



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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MACM ATTENDEES



Pictured from left to right: Terri Sevener, Bert Rousseau, Kendal Taylor

Terri, Bert and Kendal attended the Michigan Association of Court Mediators (MACM) annual conference, which was held at Crystal Mountain from September 12 -14. All three agreed that it was a worthwhile conference and encourage others to consider going next year. It should be noted that Kendal completed a two-year term as a board member for MACM, and Bert is going on as a new board member.

STAFF RETREAT

Once a year, the staff of NCM sets aside a Friday for the purpose of conducting a staff retreat. This year's retreat is scheduled for Friday, November 16. Be aware of the fact that the office will be closed on that day. If you have any suggestions for improving our services, let one of the staff members know so that we can discuss your ideas during our staff retreat.

NOT THAT FAR AWAY

We realize that Halloween has not yet arrived. The reality, however, is that the holidays will soon be upon us. So, be certain to set aside Tuesday, December 11 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm for the annual NCM holiday party.

ADVANCED TRAINING

As always, attorney/mediator Steve Tresidder did a fantastic job as the facilitator for *Making Money Talk*. Although there were fewer registrants than we usually have, it was a dynamic class made up of attorneys and center mediators. We are already working with Steve to offer another training next fall. If you have any ideas for a training, let us know.

SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. Only NCM authorized forms should be distributed to participants of mediation. The reason for this is that we must be careful not to cross the line by giving advice that could be construed as legal advice. As much as we want to help people, if SCAO were to determine that we were giving legal advice, we could lose our funding.
2. When an agreement is reached that one of the attorneys will go to his/her office and write up the agreement and then get signatures, at least have a written agreement that stipulates that this is what is going to happen. That way NCM can enter the data as "agreement reached." Without something in writing, NCM cannot enter that an agreement has been reached.
3. If a participant asks you for an aspirin or any other type of drug, simply apologize that you do not have anything even if you do. NCM policy prohibits distribution of drugs of any kind. It is okay, however, to give someone a band aid.
4. For your own safety, avoid using personal cell phone to make NCM related phone calls.
5. Regardless whether or not there is an agreement, try to remember to distribute and then collect the completed evaluation forms.

MINI-GRANT FOR FORTY HOUR TRAINING

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) has made mini-grants in the amount of \$5,000 available to the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) centers for 40-hour and divorce trainings. NCM was fortunate to have been awarded one of the grants for 40-hour training. The training will be offered in Charlevoix on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, April 10	1:00pm – 5:00pm
Thursday, April 11	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday, April 12	8:00am – 5:00pm

Wednesday, April 17	1:00pm – 5:00pm
Thursday, April 18	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday, April 19	8:00am – 5:00pm

Brochures will be available within the next two weeks. If you know of someone who is interested in taking the training, encourage him/her to contact the NCM office.

GROAN

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.