



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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A HUGE THANK YOU



Christmas came early to Northern Community Mediation. As representatives of Women Who Care, Lisa Blanchard and Amy Gillard appeared at NCM's annual, holiday party on December 8 with a surprise package. The present contained checks totaling \$6,000, which was a donation from the members of Women Who Care.

Executive Director Jane Millar expressed her appreciation. "Even though Northern Community Mediation is considered to be the most efficient and effective of the 18 Citizen Dispute Resolution Centers in Michigan, our organization's funding from the state was cut by \$5,000. This contribution from Women Who Care means that we will not be forced to make significant cuts in our 2016 budget.

Lisa Blanchard then explained that Women Who Care is made up of women who meet quarterly. At that time, each member writes a check for \$100. As a group, they then decide which non-profit organization should be the recipient of that quarter's funds.

NEW INSTRUCTIONS

Beginning this month, the mediator notes will include suggestions on explaining to the participants what needs to be done by NCM and by them following the mediation.

USELESS FACT

The average person will find that 22% of all restaurant meals he or she orders will include potato chips.

HELLO AND GOOD-BYE

A huge thank you to our outgoing board members: Chief Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, President John Marshall, and Secretary Paula Welmers. An equally huge welcome to our incoming board members: Bob Banner, Mark Fralick, Chelsea Platte, and Mary Roberts.

Another huge welcome to our new Case Manager, Kirstyn Horan. Her first day will be January 4. Whenever you have a chance, stop by the office so that you can meet her. She is very excited and enthusiastic about her new job.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Annual Meeting – Thursday, January 21 at noon at City Park Grill in Petoskey. Everyone is welcome to come. Just let us know so that we can give the staff at City Park a head count.
- Divorce/Domestic Mediation Training – January 21 – January 29 in Traverse City. For registration information, go to <http://www.northernmediation.org/state-12/> on the NCM website.
- Board Retreat – Monday, February 1 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at the Weathervane in Charlevoix.
- Computer Workshop – Tuesday, February 16 at 9:00am or 3:00pm, repeating on Thursday, February 25 at 9:00am and 3:00pm. Further information available on the NCM website <http://www.northernmediation.org/state-12/>
- General Civil Training – Friday, May 13 and Friday, May 20 from 8:30am to 12:30pm. For details, go to the NCM website <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-11/>

ANOTHER COMPLETION

Congratulations to Mary Roberts and Mike Forrester on their completion of the 10-hour internship. Welcome to the rank of mediators.

AN EXCITING PROJECT

Mediator Hugh Conklin, who is a city commissioner in Boyne City, has to be excited about the \$1 million dollar state grant earmarked to go towards the renovation of the Dilworth Hotel. How cool is that?

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"No man needs a vacation so much as the man who has just had one." ~ Elbert Hubbard