



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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ANNUAL MEETING

Plan to attend NCM's Annual Meeting, which is scheduled from 4:30 to 6:30 PM on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 in the Edith Gilbert Gallery at Crooked Tree Arts Center. Although an annual report will be available for your perusal, the emphasis upon the event will be a celebration of all that has been accomplished by our mediators. The Mediator of the Year Award along with other recognitions will be presented. Most importantly, we will have a chance to nibble on hors d'oeuvres, sip on wine, and chat with one another.

As a reminder, you will receive an invitation in the mail.

STATE LAW

We need the help of all mediators in order to maintain compliance with state law in relationship to smoking. In that we are a non-profit organization, there can be no smoking within or on our premises. This includes smoking on the sidewalk in front of the building.

As all of you are aware, many of our clients do smoke. Therefore, would you help us by reminding them of the new law? If they need to smoke, they will have to go further down the sidewalk or into the street.

In order to reinforce this policy, we will post the policy, but will in all probability still need your help on this matter.

FULL FLEDGED MEDIATOR

Congratulations to Suzanne LaBeau. She has completed her 10-hour internship, and will now join the rank of NCM mediator.

THEATRE PARTY

On Tuesday, March 14, NCM will sponsor its second annual Theatre Party. If you recall, last year's event was a huge success. We hope to continue the tradition. To do so, we need your help. This assistance can come in many forms.

- Sponsorships are available at a rate of \$25, \$100, \$250 and \$500.
- Donations in the form of door prizes can always be used.
- Selling tickets is essential. If every mediator were to sell six tickets, that would amount to 252 attendees. If every board member were to sell 10 tickets, that would add another 130 people.
- Volunteers are needed to serve drinks, collect tickets, and help in other ways during the social time of the Theatre Party.
- Most importantly, your support by purchasing tickets for you and your spouse or significant other is needed. Put frosting on the cake by encouraging one or two of your friends to come with you.

Further details on the Theatre Party will follow later in the month.

A TRUE HERO AND CELEBRITY

On December 14, 2005 an article in the *Petoskey News Review* featured the evaluation of Mike Wiesner, City Manager of Charlevoix. In order to accomplish this task, Wiesner met with each council member individually in mediation to help solve the differences. It was our own Kathy Lame who was able to facilitate these sessions for a successful outcome.

Because of Kathy's capabilities, she has been asked to speak at the Association of City Managers Meeting on January 25 in Kalamazoo. She will do a presentation relating to the mediation process used in Charlevoix.