



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, May 19, Chief Justice Maura Corrigan will be the guest speaker at a dinner in celebration of Northern Community Mediation's tenth anniversary. Although you will receive a special e-mail invitation, this is one more reminder of the event. There will be a social hour at 6:00, followed by dinner at 7:00, after which Chief Justice Corrigan will address the group. A combination entrée of sirloin and salmon will be served in the Rose Room at the Perry Hotel in Petoskey. A cash bar will be available. The cost is \$40 per person. For reservations, send your check payable NCM to the attention of Pat Dull.

ROPES COURSE

For those of you who are not familiar with the Ropes Course, go to www.campdaggett.com. Click on Adventure Education. You will be able to learn more about what the Ropes Course is all about. Take note of the number of companies, such as Great Lakes Energy and the Petoskey News-Review, that have participated in this experience.

Although we had talked about doing the Ropes Course this spring, it looks as if it would be best to wait until the fall. One of the following two Saturdays would work: September 18 or September 25.

In planning for this event, I need two pieces of information from you. If you do not want to participate, please, let me know. If you want to join in, let me know which of those dates would work for you. I know this is quite a distance into the future, but opportunities like this have to be planned well in advance.

MEDIATOR WORKROOM

The last room down the hall of the NCM center is being converted into a mediator workroom. Once completed, it will have a computer and printer so that agreements can be typed out. A copier will be available for making copies, and a shredder will be there for destroying notes. If you have any suggestions as to other items that would be useful, let Jane know.

THINKING OF YOU

- Janet Vandenberg whose parents are ill.
- Leah Green who will be returning to northern Michigan in May.
- Connie Saltonstall who should be back from California.

HOW FORGETFUL

I forgot to have Kathy Lame give you an update on the Mediator Facilitation Committee. With the assistance of Dick Hendrian and June Jackson, we were able to fine-tune our policies and procedures as they relate to the internships of new mediators and quality assurance issues of experienced mediators. Once the Office Policies have been updated to incorporate all of these recommendations, I will share the results with you.

INTERESTING

The primary reason that a person follows through on a court ordered judgment is to obey the law. The primary reason a person follows through on an agreement reached during mediation is that her/his word has been given. Upon completion of mediation, you may want to incorporate this fact by emphasizing the importance of keeping one's word.

GREAT PROGRAM

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Dennis Halverson, Charlevoix Chief of Police, and Kathy Lame, Northern Community Mediation has developed a professional development workshop that will hopefully be shared with other law enforcement agencies in northern Michigan. Chief Halverson explained the program at the March 30 Mediator Meeting.

WELCOME

Two new mediators from downstate have joined our ranks. Both have been involved with mediation in southern Michigan and are moving up to God's country. Lucky for us! We extend a warm welcome to Dick Arlen and Bob Harkness.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Northern Community Mediation has a reputation throughout the state of Michigan of being an exemplary CDRP center. The strength and expertise of our mediators contributes significantly to that status. In order to maintain the professionalism of the position, we should develop a job description for mediators.

Since you as mediators understand your responsibilities better than anyone else, your input would be appreciated. Call Jane with any of your suggestions on this matter.