



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

If you have not heard, Bob Drebenstedt was elected to the position of Charlevoix County Commissioner. One of the platforms he ran on was the fact that he is "accustomed to listening to all sides on an issue." With that approach, it is not surprising that Bob is one of our loyal mediators. In fact, week after week, he makes himself available for small claims in Charlevoix.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Within the next few days, you will receive an invitation to our annual holiday party. It is scheduled from 4:30 to 6:00 pm on Thursday, December 14. As always, it will be held at our office in Petoskey.

TRAINING FRUSTRATION

Many of you have expressed concern over the fact that there is a lack in training opportunities. In the past, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) often covered the costs of paying the trainer(s) and other related expenses. In order to cut back on their budget, for the most part SCAO no longer sponsors these workshops. Consequently, in order to cover their fees, the trainers now have to charge those attending the trainings.

For NCM, this situation is particularly difficult when it comes to divorce cases because we are doing more domestic relations cases than we have in the past, and the number of mediators who are trained in this area is limited. We are not the only center facing this problem. Consequently, SCAO is looking at the possibility of covering most of the expenses related to a domestic relations/divorce training in the near future. I will keep you posted as to the progress.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2007 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. This is a different timeframe than in the past. We are hoping it will help to increase attendance. The meeting we be held in the Northern Michigan Hospital Community Health Education Center. A continental breakfast will be served.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS

The following data are based upon this year to date:

- 37 of you have mediated.
- You have mediated for 771.16 hours.
- 78 of those hours were mediated by attorneys (10.1% of the total hours).
- The total in kind value of the mediated hours is \$38,558.00.
- \$3900 of that total relates to attorney mediated cases (10.1%).
- Attorneys have mediated 7.28% of the cases.
- You have put in 175.10 hours of prep & debrief.
- This has an in kind value of \$8,755.00.
- You have traveled 14,318.50 miles.
- The reimbursement for this stands at \$6,371.73.
- 442 cases have been closed
- 416 cases have been opened.
- 347 cases have been conciliated or mediated.
- 95 cases were neither mediated nor conciliated because the respondent refused to mediate, the case was withdrawn, etc.
- 361 cases (81.67%) have been referred by the courts.
- 42 (9.5%) cases have been self-referred.
- 170 (38.46%) cases have been breach of contract.
- 81 cases (18.33%) cases have been VORP.
- 62 cases (14.03%) cases have related to domestic matters.
- 56 cases (12.67%) have been PPMP.