



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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As the Executive Director of Northern Community Mediation and the writer of the monthly newsletter, I want to take this opportunity to share with you all the things for which I am thankful. There are the obvious ones: family, friends, health, a nice home, security, food on the table, laughter, and the list goes on. The list also includes those people who are not necessarily friends or family but who make my everyday life richer and more meaningful: the check-out lady at the grocery store, the mailman, the gas station attendant, and this list goes on as well, which leads me into my gratitude for each and every one of you who is reading this newsletter. I am eternally grateful to the NCM staff, mediators and board members, as well as the attorneys and court personnel who belief in NCM and support its mission. So, a huge **THANK YOU** to all of you.

UPCOMING DATES

So that you can plan ahead, below are some dates you may want to put on your calendars.

- November 12 Board Meeting
- November 13 Staff Retreat
- December 8 Breakfast for Champions
- December 8 NCM Holliday Party
- January 21 Annual Meeting

The Board Meeting and the Annual Meeting will begin at noon at City Park Grill. Breakfast for Champions is being held at the Odawa Casino from 7:00am to 9:00am, and the Holiday Party is from 4:30pm to 6:00pm at NCM.

Although the all-day staff retreat is for staff members only, we do encourage all mediators and board members to contact any of the NCM staff with any suggestions or ideas that would enhance NCM's services to both the community as a whole, as well as its volunteers.

USELESS FACT

Of the 107 completed World Series to date, the New York Yankees have appeared in 40 and won 27. This is far and away the most championship victories of any franchise in baseball—and sports—history.

THANK YOU ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Petoskey has awarded Northern Community Mediation \$677 for the printing of 5,000 brochures for the School Attendance Mediation Program. These brochures explain the program and are distributed to all of the parents of students in the school districts serviced by the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District. During the 2014-2015 school year, NCM mediated 66 school attendance sessions with great success.

CONDOLENCES

Following a long illness, John Marshall's father passed away on October 14, 2015. John is the president of the NCM Board of Directors. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, Hillsdale College, or a charity of your choice. For addresses, contact NCM.

MORE OBSERVATION COMPLETIONS

Congratulations to Bill O'Brien, who participated in the 40-hour training this past April. He has completed his ten hours of observation. Additionally, within the next week or so Debbie Neidhamer and John Hoffman will have completed their ten-hours of observation. Debbie needs half-an-hour more, and John needs three-quarters of an hour more. All in all, that makes four members of the 2015 class about to begin mediating.

REMINDER

When you indicate that you are available to do a mediation at a specific time and date, the Case Manager then asks you if you know any of the involved parties. Obviously, if you do know any of the individuals, you withdraw from mediating the case. There are times, however, that you do not realize that you know one of the parties until you arrive at the mediation and see the individual face to face. If that happens, the best way to handle the situation is to apologize and say that you did not realize that you knew the specific person. If you feel you can mediate fairly without bias, say as such, but add that if any of the parties would prefer you not mediate, then withdraw yourself from the case. The mediation can continue with the one mediator or make use of a staff member if available.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"You don't just accidentally show up in the World Series." ~ Derek Jeter....."as the Kansas City Royals demonstrated." ~ Jane Millar