



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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AN AUTHOR AMONG US



Polly Cheney is a multi-talented woman. To start with, not only has she been a mediator for Northern Community Mediation since 2007, she is an excellent facilitator. Add to that the fact that she is a business woman and now an author. Her book *Sip, Pick, and Pack* is a fun, must-read for future gardeners. Did you ever wonder how pollinators help plants make seeds? You will have to read Polly's book to find out. It is available through www.amazon.com and is in the Horizon Book store in Petoskey.

HELP NCM RAISE MONEY

Whenever you go to D&W to do your grocery shopping, save your receipts if you do not already do so. Then, whenever you stop by Northern Community Mediation, bring those receipts to us. Our Administrative Assistant Kristy Whitman is collecting them. Once we have \$150,000 worth of receipts, she will cash them in for \$1,000 in cash. This would certainly help NCM's finances. So, please, try to remember to save your receipts.

SCRAPBOOK

Speaking of Kristy Whitman, she has updated our scrapbook. This is something we have wanted to have done for the past five years but never the time to do it. Next time you are at the office, take the time to look at the scrapbook. It is quite interesting.

USELESS FACT

101 Dalmatians, Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp, and Mulan are the only Disney cartoons where both parents are present and don't die throughout the movie.

IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES

Many of the cases that come to Northern Community Mediation involve individuals who have financial struggles. They may or may not be coming to mediation specifically for cases that involve financial disputes, but often their lack of finances impacts their struggles, challenges and decisions. It is not always easy to put ourselves in their shoes. That is where www.palyspent.org comes into the picture. This website gives us the opportunity to experience the frustrations that many people in our country face. Take the time to go to this website and go through the exercise.

FORTY-HOUR TRAINING

I do apologize for the confusion on the dates relating to the forty-hour training in May. The original dates we had scheduled had to be changed because the trainer with whom we contracted will no longer be doing the trainings. Therefore, we had to find another trainer, which entailed changing the dates. The following are the revised dates:

- At the Charlevoix Library
 - Monday, May 22
 - Tuesday, May 23
 - Wednesday, May 24
- At the Demmer Wellness Center
 - Wednesday, May 31
 - Thursday, June 1

If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a mediator, encourage them to take this training.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, January 19 at City Park Grill in Petoskey. If you plan to attend, please let us know so that we can give a relatively accurate count to the restaurant. Attending the Annual Meeting gives everyone an opportunity to learn the state of NCM—what is has accomplished in the past year and what it hopes to achieve in 2017.

THE YEAR 2017

The staff at Northern Community Mediation wants to thank all of you who have volunteered your time as board members, mediators and supporters. Happy New Year to all of you.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I'm just glad it's illegal to eat healthy during the month of December." ` Jim Gaffigan