



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

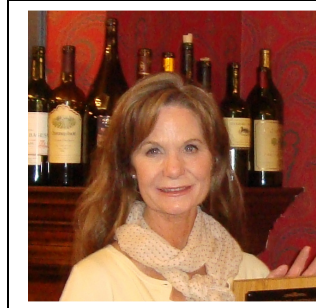
## BRIDGES

July 2013  
Vol. 10 No. 7



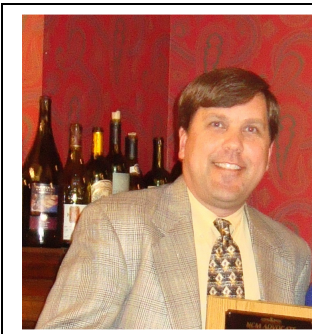
### 2012 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Two Deserving Individuals & One Deserving Organization



Top Left: Tom North for Rookie Mediator of the Year.

Top Right: Karen Cole for Veteran Mediator of the Year.



Bottom Left: Bill Meengs for Bar Association for Advocate of the Year.

At the annual Appreciation Luncheon that was also an opportunity to celebrate 20 years of service to the community, Northern Community Mediation recognized Tom North, Karen Cole and the Emmet-Charlevoix Bar Association for their contributions to NCM and mediation in general. Without the dedication of its mediators and the support of the legal community, NCM would not be able to provide its services to the citizens of Charlevoix and Emmet counties. Hence, a huge thank-you to everyone!

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Mediator Carolyn Belknap, who is a volunteer for the American Red Cross, has been deployed to Colorado. She will be there for several weeks helping people who are victims of the fires. Our thoughts are with Carolyn and all of the individuals who have been and are being impacted by this tragedy.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life. It goes on.” – Robert Frost

### A SENSE OF HUMOR

Following a mediation session, two of our mediators completed bogus evaluations:

“Really relieved to have such great mediators. Without them, our attorneys would have gotten physical. Only criticism—alcohol wasn’t served.” Plaintiff Mother

“Wonderful—super fantastic mediators—both were very well dressed and had good hygiene. The water was tasty and mints very refreshing. Bathroom was clean. Everything was very hunky dorey.” Plaintiff’s Attorney

“This was the worst experience of my life. Mediators were unprepared, unprofessional and poorly dressed. Am considering bringing a lawsuit again NCM. Mediators bullied me into signing agreement. There were threats of physical harm and the woman pulled a gun on me.” Defendant Father

“Awful people. Get new mediators. What a waste. Disrespectful, uninterested, poor dental hygiene, low IQ. Your mediators really suck.” Defendant Attorney

### AN AUTHOR AMONG US

Mediator Scott Kingdon has submitted an article relating to mediation and the value of our 40-hour training to the ADR Quarterly newsletter. It is an article that all of you will want to read. As soon as the newsletter is published, it will be posted on our website. We will let you know when it is on our website.

### HELPFUL HINTS

On the Consent to Mediate form, make certain that the names of all of the parties at the table are listed. If someone is listed that is not at the table, be certain to delete that person’s name. This is important so that the judge knows who actually participated.

Use the flip chart to show progress as to what the parties agree. As the mediator, transitioning into this can easily be done with wording such as “Let me write this on the flip chart so that I am certain that I understand.”

Use caucus when the discussion seems to be stalemated.

### USELESS FACT

It’s estimated that there are twice as many tax preparers as there are police officers in the US.