



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

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### CLASS OF 2015



The class of 2015 is incredible. The state of Michigan is fortunate to have 19 new mediators. Each one of them will be dynamic. Of the 19 participants, there were three attorneys, one of whom will be mediating for NCM, one in private practice, and one with the tribal court. There were three with the Human Resources Department at the Odawa Casino. One of the participants will be mediating for the CDRP center in Muskegon, and one will be mediating for the Gaylord center as well as for NCM.

Wanda Joseph was the trainer for the mediation, and our very own attorney and mediator Steve Tresidder assisted with the Standards of Conduct and the Michigan Court Rules. The discussion relating to ethics is always a lively one.

### 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.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The older I grow, the less important the comma becomes. Let the reader catch his own breath.”  
Elizabeth C. Zwart

### APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Another date to set aside is Monday, May 18, which is our annual Appreciation Luncheon. It will be held at noon at The Bistro Restaurant in the Charlevoix Country Club. As always, we will recognize the Rookie Mediator of the Year, the Veteran Mediator of the Year, and the NCM Advocate of the Year. Also, this year, we will be honoring someone with the Leah Award. This award is not necessarily given every year because it is reserved for someone who has devoted his/her time and devotion to NCM and mediation in general over the years. Although NCM would love to be able to pay for everyone’s lunch, it will be Dutch treat. Please, call NCM to let us know that you will be attending.

### BOARD INVOLVEMENT

Following the annual Board Retreat on Monday, February 23, board committees have been very active in addressing three primary areas of focus: 1) resources and budget, 2) facilities, and 3) leadership sustainability and succession. The most recent area on which to report relates to sustainability and succession planning. Vice-president of the Board Kate Scollin and Executive Director Jane Millar attended a workshop relating to these two issues that was hosted by the Traverse City Rotary Charities. As a result of that workshop and a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board, implementation of specific avenues are being pursued.

For example, NCM staff is pushing its limits to get work done. Therefore, having a part-time person added to the staff would relieve a tremendous burden. If NCM can obtain funds to purchase the necessary equipment for a work station for the new employee, it will go to PMP for this part-time person. This would give the staff an opportunity to make certain the person worked out before actually hiring him/her. Then, if either of the intake coordinators were to leave NCM, that individual could be given the opportunity to replace the person who left or serve as an interim until a new staff person was in place.

### USELESS FACT

The word comma comes from the Greek word komma, which means “a little knife” or “to cut off.”