



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

February 2018

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### ANNUAL MEETING



Pictured left to right: Hugh Conklin, Kirstyn Horan, The Honorable Joe Hayes, Liisa Morley, Dick Hendrian, Jim Raber, Ed Cole

On Thursday, January 18, Northern Community Mediation (NCM) held its annual meeting at noon at city Park Grill in Petoskey. The nominations of Hugh Conklin, The Honorable Joe Hayes, Kirstyn Horan and Liisa Morley were approved. The nominations for officers were also approved. Bob Banner is the new president and Brian Kasiborski the new vice-president. Bill Meengs and Stuart Fenton will remain on the Executive Committee as treasurer and secretary respectively.

Executive Director Jane Millar then thanked the outgoing board members. Julie Kuchnicki, The Honorable Fred Mulhauser, Kirk Raymond and Kate Scollin. Each received a gift certificate from a restaurant in their communities as a token of thanks for their years of service to NCM.

It was then time for the presentation of the annual awards. The Veteran Mediator of the Year Award is presented to a mediator who has been mediating for more than two years and exhibits dedication and willingness to go out of his/her way. Although Dick Hendrian had received this award in the past, it was again presented to him. Dick has been mediating for NCM for over 15 years, and has always been considered an excellent mediator. With his "retirement" from mediation, it was only appropriate that he again receive Veteran Mediator of the Year.

The Rookie Mediator of the Year Award goes to a mediator who has been trained within the past two years and goes above and beyond "the call of duty." The choice of Ed Cole for this recognition was obvious. As a result of a pilot project and grant, Ed has been serving as the Restorative Practices Coordinator at Pellston High School since January

### ANNUAL MEETING (continued)

The Advocate of the Year Award is bestowed upon an individual who supports and promotes mediation. Over the years, Jim Raber has more than met those qualifications. When he was with the Charlevoix court system, he promoted the use of mediation in resolving parenting time cases. He has also served as a mediator for NCM and is presently the Restorative Practices Coordinator at Boyne City High School.

In summary, 2017 was an outstanding year for Northern Community Mediation.

### ANNUAL PETOSKEY THEATRE PARTY

Set aside Monday, March 9. That is the date of our annual theatre party in Petoskey. In celebration of NCM's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, tickets are still only \$25. From 5:30 to 7:00, eight different vendors will provide delicious food. As always, there will be door prizes and at 7:00, everyone can go to the movie of his/her choice. So, get your tickets now. And, if you would like to be a sponsor or know of someone else who might be interested, let us know. Just call 487.1771.

### SAD NEWS

Our sincere condolences go out to Kate Scollin and Natalie Kasiborski. Kate's father was diagnosed with cancer, and within weeks he had died. Kate served as president of our board for two years and was an excellent leader. Natalie also lost her father. She is the wife of Brian Kasiborski, who is our board vice-president.

### GOOD NEWS

NCM board treasurer Bill Meengs is happy to report that his father's eye surgery went well. More good news is congratulations to NCM board secretary, who is serving as his second term as the Emmet-Charlevoix Bar Association president. And, attorney Jenny Deegan is also serving a second term on the bar association board.

### USELESS FACT

The shortest war in history was between Zanzibar and England in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after 38 minutes.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Do you ever feel like this? "We the unwilling, led by the unqualified, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful."