



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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ANNUAL STAFF MEETING



Pictured from left to right: Terri Sevener and Bert Rousseau.

On Friday, November 15, the staff of Northern Community Mediation held its annual staff retreat at Twisted Olive. Throughout the day, including over breakfast and lunch, the staff made plans for the 2014 year, reviewed the 2013 year, addressed challenges that NCM faces, and brainstormed future ideas.

OUR SYMPATHY

Condolences are in order for Ron Moore on the death of his father. No matter when, it is always sad to lose one's parents. It is especially difficult when the death occurs as we go into our holiday season.

Our thoughts are also with Bruce Herbert, who lost his brother-in-law in a fight with cancer.

TIPS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS

1. Poor communication is a two-way street. Do not blame all of your issues on the other person. Take responsibility for your role in the breakdown of communication.
2. Focus on your subject and stay on subject. Write down notes about the situation beforehand: how it started, how you have tried to address it, how you feel about it and ideas to settle it.
3. Take a deep breath and allow the other person to share what they view as the issues. Giving each person a chance to share without interruptions sometimes is all that is needed to settle the issue.

If these steps are not enough to settle a dispute, call Northern Community Mediation.*

*Written by Annette Wells, Executive Director of the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program center in Gaylord.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

On Tuesday, December 10, Northern Community Mediation will host its annual holiday party from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. This is a fun event where we all get to socialize with one another and have a good time. Appetizers, wine and egg nog will be served. Please, let Bert, Terri or Jane know if you will be able to come to the party.

WAY TO GO, JUDGE MULHAUSER

The 7th Probate Court in Emmet and Charlevoix counties was one of six courts in the nation to be selected to participate in the development of best practices when it comes to treating juveniles who are involved with alcohol and other drugs. For those who are aware of all that has been implemented in addressing this issue by Judge Mulhauser and his team, it is not surprising that this recognition was bestowed upon the 7th Probate Court. To quote Judge Mulhauser, "This is an opportunity to get better at what we do and a well-deserved recognition for all the hard work done by the members of our recovery program team." The other five courts chosen by the National Council of Juveniles and Family Courts are from New Mexico, Maryland, Tennessee, Louisiana and Idaho.

SOME REMINDERS

Please, do not alter the Northern Community Mediation forms. For example, on the Parenting Time and Divorce form, the statement "If child support is discussed and an agreement is reached, any such agreement is subject to the final approval of the court" appears. It is important that this statement remain on the form.

For those of you who do small claims cases, it is tempting to rush through the process, but this is not a good practice. This means that the Consent to Mediate should be read verbatim, just as it is in any other mediation.

Be careful not to practice law. For example, in small claims, it is inappropriate for one of our mediators to state that a person can sue up to \$5,000 in small claims.

USELESS FACT

In 1960, the Baltimore Colts were the first pro football team to have their own organized cheerleading squad.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

x If winning isn't everything, why do we keep score? – Vince Lombardi