



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

June 2014

Vol. 11 No. 6



BERT'S GRADUATION PARTY



Pictured from left to right: Jane Millar, Marie Hamilton (Bert's cousin), Toni Adams (Bert's friend), Bert Rousseau, Jeff Higgs, and Lillian Baker (Bert's friend).

On the late afternoon of May 8, the champagne bottles were popped in celebration of Bert Rousseau's graduation from North Central Michigan College. Board members, mediators, friends and family joined in the gala event. A huge congratulations to Bert on a job well done.

UNITED WAY GRANT

United Way has again been generous to Northern Community Mediation. Both of our grant applications for the 2014-2015 fiscal year have been approved. We will receive \$1,575 for the expansion of our School Attendance Mediation Program. Additionally, \$3,604 will go towards our Child Protection Mediation Program.

ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

Fifty-one people participated in *The Science of Settlement*, advanced-mediator training on Friday May 16. Of those participants, 18 are attorneys, 24 are mediators for NCM, 7 are attorneys who mediate for NCM, and 16 are mediators for other Citizen Dispute Resolution Program centers. This full-day workshop facilitated by Steve Tresidder was highly successful.

USELESS FACT

In 1740 in Paris, France, a cow was convicted of sorcery and hanged until dead. Lucky for the rest of us. The French were on top of this. Because of their diligence, the cow sorcery movement was stopped in its early stages.

SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Thanks to funding from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Northern Community Mediation is offering a three-hour workshop relating to "security and emergency management." Although northern Michigan does not necessarily have "downstate" issues, it is still important that as mediators we understand how to handle threatening situations. Dennis Mac Donell, who serves as the Court Security Specialist with the Michigan Supreme Court, will facilitate the workshop, which will take place from 9:00am to noon on Friday, June 20 in the Reycraft Room of the Perry Hotel. To register for the workshop, go to <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-11/> on the NCM website.

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

In order to accommodate the fact that Judge Erhart had to be back in court by 12:30 on Monday, May 19 for jury selection, the annual Appreciation Luncheon began with our speaker, who was the Honorable James Erhart. He explained the Sobriety Court that is run through the 90th District Court. His talk inspired numerous questions. Prior to his departure, Judge Erhart was recognized as the NCM Advocate of the Year. Much of this was due to his leadership in piloting the use of mediation for small claims cases prior to scheduled hearing dates. Following lunch, three other awards were presented. Herb Carlson received the Rookie of the Year Award and Carolyn Batdorf was recognized as the Veteran Mediator of the Year. The Leah Award, which recognizes an individual or organization that has epitomized the use of mediation over the years and is not necessarily awarded every year, was given to the Honorable Richard Pajtas.

MEDIATOR ROUNDTABLE

On Tuesday, June 24 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm, attorney and mediator Mary Beth Kur will lead a discussion on the court-sentencing process. You might be surprised at what you will learn. Call the center if you plan to attend.

FUTURE MEDIATOR?

On Tuesday, May 27, mediator Analisa Charlton gave birth to a baby girl. Let us know the weight, time and name, Analisa.

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

"Only it seems to me that once in your life before you die you ought to see a country where they don't talk in English and don't even want to"~ Thornton Wilder, *Our Town*