



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

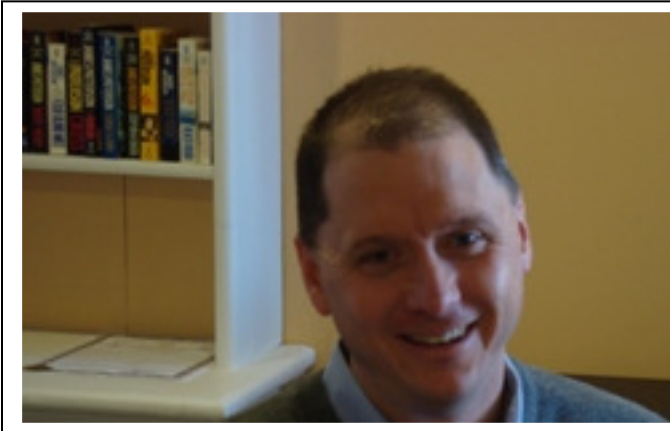
Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

September  
Vol. 7 No. 9



### A CELEBRITY



If you have not seen a copy of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation annual report, get one. Treasurer of our Board John Marshall's picture prominently appears in the report. There is a copy of the report in the large mediation room at NCM.

### MEDIATOR ROUNDTABLE

Jane Nelson wrote up a summary of some of her remarks during the July 27 Mediator Roundtable. Below is an example of wording that could be used to help attorneys understand their roles at the mediation table.

“The attorneys are not here to make lots of objections or show how well they argue, or to win us over (we do not make decisions). In the courtroom the attorneys will argue with each other and address the Court, and the parties will basically be silent. Mediation is the only phase in the litigation process where the parties are expected to talk with one another in hopes of reaching a solution. Roughly 98% of all cases settle before verdict or judgment in Court. Think of mediation as a rest stop on the litigation highway. We are not bound by legal rules or legal solutions here. Today, your attorney can get out of courtroom character and help you be creative in coming up with a good solution. Once you get back onto the litigation highway there are limited exits, more expense and your options are limited.”

If you would like a copy of all of her remarks, contact NCM.

Another roundtable is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9. Details will be available in the early fall. If you have any specific issues you would like to have discussed, let Jane know.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

United Way is looking for volunteers to help with the Small Business Blitz on Wednesday, October 6. If you have a few hours to help in this worthwhile endeavor, contact Martha Lancaster at 231.487.1006. Helping United Way actually helps NCM because we often receive funding from United Way.

### UPCOMING TRAININGS

Although we list the upcoming trainings that are being offered by our center in our monthly newsletter, remember to take advantage of our website to learn about trainings that are going on around the state. Highlighted below are trainings that are being offered by NCM this fall.

#### ADVANCED MEDIATION TRAINING

Anne Bachle Fifer will conduct advanced mediation training from 8:00am to 5:00pm on Friday, September 10. For further information and registration forms, go to the NCM website at <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-83/>

#### CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION TRAINING

Just a reminder that the Child Protection Mediation training is scheduled from 8:00am to 5:30pm for Thursday, September 30 and Friday, October 1. For further information, go to the NCM website at <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-11/>

#### DIVORCE/DOMESTIC MEDIATION TRAINING

There are two possibilities for divorce/domestic training available this fall. The first is being offered in Lansing in October, and is the full training that is required by the State Court Administrative Office. Further information is available on the NCM website at <http://www.northernmediation.org/state-12/>

The second opportunity will be held at the library in Charlevoix. It will consist of four, two-hour sessions from 4:00pm – 7:00pm on Tuesdays: September 14 & 28 and October 19 & 26. Additional information is available on our website at <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-11/>

### REMINDER

We have been having some problems with mediators arriving just in time for the mediation. To do a professional job, you should arrive for the mediation at least 15 (preferably 30) minutes prior to the scheduled time so that you can prep with your co-mediator and appear calm and in control. Please, follow this rule.