



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

February 2016

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BOARD RETREAT



Pictured from left to right in the back row: Julie Kuchnicki, Christian Smith, Bill Meengs, Stuart Fenton, Mark Fralick, Kirk Raymond. Front row left to right: Bob Banner, Pat Simmons-Ackerman, David Leusink, Mary Roberts, Kate Scollin, Judge Fred Mulhauser. Not pictured: Chelsea Townsend Platte and Ed Engstrom.

On February 1, the NCM board held its annual board retreat at the Weathervane in Charlevoix. The board members began the retreat by reviewing the Mission Statement and developing a Vision Statement. The proposed Vision Statement is as follows:

The Vision of Northern Community Mediation is to help as many people as possible resolve conflicts in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties

The revised, proposed Mission Statement is as follows:

The Mission of Northern Community Mediation is that all parties involved in disputes in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties use mediation as a means of resolving their conflicts.

This discussion was followed by making a distinction between, mediation, arbitration and litigation and then a review of the strategic plan. Judge Mulhauser then reviewed NCM's programs: Victim-Offender, Child Protection, School Attendance, First-Time-Offender Shoplifting and Preventative Shoplifting. A scripted, role play depicting an actual mediation was then enacted by Defendant Mary Roberts, Plaintiff Stuart Fenton and Co-Mediators Christian Smith and Jane Millar. The two highlights of the evening, however, were the birthday cake for Pat and dinner. Based upon comments, the meatloaf was delicious.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

The dates for the Computer Workshops have been changed.
Wednesday, February 17 at 3:00pm
Thursday, February 25 at 10:00am
Thursday, February 25 at 3:00pm
General Civil Training – Friday, May 13 and Friday, May 20 from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

For details for both trainings, go to the NCM website <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-83/>

IN THE NEWS

After several years of dedicated work, mediator Betsy Hanson and her husband Larry have made a dream come true. The Planning Commission of Cheboygan County approved the development of Heritage Cove Farm, which is a therapeutic farm community for those with mental illnesses. This is what persistence and perseverance can do.

REVIEW OF BADGER/BEGIN

- Begin
- Accumulate Information
- Develop the Agenda
- Generate Options/Movement
- Escape to Caucus
- Resolve the Dispute

Begin includes the initial greeting of the clients through the Opening Statement and the Consent to Mediate. Just remember that the Opening Statement should come before the Consent to Mediate. The reason for this is that the NCM Case Workers spend time developing a positive relationship with the parties so that they feel less threatened and apprehensive when they come to mediation. The Opening Statement is an opportunity for the mediators to capitalize upon those feelings in developing their relationship of trust with the clients prior to "getting down to the nitty-gritty" of mediation.

USELESS FACT

From 2009 to 2013, the U.S. government has spent \$1.1 million on puppets.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Do not shut love out of your life by saying it is impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give love. The fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly. In Addition, the best way to keep love is to give it wings." ~ Anonymous