



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are fortunate to have two new board members who are both advocates for mediation and outstanding community members. Dennis Halverson and Bill Lovett have agreed to serve on our Board of Directors. Both are from Charlevoix, which is also helpful in maintaining geographic representation on the Board. No pun intended, but Welcome Aboard!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I ran out of room in last month's newsletter to let you know that John Rohe donated many goodies to NCM. We got a microwave, an air conditioner unit to replace the one in the large meeting room, and a chair a stool and a cabinet for our break room. Thank you, John.

10 IRRITATING LISTENING HABITS

1. Interrupting the speaker.
2. Not looking at the speaker.
3. Rushing the speaker and making her feel that she's wasting the listener's time.
4. Showing interest in something other than the conversation.
5. Getting ahead of the speaker and finishing his thoughts.
6. Not responding to the speaker's requests.
7. Saying, "Yes, but..." as if the listener had made up his mind.
8. Topping the speaker's story with "That reminds me..." or "That's nothing, let me tell you about..."
9. Forgetting what was talked about previously.
10. Asking too many questions about details.

MEDIATION PROCEDURES

Just a reminder for those of you who do post judgment cases. Your primary purpose is to address the issue of parenting time. If other issues arise during that process, you should feel perfectly free to discuss those matters but not at the expense of parenting time. From the standpoint of SCAO, if the parenting time issue is not resolved during mediation, it is considered to be mediated without agreement even if other issues are resolved.

OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE

Northern Community Mediation would not exist if it were not for all of our mediators. It is your dedication that makes everything possible. It is your commitment that helps to make our community a more civil place in which to live.

Hence, when bad things happen to our mediators, it becomes not only a hurt that impacts each of us as individuals but also affects the community as a whole.

FUTURE MEDIATOR?

We have not yet heard the details from our board member John Jarema, but as of the distribution of this newsletter, John and his wife should have a new baby. So, John, we need the details. Boy or girl? Weight? Name? Mother, father and baby doing fine?

BETA SITE

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) is in the process of converting to a new software program for tabulating and reporting data. We are serving as one of the three Beta sites around the State. In fact, we have been told that we have been an exemplary Beta site because we have discovered glitches and been most helpful. In other words, the staff has gone above and beyond to fulfill its responsibilities. A huge thanks should go to Pat and Janice for this accomplishment.

CLAIRIFICATION

Last month I stated that it was advisable to have everyone at the table destroy his/her notes upon completion of mediation. I meant this from the standpoint of those notes that would not be needed for any particular purpose. Obviously, certain notes must be kept by some of the parties, such as case workers in PPMP cases or participants who want to keep their notes so that they have a more detailed record of what their responsibilities are in relationship to the agreements. I hope this clarifies what I was trying to say.

REMEMBER TO COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS