

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

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Northern Community Mediation Holds Annual Meeting

On Friday, November 7, approximately 50 mediators and board members attended the annual meeting of Northern Community Mediation (NCM). Lunch was served prior to the meeting, which was held in the Conference Center at North Central Michigan College.

Northern Community Mediation is a non-profit organization that provides an alternative means of resolving conflict. Trained mediators, who meet with the parties involved in a dispute, facilitate so that the individuals themselves can resolve the conflict

In giving the annual report, Executive Director Jane Millar stressed the effectiveness of the leadership of the Board of Directors, the importance of the hard work of the staff, and the dedication of the mediators. Although the specially trained mediators volunteer their time, they are "the backbone of the organization."

Special recognition was given to mediators Leah Green and Bruce Herbert. Lou Fantini was recognized for his commitment as a mediator, as well as his having served as president. Kathy Lame received accolades for her role as coordinator of the Permanency Planning Mediation Program. For the second year in a row, Dick Hendrian received the Volunteer of the Year Award. To date, he has contributed 69 hours of volunteer time, 35 mediations, and 1154 miles of travel for the year 2003.

In closing, president John Rohe drew attention to the fact that one of the criterion upon which a society is judged is the manner in which it handles conflicts. He further stated that although mediation is growing in popularity, it is still viewed as an alternative rather than a primary approach to conflict resolution.

Anyone interested in learning more about Northern Community Mediation should contact Dr. Jane Millar at 231.547.1771.