



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

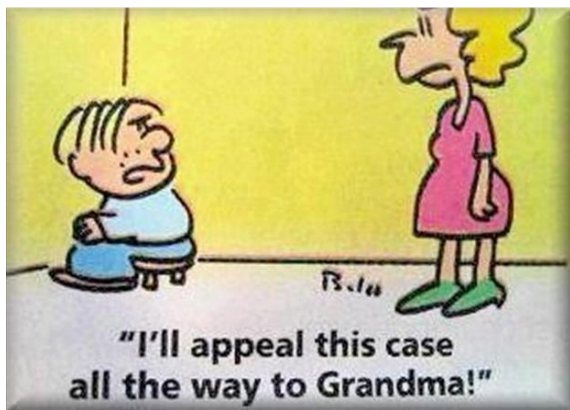
Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

February 2013  
Vol. 10 No. 2



### NAME THIS CARTOON



Here is your opportunity to have your name appear in next month's newsletter. Share your creativity. What heading would you give to this cartoon? Here is a start:

- Who needs mediation when you've got grandma?
- Some things just are not negotiable.

Submit your ideas to Jane at [jane@northernmediation.org](mailto:jane@northernmediation.org)

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held at noon on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at City Park Grill in Petoskey. In addition to the Board of Directors, mediators Bruce Herbert and Carolyn Belknap attended. At the meeting, Executive Director Jane Millar reported on the state of NCM in 2012, which is very good.

### BUSY, BUSY LADY

On top of holding down her full-time job as the Assistant Director for Northern Community Mediation, Bert Rousseau is on the Board of Directors of the noon Kiwanis club, serves as the secretary for the Board of Directors of the Michigan Association of Court Administrators, and is a part-time student at North Central Michigan College. In that capacity, she recently learned she is on the NCMC Scholars List, which means that she has above a 3.5 grade point average. Now, that is impressive. Way to go, Bert.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to your enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to your friends. Dumbledore (Harry Potter)

### MEDIATOR ROUNDTABLE

As rewarding as being a mediator can be, there are times that it is stressful and frustrating. Maintaining a sense of humor is one way to relieve those emotions. Therefore, our first Mediator Roundtable for 2013 will address the issue of incorporating fun into our coping mechanisms. We will also hear from Bert Rousseau, who will share what she learned from her interviews with Chad Schmucker, the ADR Program Director for the state of Michigan, and Doug Van Epps, who is the Executive Director of the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) for the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO). The Roundtable will be held on Tuesday, February 19 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm at NCM.

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEDIATION PROGRAM

Our School Attendance Mediation Program with the Pellston School District now has trained mediators. Four of our mediators attended the two-hour workshop on Monday, January 21, and six of them attended on Thursday, January 24. Assuming this pilot project is successful, we plan to expand the program for the 2013-2014 school year into three other districts in the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District service area.

### FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- If you want the mediator notes that are provided by Bert and Terri with you at mediation, please print them out prior to coming to mediation.
- If you have your mediator notes at the mediation table, be certain that the parties are not able to see them.
- Mediator notes are to be used for the purpose of giving the mediators a sense of what the case is about. They are not necessarily a checklist of what has to be discussed.
- It is against SCAO protocol for mediators to pass out personal contact information.
- It is also against SCAO policy for mediators to give advice. This is particularly true as it relates to legal advice even if you are an attorney.
- On the agreement form, all parties other than the mediators should be listed as being present, but only those parties reaching an agreement should sign the form.

### USELESS FACT

The word "February" is believed to have derived from the name "Februa" taken from the Roman Festival of Purification, the root "februo" meaning to "I purify by sacrifice."