



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

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### APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



On Monday, May 18, Northern Community Mediation held its annual Appreciation luncheon at The Bistro Restaurant located in the Charlevoix Country Club. Following lunch, The Honorable Joe Hayes, who presides over the 33<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court in Charlevoix, spoke about his transition from private attorney to judge. He reflected upon his first few months in office, and praised Northern Community Mediation for the services it provides for the citizens of Charlevoix and Emmet counties.

Another highlight of the Appreciation Luncheon was the presentation of awards. Hugh Conklin from Boyne City received the Veteran Mediator of the Year, which goes to a mediator who has mediated for more than two years and has shown outstanding dedication to the process of mediation. Kristyn Balog from Harbor Springs received the Rookie Mediator of the Year, which is for an outstanding mediator who has been with the center for less than two years.

The third to be presented was the Advocate of the Year Award. This went to the husband and wife team of Mary Jane Kiogima and posthumously to Ray Kiogima. Ray served on the board for six years, and Mary Jane continues to bartend at our Theatre Party.

The purpose of the Leah Award is to recognize an individual who has demonstrated his/her dedication to mediation and NCM over the years. This prestigious award is not necessarily given out every year. Connie Saltonstall from Charlevoix was honored with this award.

### OBSERVATIONS

As you are aware, we now have new graduates from the 40-hour training. They all will be doing observations so that they can complete their internships. It is important that scheduling for the observations needs to be done by NCM staff. The reason for this is that only one observer can be present during a given mediation. Therefore, as a mediator, do not ask someone to observe one of your mediations because there could already be someone scheduled to do so.

### MEDIATORS CAN WEAR MANY HATS

Mediator Christine Gebhard, who is with North Country Community Mental Health, presented at the Humans Services Coordinating Body monthly meeting in May. It was very informative and enlightening. Way to go, Christine.

### MEDIATOR WORKSHOP/ROUNDTABLE

Set aside Tuesday, June 9 for a mediator roundtable/workshop. Jeff Cobe, who is the Chief of Police for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, will meet with us to discuss his role and responsibilities. He will explain tribal law and how it interacts with local, state and federal law. This will definitely be a fascinating and informative roundtable.

### GRANT AWARDS

The Charlevoix-Emmet Bar Association has awarded NCM \$2,000 to go towards the purchase and installation of a work station. This would include a computer, printer, security system and connectivity to the NCM system so that NCM would be in a position to hire a part-time person. However, \$2,000 additional funds are still needed. Hopefully, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Community Foundation will each contribute \$1,000.

The Revenue Sharing Board has awarded NCM \$1,321 for the production of a DVD and printing of a brochure for the School Attendance Mediation Program.