

# CDRS News & Views



A Newsletter for Emmet & Charlevoix County Mediators

March 1997

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU! WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL 1997. THIS NEWSLETTER IS AN EFFORT TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF OUR PROGRESS. WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS.

*Murray Kilgour & Kathy Lane*

## President's Notes

*Murray Kilgour*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of our volunteer mediators and former board members for the great effort that you made on behalf of CDRS in 1996.

At the Annual Meeting in November, new officers and board members were elected. They are:

- Murray Kilgour, President
- Janet Vandenberg, Vice-President
- Chuck Johnson, Secretary
- Nancy Goalen, Treasurer

President's Notes .....	1
More Changes .....	1
Outreach & Promotion .....	1
District Court Project .....	1
Special Education Mediation .....	2
Kudos .....	2
Training Notes .....	2
Director's Notes .....	2

- Dennis Halverson
- Bill Shumaker
- Mary Beth Kur
- Joseph Kanine
- Cathy Neff
- Carlin Smith
- Frank Roman
- James Perricone
- Jeff Wellman

During the January 1997 board meeting, the mission statement was discussed. The one presented focused on mediations and it being an alternative to court. At the end of the discussion, the mission statement evolved into:

"To Improve inter-personal relationships in the communities of Emmet and Charlevoix Counties by providing non-adversarial dispute resolution."

To this end, our main goal for 1997 should be to increase community awareness and involvement in and with CDRS.

May you all experience the warmth and friendship of community throughout 1997.

## More Changes

As of September 1, 1996 Kathy Lane became the Director/Intake Worker for CDRS. The telephone number remains the same - 616-547-1771, Fax 616-547-3067.

## Outreach & Promotion



- Due to the combined efforts of mediators and board members, CDRS has reached out and touched many members of our community.
- ⊙ Ottawa Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders
  - ⊙ Bar Association Annual Meeting
  - ⊙ The Charlevoix County Commissioners
  - ⊙ North Central Michigan College
  - ⊙ Kappa Sigma Sorority
  - ⊙ Several other elementary school in Charlevoix & Emmet Counties

## District Court Project

At the beginning of October 1996, Murray (who is there every week) began a mini-presentation to everyone present at Small Claims Court in Emmet County every Wednesday. From October through

December, CDRS mediated ten cases in Small Claims Court. One was even settled over the telephone.

### We need more district court mediators!

If you are able to give one hour or so (from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.) On one Wednesday a month, please let Kathy know. Small Claims Court is a good training ground for mediator skills. We are slowly moving into Charlevoix Small Claims Court. Kathy has met with the magistrate and small claims clerk to explain the program. Brochures and business cards are now available for small claims' disputants in Charlevoix County.

## Special Education Mediation

In September 1996 Leah Green, Murray Kilgour and Kathy Lane attended a two-day in service to prepare for mediating special education disputes. The in service focused on the special issues that may cause conflict between parents of students with special challenges and school personnel.

On November 12, 1996 Murray, Leah and Kathy did a presentation to the Parent Advisory Committee for special education for the Char-Em Intermediate School District. The goal was to explain the process of mediation and offer it as an alternative method to resolve disputes in special education. To aid them in their efforts, one of the mothers on the committee had had a positive experience during a mediation conducted by CDRS. They couldn't have planned it better if they had tried! Special education brochures are available for anyone interested. The brochures will be distributed to parents and staff at Char-Em ISD.

## Kudos

### SPECIAL THANKS

TO David Fershée and Tina

DeMoore who were instrumental in establishing CDRS in our community. Both Dave and Tina have served as president and board member since the beginning. We owe you a debt of gratitude.

Thanks to Nancy Goalen's efforts, Bill Fedus at Mitchell Graphics in Petoskey donated business cards and "tear-off sheets" to CDRS. The tear-off sheets are bright pink 3"x5" sheets containing pertinent information about CDRS.

Mary Beth Kur, Charlevoix County Prosecutor, presented CDRS to all law enforcement agencies in Charlevoix County on December 18, 1996.

Thanks to Dennis Halverson for serving as an advocate for CDRS and his expertise with the information folder used in the presentations.

As a result of these efforts, CDRS did receive one referral from the Charlevoix County Sheriff Department at the end of December. We intend to duplicate the presentation to law enforcement agencies in Emmet County.

Special thanks to Nancy Goalen, Murray Kilgour, Chuck Johnson, Janet Vandenberg, Dennis Halverson, Bill Shumaker. Leah Green for their many hours of service to CDRS.

Thanks to all our mediators without whom there would be no CDRS.



CONGRATULATIONS!

## Training Notes

CDRS has invited mediation trainer Tom Shea to do a Mediation Update Training on Saturday, March 1, 1997. The training will be

held at the North Central Michigan College Conference Center from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The focus of this training is to present an overview of mediation, to update us on what is happening in mediation today, and to review the mediation process. You will benefit from this training if you are interested in learning more about the mediation process for yourself or your business, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer mediator. If you are a volunteer mediator, it will serve as a good refresher and update. There is no cost for this training. Please call Kathy at 547-1771 to register or for more information.

The Conflict Resolution Service in Traverse City is offering "Conflict Management Training" on March 13, 14, and 15, 1997, as well as "Supplemental Training for Volunteer Mediators on March 21, 22, and 23, 1997. Those interested in applying to become volunteer mediators must attend both sessions. Call Kathy for more information.

Community Mediation Services in Gaylord is planning a 40-hour mediator training in April or early May, 1997. I will keep you updated as more information is available.

## Director's Notes

*Kathy Lane*

When I took this job, I expressed to the board that I could not do this alone. Every single person whom I have asked for assistance has given it and more. I am very grateful for all of your ideas, energy and support.