



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

December  
Vol. 7 No. 12



### HOLIDAY TIME

**HAPPY  
HANNUKAH,  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**



It is hard to believe that the holidays are once again upon us. This weekend will bring a flurry of activities in all of our communities. Be sure to check out the Chambers of Commerce websites so that you do not miss any of the festivities.

- Boyer City [www.boyerchamber.com](http://www.boyerchamber.com)
- Charlevoix [www.charlevoix.org](http://www.charlevoix.org)
- East Jordan <http://ejchamber.org>
- Harbor Springs [www.harborspringschamber.com](http://www.harborspringschamber.com)
- Petoskey [www.petoskey.chamber](http://www.petoskey.chamber)

### SPEAKING OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

At northern Community Mediation, we believe that we are a vital part of the communities we service. That is a major reason that we belong to the above five Chambers of Commerce. Belonging to these organizations should be more than merely writing the check for the annual dues. We should also be involved by attending events sponsored by the Chambers. Our presence matters. That is why we have participated in the Petoskey and Boyne City Expos, will continue to do so, and will be present at Charlevoix's first Expo in 2011.

The staff is also able to cover a good portion of the events held in Petoskey. Getting to the other four communities, however, is a challenge. Therefore, we are looking for your assistance. If you live/work in Boyne City, Charlevoix, East Jordan or Harbor Springs, would you be willing to be the NCM ambassador by attending some of the events, such as Business After Hours, Business Before Hours, or the annual meeting? If so, please call Jane.

### HOLIDAY PARTY

Mark your calendars from 4:30pm to 6:00pm on Tuesday, December 14. That is the date of our seventh annual holiday party. As always, we will have goodies to eat and drink. The invitations are going out today. In the past, we have presented the annual awards during the holiday party. This will not be the case this year, as is explained in the article below.

### YOUR OPINION COUNTS

A suggestion by mediator Ron Moore was that we have an appreciation luncheon for the mediators. We discussed this idea at the Mediator Roundtable in November, and decided that Jane would send out an e-mail asking the opinions of the mediators themselves. Overwhelmingly, this idea was supported, understanding that everyone would pay for his/her own lunch. Additionally, everyone felt that the luncheon was a more appropriate venue for the annual awards. Since many mediators are gone during the winter, we will hold the luncheon in May

### STAFF RETREAT

On Friday, December 17, the office will be closed so that the staff can hold a retreat. Among other things, we will be setting the calendar for 2011 and reviewing and updating all of our forms. For those of you who keep forms on your computers, be prepared to make the appropriate changes. For those of you who keep hard copies in your files, you too will have to make the appropriate substitutions.

### DINNER WITH THE JUDGE

Thanks to the hard work of mediator Jeff Higgs, the evening with the Honorable Ralph Guy was delightful. We enjoyed a social hour before enjoying a delicious dinner at the Birchwood Country Club. Judge Guy then talked about the historical perspective of the court system and how mediation evolved into being a part of that process.

### CHARLEVOIX OFFICE

Please, help us by making certain that you clean up the room after mediation. There have been several incidents when glasses, paper and other items have been left on the tables. In general, the room was not left as it was found. Although City Hall has been gracious, they have mentioned this fact to us.

### HOLIDAY WISH

May your holiday season be as wonderful as you hope it will be.