



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

June 2017

Vol. 14 No. 6



APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



Pictured from left to right: Ruthie Brown, Rob Brown, Lou Diaz, Wendy Viles, The Honorable Frederick Mulhauser, Susan Hannah

On Monday, May 15, Northern Community Mediation (NCM) held its annual Appreciation Luncheon. Over 40 people attended the event. The Honorable Frederick Mulhauser was the keynote speaker. He reflected upon his years on the bench and his involvement with establishing the Child Protection Mediation Program, as well as the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program. He was introduced by mediator Kathy Lane, who worked extensively with Fred in the creation of the Child Protection Mediation Program.

The annual awards were then announced. The Rookie Mediator of the Year recognizes an individual who has been mediating for NCM less than two years and has contributed significantly. This year's award went to two people: Rob and Ruthie Brown. The purpose of the Veteran Mediator of the Year Award is to express appreciation to a mediator who goes "above and beyond the call of duty." Again, this was a shared award by Lou Diaz and Susan Hannah. Wendy Viles received the Advocate of the Year Award because of her eagerness to promote mediation and her willingness to help in mediation on small claims day. The Leah Award is one that is saved for recognizing an individual who has throughout the years advocated, promoted and contributed to the advancement of mediation. Consequently, it is not given every year. This year, however, there was no question that one individual had to be thanked and recognized for his significant contribution. Judge Mulhauser was more than deserving of this award.

USELESS FACT

Winnie-the-Pooh's real name is Edward Bear.

FORTY-HOUR TRAINING

Twenty-five people completed the 40-hour training that ended on June 1. Of those participating in the training, 11 were attorneys, five were potential mediators for Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) centers other than NCM, two were school counselors, and nine will be new mediators for NCM. If those numbers total more than 25, that is because some of the attorneys are also individuals who are willing to volunteer some of their time to NCM mediations. It was a great class, and we welcome the new mediators to our team.

GRANTS RECEIVED

NCM is excited to announce that it has received funding from the Rotary Club of Petoskey, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation for two projects.

The Rotary Club of Petoskey has awarded NCM \$694 for the design and printing of a brochure that will explain the newly established American Veterans Program. The purpose of the brochure is to promote the use of mediation among American Veterans at no cost to them. NCM believes strongly that the veterans deserve every consideration for the years of service to their country.

The two foundations have each contributed \$875 so that the NCM website can be updated. The website needs to be redesigned so that it is compatible with any platform, whether it is accessed via a laptop computer, an iPhone, or any other electronic means. Additionally, the update will include more of a scrolling design than an outline design that requires clicking on numerous links.

DONOR CAMPAIGN

Later this summer, NCM will be sending out its annual, donor-campaign letter. This year, the Board and staff have agreed that we will maintain a thermometer-style chart to track how we are doing. Thanks to board member Ed Engstrom, we have that chart. What a talented man he is! We learned that this type of work is his hobby.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

We had a generous donation in honor of Judge Mulhauser's retirement. Something you may want to consider.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I already know what I want to be when I get older... Younger!