



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

May 2014
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CDRP DIRECTORS' MEETING



Upper left: Seal on the floor of the Hall of Justice in Lansing
Upper right: CDRP directors with Lansing staff
Lower left: Hall of Justice in Lansing
Lower right: CDRP logo

A CHAMPION OF MEDIATION

In the April 29 issue of the *Petoskey News-Review*, the obituary for Fran Pletz appeared. Fran died on December 3, 2013 at the age of 93. Fran was one of the original mediators for NCM, and she was a good one. About five years ago, she retired as a mediator, but she never ceased to support NCM and the mediation process. In fact, when NCM relocated its office in Petoskey (eight years ago), Fran donated garbage bags. We just ran out of her generosity this week.

A FIRST FOR NCM

We actually had a mediation for which we had to contract with someone who could serve as a translator for a Spanish speaking individual.

USELESS FACT

"The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" is commonly believed to be the only English sentence devised to include all the letters of the alphabet. Typesetters, however, have another such sentence: "Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs."

FOR YOUR SAFETY

First, when introducing yourself as a mediator, do not give out your last name. This practice is for your protection. It helps to prevent a disgruntled, mediation participant from making contact with you. Second, refrain from bringing in personal information about yourself. Again, this is another means of being able to identify and locate you. Third, be certain that you sign the consent to mediate form after everyone else at the table has done so. That way, no one can see your last name. The potential danger is not a figment of imagination. We had a case just two weeks ago where this danger existed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, May 8 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm
Let's raise a champagne toast to Bert, who will graduate from NCMC on Friday
- Friday, May 16 from 8:00am to 5:00pm
Advanced Mediator Training facilitated by Steve Tresidder on *The Science of Settlement*
- Monday, May 19 from noon to 1:30pm
Appreciation Luncheon with guest speaker The Honorable James Erhart and awards ceremony
- Friday, June 20 from 9:30am to 11:30am
Security workshop conducted by Dennis Mac Donell, Court Security Specialist from Lansing
- Tuesday, June 24 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm
Mediator roundtable featuring Mary Beth Kur on the court-sentencing process

IN THE NEWS

Not only has Bert Rousseau been busy finishing up her degree and fulfilling the responsibilities of her full-time job, she somehow has found the time to be an active volunteer. Through a campaign that supports giving books to deserving people, she presented each of the students in Elizabeth Warner's fifth-grade class at Sheridan Elementary School with *Hoot*, by Carl Hiassen. The students along with Bert were pictured in the *Petoskey News-Review*.

REMINDER

Try to avoid using the break room for caucusing. Thanks.

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

"It takes a real storm in the average person's life to make him realize how much worrying he has done over the squalls." ~ Bruce Barton