



# Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &  
Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

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### IN THE NEWS

Two of our board members made the news this past month.

Fred Mulhauser is the newly elected president of the Michigan Probate Judges Association. The last time a judge from Emmet or Charlevoix counties served as president of this organization was in 1964 when the late Judge John Murphy presided. Fred's leadership in issues relating to domestic violence, family preservation, juvenile delinquency and guardianship—to name a few—has led not only to his reputation on a state-wide basis, but also to his being used as a consultant on an international basis.

Dennis Halverson has left his position as the Charlevoix Chief of Police to become the "Safe Schools" Coordinator for the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District. In this position, Dennis will continue to build bridges between the schools and the police force. He will be responsible for the administration of the AmeriCorps and Drug/Violence Free Schools program, assist the ISD schools with emergency planning, and help prepare for events that could adversely affect the schools.

### NOTEWORTHY

One of our new mediators, Jeff Higgs, has completed the Adult Guardianship training. Way to go, Jeff.

### REMINDER

Based upon information learned during the Anne Bachle Fifer workshop, two revisions have been made to our Consent to Mediate form. I have e-mailed copies of the revised version to all of you. If you have copies of the old version, please destroy those and begin using the new version.

### ANNE BACHLE FIFER

For those of you who were unable to attend the workshop conducted by Anne Bachle Fifer on Friday, October 14, you missed a most informative opportunity. Even though it is highly unlikely that a mediator would get sued, we learned how this could come about. In doing so, we addressed ethical issues from a pragmatic viewpoint. Having both lawyers and volunteer mediators together created an atmosphere in which each could learn some of the dilemmas that are unique to each realm of mediation.

The input of attorneys does bring up something I would like to address. In reviewing the evaluation forms, I was delighted to see that everyone felt the workshop was a worthwhile experience. The only thing that could be considered to be a negative remark related to the concept that perhaps too much time was directed towards the attorneys.

I would like to explain why this happened because it was not unintentional. The cost related to the workshop totaled a little over \$2300. Those of you who mediate for Northern Community Mediation did not have to pay to attend. Those who do not mediate for NCM, however, such as the attorneys, paid \$150 per person. It only seemed reasonable that there would be specific reference to their viewpoints.

### INNER PEACE

Someplace, I came across the following: "I have found inner peace. Here's how you can, too. I read an article that said the way to achieve inner peace is to finish everything you start. Today, I finished two bags of potato chips, a pecan pie, a bottle of wine and a small box of chocolate candy. I feel better already."

Hence, on Thanksgiving, may you find a tremendous amount of inner peace.