



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

January 2009

Vol. 6 No. 1

THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING TO A CLOSE



Taking the tree down always brings mixed emotions. It is sad to see the excitement of the holidays come to an end, but it is equally as nice to get back to normal. Intake Coordinators Bert Rousseau and Cheryl Bauman seem to reflect those feelings as they take the decorations off the tree.

During the holidays, as you all know, NCM hosted a holiday party, which was well-attended and enjoyed by many. At the event, the annual awards were presented. Congratulations to the following recipients:

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| Rookie Mediator of the Year | Deb Eklund |
| Veteran Mediator of the Year | Ron Moore |
| NCM Advocate of the Year | Fred Mulhauser |
| The Leah Award | Bruce Herbert |

Congratulations to all four of you. You were very deserving candidates.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting for the 2008 year will be held at noon at City Park Grill in Petoskey on Thursday, January 29, 2009. This will be followed by a brief board meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend and have lunch at your own expense. So that the restaurant has an idea as to the number of people to expect, if you are a board member, it will be assumed that you will be in attendance unless we hear otherwise from you, and if you are not a board member, please call the office to let us know that you plan to attend.

WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

Our website is now online. Take the time to look it over. If you have any suggestions for improvement, share your ideas with me. The URL is www.northernmediation.org.

UPDATE TRAINING

Mediators are required to do eight hours of update training every two years. On Friday, February 27, a SCAO-approved, update training will be held in the Reycraft Room at the Perry Hotel in Petoskey. There will be no charge for NCM mediators. For those who do not mediate for NCM, the fee is \$100 for half a day and \$200 for the full day. This includes all supplies, snacks and lunch. Details of the topics to be discussed and registration forms will be available online the beginning of January or by calling the NCM office.

FORTY-HOUR TRAINING

NCM will offer the SCAO-approved, general civil, forty-hour training in April.

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| Wednesday, April 22 | 1:00pm – 5:00pm |
| Thursday, April 23 | 8:00am – 5:00pm |
| Friday, April 24 | 8:00am – 5:00pm |

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| Wednesday, April 29 | 1:00pm – 5:00pm |
| Thursday, April 30 | 8:00am – 5:00pm |
| Friday, May 1 | 8:00am – 5:00pm |

Details and registration forms will be available online the middle of January or by calling the NCM office.

CONDOLENCES

If you did not hear, Bert Rousseau's father-in-law died on December 13. Bert has expressed how much she appreciates the cards and gestures of sympathy that she has received from many of you.

IMPORTANT PEOPLE

When you are good, you stay involved. Although treasurer Keith Williams' term on the NCM Board of Directors has expired, he will be kept busy with his new responsibilities as Chairman of the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Incoming treasurer Ted Teller is an active member of the Petoskey Kiwanis Club that meets at noon. He took time from his busy schedule to escort people from the Friendship Center around the community to see the holiday lights. His picture was even in the paper.