



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

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### CONGRATULATIONS, NCM



Pictured from left to right: Ted Teller, President; John Marshall, Treasurer; Lisa Hoyt, Vice-President; Terri Sevener, Intake Coordinator, Bert Rousseau, Executive Assistant; Dr. Jane Millar, Executive Director; Joel Wurster, Secretary.

On Wednesday, September 5, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and the staff of Northern Community Mediation were guests of Executive Director Jane Millar at Rotary. Jane took this opportunity to give a special thanks to the staff and the Board of Directors for their support during her year as District Governor of Rotary.

By bestowing a Certificate of Appreciation, a Rotarian is able to recognize an organization for its contributions to the community. In her closing remarks, Jane stated that neither the board nor the staff let her down. They were there to support her all the way. She summarized her gratitude by saying, "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, to the top of my head, to the tips of my toes."

### MORE CONGRATULATIONS

This past July, four of our mediators completed the 44-Hour Domestic Training in Gaylord. The following mediators are now qualified to do domestic and divorce mediation cases: Ed Engstrom, Mary Horan, Lee Kramer, and Eugene Smith.

### DISTRICT COURT CASE FILINGS

County	Case Type	2009	2011
Charlevoix	General Civil	992	690
	Small Claims	283	198
Emmet	General Civil	1,275	818
	Small Claims	391	317

For more details, go to <http://www.northernmediation.org/new-filings-of-general-civil--small-claims-107/>

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEDIATION

In last month's newsletter, reference was made to the fact that Northern Community Mediation is partnering with the Pellston School District in a pilot project relating to school attendance mediation. The idea is to identify students who are showing signs of poor school attendance, and then by bringing the students, their parents and appropriate school officials together through mediation develop a plan of action to improve the behavior, truancy will be avoided, grades will improve, and general attitude will change. In other words, this is a preventative approach that will enhance the students' learning experiences.

Although details are still being worked out, if you are interested in participating in this program, call Jane at 487.1771. It will be necessary to take a special, half-day training in order to do the school attendance mediations. The date for this seminar is yet to be determined.

### REMINDER

1. All papers that need to be shredded should be placed in the shred folder upon completion of mediation.
2. All consent agreements and other relevant documents should be returned in the packet. There have been incidents where mediators have inadvertently scooped up those documents.
3. Often the names of the participants are entered into the computer prior to mediation for the convenience of the mediators. When this is the case and one of those individuals listed does not show up yet the mediation goes forward, remember to delete that individual's name from the form.
4. Make certain everyone at the table signs the Consent to Mediate form

### INTERESTING NUANCE

We had a situation arise where one of the attorneys at the table signed the agreement on behalf of his client, who had left the mediation table early. There was no document indicating that the attorney had settlement authority. This raised the question as to whether or not the agreement would be binding.

Based upon advice from SCAO, "It appears that an agreement signed by a party's attorney is binding as to the attorney's client." This may not be the smartest action on the part of the attorney since it could lead to possible claims against the attorney down the road, but it is not our place as mediators to question the action.

**GOOD BYE SUMMER! HELLO FALL!**