



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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ALWAYS LEARNING ABOUT MEDIATION



Intake Coordinator Terri Sevener, Executive Assistant Bert Rousseau and Mediator Kendal Taylor attended the Michigan Association of Court Mediators (MACM) annual conference, which was held at Crystal Mountain in September. Although Kendal had completed his tenure on the MACM Board of Directors, Bert is a new member of the Board. All three agree that it was a very worthwhile meeting.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The annual, holiday party will be held from 4:30pm to 6:00pm on **Tuesday, December 11**. As always there will be yummy hors d'oeuvres, tasty libations, and most importantly, wonderful people. Be certain to put **December 11** on your calendar.

ANOTHER DATE TO REMEMBER

Monday, May 20 is the scheduled date for the annual, Appreciation luncheon.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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

USELESS FACT

One foot of snow in a 10 ft X 25 ft. area of a driveway can weigh between 785 pounds (light snow) to as much as 1,725 pounds in a heavy, wet snowfall.

STAFF RETREAT

Although there were numerous topics discussed at the staff retreat, there were six of greatest significance.

- The 2013 calendar, which will be posted on the NCM website the beginning of the year, was set.
- Minor changes were made to some of the NCM forms.
- Four dates were set for Mediator Roundtables.
- The date for a spring, advanced training was arranged.
- A revised fee schedule, which will go into effect on January 1, 2013, was established.
- A satisfaction survey will be distributed to court staff, DHS workers, attorneys and other personnel with whom NCM collaborates.

MEDIATOR ROUNDTABLES

There will be four Mediator Roundtables in 2013.

- TBA in February – Bert Rousseau will share what she learned interviewing Doug VanEpps and Chad Schmucker, ADR Program Director for the state of Michigan. Humor will also be featured.
- Tuesday, April 30 – The intricacies of small claims cases will be facilitated by Civil Deputy Clerk Wendy Viles.
- Tuesday, June 4 – Emphasis on addressing issues that are ordered by the court will be conducted by FOC Jim Raber.
- TBA in October – The importance of using the correct forms and of maximizing materials in the mediator packets will be discussed.

ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

Anne Bachle Fifer, who has served on the state committees responsible for revising the confidentiality rules, standards of conduct for mediators and unauthorized practice of law, will lead an eight-hour, advanced mediator training on **Friday, May 10** from 8:00am to 5:00pm. She will bring everyone up to date by answering the following questions:

- Do you know the new court rule on confidentiality? Can you explain it?
- What are the new Standards of Conduct for Mediators for both general civil and domestic relations mediators?
- What is the definition of “the practice of law,” and how does it impact mediators?

There are several of our mediators who are overdue for advanced training. If you are one of those individuals, it is essential that you take this training. Besides, this training will be beneficial to and enlightening for all mediators.