do nor I am projecting my future on what I am about to do. I say, "*Let your future be your present because you cannot modify any of your past*". Of course, that does mean, I think about my significant other Maureen. I love you, I miss you and I still wish you were here. Happy Autumn. See you in the Newsletter.

Howard, A New York Certified Peer Specialist from Long Island

Send personal articles or blogs about your life as a Peer Specialist or Supervisor to:  
[academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

The deadline for the next publication is November 1, 2018.



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# Research



## **Sign up to join a Focus Group to Share Your Experiences with Receiving Supervision**

The Academy of Peer Services (APS) research team is facilitating focus groups on the experiences peer specialists are having with supervision. Topics discussed during the focus groups will be used to contribute to research about supervision of peer specialists and to further develop courses in the Academy of Peer Services and resources in the Virtual Learning Community (VLC) website.

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This pre-registration is required for two focus groups that will be held on:

**Thursday, October 25, 2018**

New York Peer Specialist Certification Board, 2nd Annual Conference

Hilton Garden Inn

Troy, New York 12180

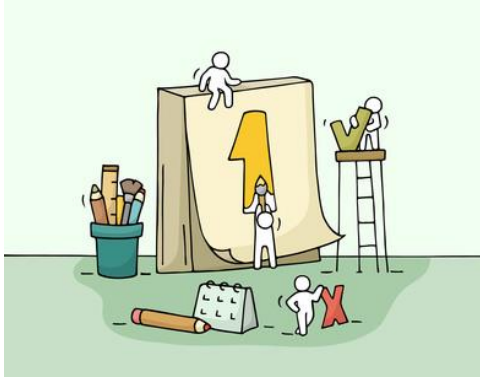
(10:45 am - 12:00 noon.)

[\*\*Register Now\*\*](#)



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## Upcoming Events



The Virtual Learning Community Calendar lists upcoming events. <https://aps-community.org/calendar/>

If you have (or know of) an event to share with the Academy of Peer Services community, send an email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).



### Special Announcement!






**NYAPRS is excited to announce REGIONAL NEW HIRE ORIENTATIONS across New York State!**  
**Do you have new staff and don't have the time or the resources to train them?**  
**Training is scheduled on the following dates/locations.**

- Tuesday October 16th - Binghamton, NY (Central Region)
- Tuesday October 23rd - Buffalo, NY (Western Region)
- Tuesday October 25th – Manhattan, NY (NYC Region)
- Monday, November 19th – Manhattan, NY (NYC Region)
- Tuesday November 20th - New Windsor, NY (Hudson Valley Region)
- Friday, November 30th – Long Island (NYC Region)
- Friday, December 7th – Bronx (NYC Region)

[Click here to learn more](#)

## Featured Events

### – MARK YOUR CALENDAR / SAVE THE DATES

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 9, 2018</b>          11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  <b>Social Security Entitlement Programs</b>          Oneonta, NY  <a href="#">LEARN MORE</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 13, 2018</b>          9 a.m. – 6 p.m.          New York City  <b>Mental Health Film Festival</b>  <a href="http://www.mentalhealthfilmfest.nyc">www.mentalhealthfilmfest.nyc</a>  <a href="#">LEARN MORE</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 18, 2018</b>  <b>Global Peer Support Celebration Day</b>          Worldwide Event  <a href="#">LEARN MORE</a></p>
<p><b>ACEs and Health: The Science of Harm and Healing?</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 20, 2018</b>          8:00am- 3:30pm  <b>SUNY Broome Community College</b>          Hosted by the Parent Technical Assistance Center at Southern Tier Independence Center  <b>To Register call PTAC at: 607-724-2111</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The History of the Mad Movement &amp; Alternatives to Biomedical Approaches</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 20, 2018</b>          10:00am- 4:00 pm          New York City   Manhattan          IDHA  <a href="#">REGISTER</a></p>



Office of  
Mental Health

**October 22, 2018**

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Regional Advisory Committee  
Statewide Video Conference

[REGISTER](#)

**Growing while Staying Grounded**

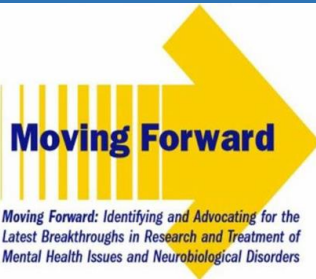


**October 24-25, 2018**

**2nd Annual Peer Specialist  
Conference**

New York Peer Specialist Certification Board  
Troy, New York

[REGISTER](#)



**October 26-28, 2018**

**NAMI New York State  
Education Conference**  
Albany, New York

[REGISTER](#)



**October 28-31, 2018**

**Reinventing the Behavioral Health  
Workforce:  
Implementing Innovative Solutions**  
New Orleans

[Learn More](#)

**Trauma, Growth, and Resilience and  
Redefining Trauma-Informed  
Practice**



**November 4, 2018**

10:00am- 4:00 pm

New York City | Manhattan  
IDHA

[REGISTER](#)



**Office of Information  
Technology Services**

**November 13, 2018**

Office of Mental Health  
Statewide Virtual Town Hall with  
Commissioner Ann Sullivan, MD

[Learn More](#)



**November 28-30, 2018**

World Federation for Mental Health  
International Trauma Summit  
Houston

[Learn More](#)

**Making Meaning from Visions &  
Voices: How to Support People  
Through Altered States and Finding  
Solid Ground**

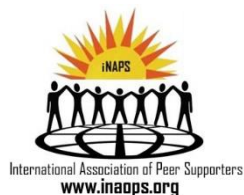


**December 1, 2018**

10:00am- 4:00 pm  
New York City | Manhattan  
IDHA

[REGISTER](#)

**Reinforcing our Roots:  
Designing our Future**



**December 3-5, 2018**

International Association of Peer  
Supporters (iNAPS) 12th Annual Conference  
DoubleTree (Hilton)  
Entrance of Universal Studios, Orlando  
(Early Bird Ends October 15)

[REGISTER](#)

**Working with Dangerous Gifts:  
Reframing Bipolar Beyond Symptom  
and Cure Mentality**



**January 12, 2019**

10:00am- 4:00 pm  
New York City | Manhattan  
IDHA

[REGISTER](#)

**Supporting Those Affected by  
Suicide: Myths, Challenges, and  
Collaborative Approaches**



**February 9, 2019**

10:00am- 4:00 pm  
New York City | Manhattan  
IDHA

[REGISTER](#)

**Applying Drug Positivity and Harm  
Reduction to Human-Drug  
Relationships**



**March 9, 2019**

10:00am- 4:00 pm  
New York City | Manhattan  
IDHA

[REGISTER](#)

**The Future of Our Movement:  
Communities Coming Together**



**April 6, 2019**

10:00am- 4:00 pm  
New York City | Manhattan  
IDHA

[REGISTER](#)

Is there anything else that should be listed?

Send events of interest to the peer support workforce to the Virtual Learning Community:

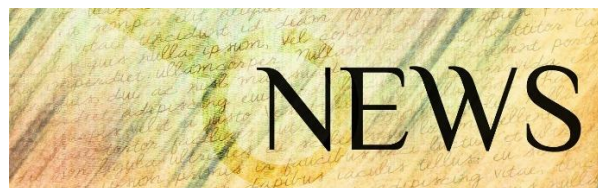
[academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

The deadline for the next publication is November 1, 2018.

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## Resources

### Newsletters (listed in alphabetical order)



[Café TA](#)

[Care for Your Mind](#)

[Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery \(WRAP\)](#)

[Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance \(DBSA\) Peer Leadership Center](#)

[Disability Rights New York](#)

[Icarus Project](#)  
[Institute for the Development of Human Arts](#)  
[Intentional Peer Support \(IPS\)](#)  
[International Association of Peer Supporters \(iNAPS\)](#)  
[Live & Learn Services \(employment and more\)](#)  
[Mad in America](#)  
[MH Mediate \(conflict resolution\)](#)  
[National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse](#)  
[NYAPRS eNews Bulletins](#)  
[Mindfreedom](#)  
[Wellness Recovery Action Plan](#)  
[Words of Wellness \(Swarbrick & Nemece\)](#)

## **Resources for Supervisors**



**[Supervision Repository](#)** - The International Association of Peer Supporters is creating a repository of resources for supervisors

## **Recent Publications About Peer Support**



**[The Evidence for Peer Support](#)** – a short promotional piece citing the Evidence for Peer Support by Mental Health America.

### **Resources and Research**

**Send items for this list to:** [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

The deadline for the next publication is November 1, 2018.

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## Job Listings



### Recent Job Postings

#### **New York City**

#### ***Social Advocate (Supportive Housing-Homeless At-Risk)***

Unique People Services, Inc.  
(Posted 10/5/18)

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#### **Syracuse**

#### ***Care Manager – Full Time- Children’s Health Home***

Catholic Charities of Syracuse  
(Posted 10/5/18)

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#### **Rochester**

#### ***Peer Support Specialist*** ***Peer Support Specialist (part-time)*** ***Peer Awake Overnight (AO) Counselor***

East House  
(Posted 10/02/18)

Visit our Job Bank for a more complete list of recent openings.  
The Job Bank is updated regularly. <https://aps-community.org/job-bank/>

If you live in or near New York City, there is a Peer Job Board specifically for New York on the Coalition for Behavioral Health site: [http://www.coalitionny.org/the\\_center/jobs/](http://www.coalitionny.org/the_center/jobs/)

## Employers – are you seeking qualified candidates?

If you have not already done so, register your business with the New York State Department of Labor and submit your job opening to the [Dept. of Labor Job Bank](#) before submitting it to the Academy of Peer Services Virtual Community. The Governor’s [Employment First](#) initiative is tracking the number of people with disabilities who are being hired, and openings for Peer Support positions should be counted in this initiative.

Once you have created a business account and submitted the job to the Dept. of Labor Job Bank, you can send the job description to us to be posted.



Submit your job openings for peer specialists or other roles in the peer workforce to:  
[academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

We will post your openings in the Virtual Learning Community Job Bank (website) and in this newsletter.

## Internships

The ThriveAtWork Peer Specialist training program in New York City invites your organization to host one or more FREE interns.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



## Volunteer Positions

Do you have volunteer openings that could qualify as “supervised work” experience for people with provisional certification?

Contact us so we can post your volunteer openings in our Job Bank!

[academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).



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## APS Virtual Learning Community

We are a network of peer specialists working together to plan ways to provide support, education, and advocacy for the peer workforce in New York State.



Click the Join button to receive an invitation to join the Virtual Learning Community listserv (Google Group) with announcements about upcoming meetings and progress on various projects of the Virtual Learning Community.

**Join**

(A moderator will approve your request to join.)

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## Share this Newsletter!

If you have job openings, resources, or announcements of events to share, send email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).



Visit the Virtual Learning Community website: [www.aps-community.org](http://www.aps-community.org) to learn more.



### Don't Forget!

Sign up to join a Focus Group on Peer Specialist Experiences with Supervision  
October 25, 2018 at the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board Conference

Space is limited to the first 25 participants.

[Click here for more](#)

**We hope to see you in Troy on October 25, 2018.**  
Visit our APS Exhibit Table, Interactive Workshops or Sign up for a Focus Group  
(previous page).



**JOIN US!**

For the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board's

## Second Annual Conference

### *Growing While Staying Grounded*

**October 24, 2018 - Conference Begins at 1 pm**  
Join us for Workshops, Peer Networking dinner, entertainment, and more!  
**October 25 - Full Day Conference - 9 am–5 pm**  
*Additional Program Details Coming Soon*

**Register Here!**  
Conference Registration \$125  
*Registration does not include overnight accommodations*

A Limited Number of Hotel Rooms are Available  
Contact:  
518-272-1700  
Group Code: PSCB

Troy Hilton Garden Inn  
235 Hoosick Street  
Troy, N Y 12180



**Sponsorship and Exhibit Opportunities Here!!**



The New York Peer Specialist Certification Board is funded  
by the New York State Office of Mental Health

Please visit [www.nypeerspecialist.org](http://www.nypeerspecialist.org)  
or email [info@nypeerspecialist.org](mailto:info@nypeerspecialist.org)





Conference Partner