



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

October 2015  
Vol. 12 No. 10



### OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Thanks to the generosity of the Emmet-Charlevoix Bar Association, the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the Charlevoix County Community Mediation, Northern Community Mediation (NCM) was able to purchase a work station, which included a new computer, printer and security system, along with all of the additional necessary equipment and software. In addition, the funding allowed for the new work station to be connected to the office system.

As a result of having the new work station, NCM was able to hire a new staff person. Kristy Whitman began working for NCM in September. As the Assistant Administrator, Kristy will be responsible for managing the office. She will also take on some of the Intake Coordinator responsibilities.

Kristy is a local person who graduated from Petoskey High School. She graduated from North Central Community College with an Associate of Applied Science degree. She continued her studies in business-related classes at Lake Superior State University.

Prior to joining the NCM team, Kristy was a Residential Mortgage Officer, first at Bank One and then at the Bank of Northern Michigan. She is a certified mortgage planning specialist and received three "Circle of Excellence Awards," which is awarded to the top 10% for customer service skills. Her ability to interact with people will be a definite asset for NCM.

### AN IDEA

When mediating, use the word topic rather than the word issue.

### USELESS FACT

There are over a half billion bicycles in China.

### GOOD LUCK

On Thursday, October 8, the Boyne Area Chamber and Boyne City Gazette are sponsoring a City Commission Candidates Forum at 6:30pm in the Community Room of the Boyne District Library. Mediator Hugh Conklin will be one of four candidates on the panel. The election for the two vacancies will take place on Tuesday, November 3.

### AGREEMENT WRITING TRAINING

On Tuesday, September 29, Northern Community Mediation sponsored an Advanced Mediator Training focusing on Agreement Writing. The training was held in Evelyn Hall in Bay View, which provided a perfect venue for the training. Forty people participated. Based upon the evaluations and success of the workshop, in February NCM will be doing an Agreement Writing Training for the Oakland Mediation Center in Bloomfield Hills

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It can never be said that the NCM staff does not remain abreast of what is transpiring in the field of mediation. In September, Case Manager Terri Sevener attended the Peace Making Conference in Manistee, and Case Manager Karen Cole participated in the annual conference of the Michigan Association of Court Mediators at Crystal Mountain. In October, Executive Director Jane Millar went to Traverse City for the Alternative Dispute Resolution section of the Michigan Bar Association conference.

### BIG MOVE

Long-time supporter and a founding father of Northern Community Mediation Murray Kilgour has moved from Charlevoix to the big island of Hawaii. Not a bad place to be retired. When Murray reads this, I hope that he will keep in mind that anyone of us would love to go to Hawaii to help resolve any type of conflict. Do not forget us, Murray and Jeanie.

### THERE AND ALMOST THERE

Congratulations to Ingrid Tomey, who participated in the 40-hour training this past April. She has completed her ten hours of observation. Several others from that class are not far behind: Bill O'Brien, Mike Forrester, Debbie Neidhamer, and John Hoffman.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"No man needs a vacation so much as the man who has just had one." ` Elbert Hubbard