



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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THEATRE PARTY



Everyone always has a great time at NCM's Theatre Party. So, be certain to get your tickets for the seventh, annual Theatre Party, which will take place on Monday, March 14 at the Petoskey Cinema. The schedule is as follows:

- 5:30 – 7:00 Dinner & Socializing
- 6:15 Door Prize Drawings
- 7:00 Go to the Movie of Your Choice

Prices are going up all around all of us, but not for the Theatre Party. Twenty-five dollars still gets you enough food for dinner, a chance to win a door prize, and a movie of your choice. For tickets, call NCM at 487.1771.

BOARD RETREAT

On Monday, February 28, past NCM president and mediator Steve Tresidder facilitated a strategic planning session for the board of directors. Many great ideas surfaced during the session. In summary, the board came up with four goals:

- Increase public awareness of NCM
- Increase reliability of funding
- Maintain positive relations with the courts
- Develop a succession plan

Details relating to the action plans will be available on the website later this month.

CHARLEVOIX EXPO

On March 24, NCM will be participating in the Charlevoix Expo being held at Castle Farm. If you could spare an hour or so to help staff our exhibit, please call NCM and talk with Jane. The expo is open to the public from 10:00am to 7:00pm.

BARTENDING

Get ready to come to the Noggin Room on Thursday, March 24 between the hours of 6:00pm and 8:00pm. Executive Director Jane Millar will be assisting in the bartending that evening, and you are encouraged to tip the bartender. The proceeds will go to Northern Community Mediation. As is true of mediation, this is a win-win situation for everyone. You can have a good time, you can contribute to a good cause, and you will help the NCM finances. See you on March 24.

MEDIATOR ROUNDTABLE

Remember that we have a Mediator Roundtable scheduled from 4:00 to 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 22. We will take the time to review our revised forms. We will spend the remainder of the time learning about the recently released study entitled "A Caseflow Study of Mediating Cases Evaluated Under \$25,000." This SCAO initiated research makes a strong case for mediation, as well as mediation by the CDRP centers.

REMINDERS

1. Remaining neutral, even in caucus, is one of the signs of a good mediator.
2. Actions speak louder than words. It is not necessary, in fact it is even somewhat undesirable, to state that as mediators "we are highly trained."
3. Although it is true that merely by coming to the mediation table a court order has been met, there is no reason to state that in your opening statement.
4. If you are an attorney and there are other attorneys at the table, it is not necessary to state that you are an attorney.
5. If you are an attorney and there are no other attorneys at the table, your disclosure should be straightforward, simple and short. An example would be, "I need to inform you that I am an attorney. However, I am not here to represent either party or give legal advice. I am a neutral party."

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING, HELLO TO NEW

Not only are Bruce Herbert and Connie Saltonstall dependable mediators, they advanced NCM through their leadership on the board. They will be missed as board members. New to the board for 2011 are Michelle Cortright and Dave Leusink. They have already shown what valuable assets they are to our organization. More information about them is available on our website <http://www.northernmediation.org/board-of-directors-20/>