



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

December
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MACM CONFERENCE



Bert Rousseau, Wayne Tri, Jeff Higgs, Kendal Taylor

In the October newsletter, credit was given to Intake Coordinator Bert Rousseau for the outstanding job that she did as a presenter at the Michigan Association of County Mediators Conference, which was held at Crystal Mountain in September. In addition to Bert, however, two of our mediators and another of our staff members attended the conference. Ask any of them what their thoughts are about the conference, and they will gladly expound upon the fact that they came away with valuable tools to use in their mediations. Perhaps, next year there might be others of you who would like to participate.

ADVANCED TRAINING

The Advanced Mediator training held on October 11 was a sell out. The topic was "Making Money Talk," which is the title of a book written by J. Anderson Little. Our very own attorney and mediator Steve Tresidder was an excellent facilitator for this training. In fact, he was so successful that we are considering offering the course again in February or March. Therefore, if you were not able to participate this past October and would be interested in doing so if we were to offer the class again, please contact the center and let us know.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

If at any time during mediation you suspect that one of the parties at the table is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, you should caucus with your co-mediator and then terminate the mediation. This holds true even if there are attorneys or agency representatives at the table.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAY PARTY

Unbelievable! Thanksgiving is over, which means that the holidays are upon us. This also means that the Northern Community Mediation annual holiday party is fast approaching. This year, it will be held from 4:30pm to 6:00pm on Tuesday, December 13. As always, it will be at the NCM office. Do plan to come to the party so that you can visit with the staff, mediators, board members and friends of NCM. You should receive an actual invitation in the mail, but if you do not, it does not mean that you are not invited. It simply means that your invitation has not yet arrived. Here's to December 13 and a wonderful celebration.

NEW MEDIATORS

Way to go team! Congratulations to the following mediators who took their 40-hour training this past April and have completed their 10-hour internships: Lisa Hicklen, Chuck Jadwin, Brian Kasiborski, Nancy Kohler, Tom North and Conni Zingler. Not only are these six people now qualified to mediate, they will be dynamic mediators.

IN THE NEWS

Mediator Jamie Winters appeared in the November 10, 2011 edition of the *Petoskey News-Review* along with Craig Antoine, manager of the Oleson's Food Store. Jamie was helping Craig display a poster promoting the "Dollar Drive" which Oleson's is conducting in support of the Safe Home domestic violence shelter. Although NCM does not mediate personal protection orders and domestic violence as such, many cases that are mediated by the center include women who are victims of domestic violence.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are delighted to announce that there are three new board members joining our team. They are Bill Denemy (Cultural Advisor from the Tribal Court), The Honorable Fred Mulhauser from 7th Probate Court, and Kirk Raymond (Deputy Court Clerk from 90th District Court in Charlevoix). In January, you will be able to read more about them on the NCM website.

STAFF RETREAT

On Friday, November 18, the NCM staff held an all-day staff retreat. We convened in the meeting room at Twisted Olive. Nothing earth shattering occurred, but we did get ourselves organized for the 2012 fiscal year.