



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

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### ANNUAL MEETING



Board member Mary Faculak and board president Lisa Hoyt

In the past, Northern Community Mediation has held its annual meeting at City Park Grill. This year, the meeting was held at Palette Bistro. It seems that the Executive Director forgot to make a reservation at City Park, which she realized two days before the January 16 meeting. Fortunately, Palette Bistro was able to accommodate us.

The meeting began with past president Ted Teller “turning over the gavel” to Lisa Hoyt. The minutes of the 2013 annual meeting were approved, John Marshall gave the treasurer’s report, and Jane Millar gave the annual report. The year 2013 was an outstanding year for Northern Community Mediation. With 501 closed cases and 514 cases opened, NCM staff was busy. It is also interesting to note that based upon the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) standards, NCM was the most efficient Citizen Dispute Resolution Center in the state.

### THINKING OF YOU

Mediator Paul Schemanski’s father-in-law took a nasty fall and broke his nose. Unfortunately, this has caused serious problems for him. So, keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

### QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“Music’s been around a long time, and there’s going to be music long after Ray Charles is dead. I just want to make my mark, leave something musically good behind. If it’s a big records, that’s frosting on the cake, but music’s the main meal.” – Ray Charles

### CHANGE IN DATE

The Mediator Roundtable originally scheduled for Tuesday, September 9 has been changed to Tuesday, September 16. The starting time remains at 4:00pm. Listed below are the upcoming Mediator Roundtables

- March 18           Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program Roundtable
- September 16    Access & Visitation Mediation Roundtable
- October 7         Child Protection Mediation Roundtable

As an FYI, six mediators plus three staff members participated in the School Attendance Mediation Roundtable.

### ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

Attorney and mediator Steve Tresidder will facilitate an advanced mediator training from 8:00am to 5:00pm on Friday, May 16. The topic will be “Social Psychological Factors in Mediation.” This course has been approved by SCAO for continuing education units. As always, NCM mediators will not be charged for the training. There will, however, be a charge for the book, which at most will be \$25.00. Registration details will be available by the middle of the month.

### CHARLEVOIX OFFICE

Several of you have been frustrated with the laptop that was in the Charlevoix office. Consequently, both the laptop and printer have been replaced. Unfortunately, the copier is not working, and funding is not available to purchase a new copier. Therefore, it will be necessary to print off the appropriate number of agreements from the printer and have the parties sign each one. We realize this is somewhat of an inconvenience and ask that you understand.

### INTERESTING FACT

On a statewide basis, in the year 2012, volunteer mediators contributed 17,641 hours, which amounts to a cash value equivalent of \$2,477,090. Based upon \$150 per hour, NCM mediators were responsible for 1,272 hours for a cash equivalent of \$190,800. Not bad for a little center.

### USELESS FACT

Until 713 BC, the Romans had no names for January and February, on the grounds that the winter months did not deserve them.