



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

April 2009

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VORP TRAINING



Seven mediators, two court personnel, and all three NCM staff members participated in the VORP training on Tuesday, March 24. The other participants were from other centers around the state. It was an excellent workshop, and we are appreciative of the expertise of our trainers Kate Kesteloot-Scarborough and Jackie Hallberg from the Muskegon center.

NCM mediators who were involved in the training were Gary Barfknecht, Doug Basel, Jon Bautel, Karen Cole, Dick Hendrian, Kathy Lame, and Jamie Winters. From 7th Probate Court were Laura Peck, Charlevoix, and Linda Ongaro, Emmet.

IN THE NEWS

Our newsletter often features individuals who are featured in the news. This month, however, we are drawing your attention to the fact that mediation itself was featured in the March 16, 2009 edition of USA Today. The article was entitled *Mediators Help in Neighborly Dog Disputes*. There were some interesting facts brought out. "The National Association for Community Mediation reports there are more than 550 mediation centers in America. The services are usually free and operated by non-profit agencies or city volunteers. Mediators handle an estimated 97,500 referrals each year."

CREATIVE PUNS

This one may take a second.

She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.

THEATRE PARTY

As always, fun was had by all at the annual Theatre Party. Many of you were curious as to the attendance at the different movies: And the winner is

Slumdog Millionaire	35.2%
Gran Torino	18.3%
New in Town	15.5%
Watchmen	9.9%
He's Just Not Into You	5.6%
Doubt	3.5%

FORTY-HOUR TRAINING

There is still space in the 40-hour training. So, encourage anyone you know who might be interested to sign up. As all of you are aware, the training has benefits beyond merely volunteering for NCM. It gives a person skills that are beneficial in everyday life.

The training meets the 2.411 requirements, and will be offered on the following dates:

Wednesday, April 22	1:00pm – 5:00pm
Thursday, April 23	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday, April 24	8:00am – 5:00pm

Wednesday, April 29	1:00pm – 5:00pm
Thursday, April 30	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday, May 1	8:00am – 5:00pm

The sessions will take place at the Charlevoix City Hall.

Registration forms are available online at

<http://www.northernmediation.org/local-11/> or by calling the NCM office.

DONATION

If anyone has a video camera/camcorder that you no longer need, please, consider donating it to NCM

LONG DISTANCE PHONE CALLS

Since we do not staff the Charlevoix office, we keep our expenses down by having minimal services on the telephone. This means that we are limited in our long distance calls.

Therefore, unless you are using the phone for a long distance call that is related to a case you are mediating, please refrain from placing long distance calls from the Charlevoix office phone. We do not have unlimited long distance. Thanks.

GO TO www.northernmediation.org