



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

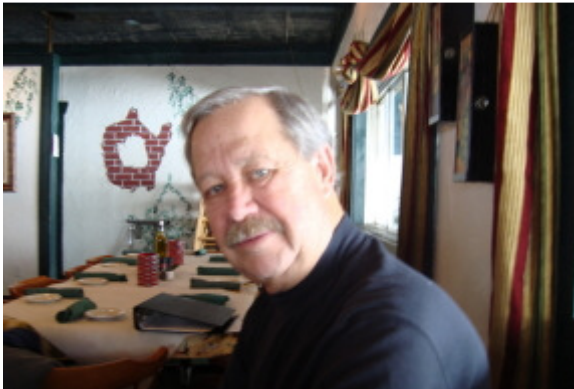
Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE



On June 10, board member Barry Anderson had emergency quadruple, by-pass surgery. His recovery is going very well. In fact, the last I talked with him, he had returned to work on a limited schedule—three days per week. Unfortunately, Barry has resigned from the board so that he can focus on his recuperation. Although this is the wise thing to do, we will miss his input and insight as a board member.

ADVANCED TRAINING

On Tuesday, October 11, mediator and attorney Steve Tresidder will facilitate an eight-hour, advanced training at the Perry Hotel. The title of the session is “Mediating Monetary Claims and Damages.” With today’s economy, all of you are highly aware of some of the unusual issues that arise at the mediation table. If you are a mediator for NCM, there is no charge; however, there is a \$42.00 book that you need to purchase. For more information, go to <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-83/>

DOWN TO THE WIRE

Mediator Paul Schemanski is anxiously awaiting the Great Lakes Energy election to be held on August 24. He is running for a position on the Board of Directors. To learn more, go to www.facebook.com/VotePaulSchemanski.

CELL PHONES ARE A NO-NO

Please, be certain to turn off your cell phones prior to entering the mediation room. Additionally, if there is a break and you must use your cell phone, please go somewhere private rather than remaining in the mediation room. This protocol applies not only to mediators, but also observers.

MACM CONFERENCE

On September 12 – 14, the Michigan Association of Court Mediators is holding its annual conference at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville. From 9:00am to noon on Wednesday, September 14, Intake Coordinator Bert Rousseau is serving on a three-person panel to facilitate discussion about defining and clarifying best practices and options for problem areas in relationship to cases that may involve domestic violence. Each panelist is focusing on a specific issue: domestic violence assessments, parenting time plans, and screening for domestic violence, which is the area of Bert’s expertise.

If you are interested in attending the conference, you can get more information by going to <http://www.macm.cc/>. Participation in the conference does qualify for advanced mediator training.

MEDIATOR ROUNDTABLE

Due to the fact that the MACM Conference is September 12-14, the Mediator Roundtable originally scheduled for Tuesday September 13 is being re-scheduled to Wednesday, September 28 at 4:00. The topics to be discussed are as follows:

- The domestic standards and the general mediation standards are being combined into one document.
- New confidentiality standards are being introduced.
- The process for mediators if subpoenaed is changing.
- Requirements relating to advanced training and number of hours of mediation in order to stay on the court roster are being upgraded.

NEVER TURN DOWN MONEY

Under no circumstances do we want our mediators to become collection agencies. That is why the staff sends out the invoices and does the follow-up when participants do not pay. And, that is why we do not expect you to ask the clients for their payments. If a participant, however, comes into mediation and hands you either cash or a check, simply take it, thank the person and put the payment in the packet. If it is cash, do make note of who gave the money to you.

WELCOME NEW MEDIATORS

Lisa Hicklen and Chuck Jadwin, who participated in the 40-hour training in April, have completed their internships by observing at least 10 hours of mediations. We are delighted to have them on the team. I know all of you seasoned mediators will enjoy mediating with them. They both have potential to be outstanding mediators.