



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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ALWAYS LEARNING



Jeff Higgs, Bert Rousseau, Jane Figueiredo, Cheryl Bauman, Karen Cole and Kendal Taylor attended the 2009 conference of the Michigan Association of Court Mediators, which was held at Crystal Mountain last month. Besides having a great time, they also participated in 14 hours of training that covered a variety of subjects, such as “How Trauma Impacts Children and How You Can Help” and “The Science of Settlement.”

FRONT PAGE OF THE PAPER

On both Tuesday, September 29 and Wednesday, September 30, the front page of the *Petoskey News-Review* featured an article on a criminal case that was being tried in the 57th Circuit Court. Evelyn Graves was charged with forgery and uttering and publishing. The trial lasted two days. After two hours of deliberation, the jury came back with a not-guilty verdict. What does this have to do with NCM? Mediator Gary Barfknecht sat on the jury.

MEDIATION TRAINING

Twenty-four people participated in the Advanced Mediation Training held at the Perry Hotel on September 25. Based upon the evaluations of Earlene Baggett-Hayes presentation, the participants felt that the training was worthwhile.

Although specific dates have not yet been set, NCM will offer a six-hour, general law training in January 2010, as well as 40-hour training in the spring.

WHAT AN HONOR!

Mediator Lee Hornberger received the Conflict Resolution Services’ Pinnacle Award at their annual recognition reception in September. This award recognized the individual who has provided the highest number of hours of pro bono mediation services during 2008-2009.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

For all practical purposes, the background checks have been completed on all but a few of the NCM mediators. Thank you to all of you for your understanding and cooperation in regards to this matter.

At this point, if you have not sent in the following information so that a background check can be completed on you, we will not be able to have you mediate until you do so:

- Consent Form
- Criminal Registry Form
- Copy of Your Driver’s License

The two forms are available on our website at

<http://www.northernmediation.org/background-checks-92/>

LOCAL IMPACT

As Executive Director of the East Jordan Chamber of Commerce, NCM Board member Mary Faculak had her picture in the paper. It seems that two Michigan Economic Development Authority representatives who were to speak at a chamber program were “called back to Lansing while en-route to East Jordan” as a result of the short-lived state government shutdown. That has to be frustrating for the planner of an event.

WHAT AN EXPERIENCE!

Because of a connection with Sugar Island, Intake Coordinator Cheryl Bauman was able to attend an international mediation between the residents of Sugar Island and a Canadian waste water treatment facility. The residents of the island claimed that the facility had disposed of raw sewage that went into the St. Mary’s River and consequently, contaminated the beaches of the island. After 10 hours of mediation facilitated by a federal mediator, the participants came up with a tentative agreement.

IS THERE A COOK IN THE HOUSE?

Board member Ray Kiogima and his wife Mary Jane are experts on traditional foods of the Odawa. In fact, they were responsible for the final presentation of the “Evenings at the Longhouse,” where Ray explained the process of making corn soup from the growing of the corn to the final product of delicious soup. Mary Jane then talked about Indian fry bread and flat bread.

ON THE MEND

Several weeks ago, Bert Rousseau broke two of her right-hand fingers. Finally, her hand seems to be healing.