

MEDIATION HUMOR



“A mediator hasn’t worked, so I brought in everyone’s moms.”

ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

Originally, Northern Community Mediation was scheduled to offer an Advanced Mediator Training on Friday, May 29. Because of COVID-19, the date was changed to September 11. Because of COVID-19, rather than meeting in the Reycraft Room of the Perry Hotel, the training is being offered virtually. Originally, there were to have been four, two-hour sessions: Imbalance at the Mediation Table, Personality Disorders, Restorative Practices and The Mediator’s Health & Well-Being. To adapt to an online format, the training will focus on Personality Disorders and Restorative Practices only. Of the required, eight-hours of training, 2 ½ of them will be done asynchronously prior to September 11. Early next week, I will be contacting those who have registered for the training to give them their “homework assignments.” Just another example of how all of us are adapting.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Such wisdom came from the lips of John Lewis! Where does someone even begin to select the most profound quotes?

- “Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.”
- “You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone—any person or any force—dampen, dim or diminish your light...Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won.”

STATUS REPORT

- Since the middle of March, NCM has mediated 41 cases via Zoom. There are an additional 12 that are presently scheduled, and that number is increasing on a daily basis.
- The agreement rate on those cases mediated via Zoom is 85%.
- Zoom mediations seem to be “friendlier” than face-to-face mediations. I attribute this to the following:
 - Everyone in a Zoom mediation has a common enemy” COVID-19. This establishes the fact that we all agree on something.
 - For the most part, everyone is struggling with learning how to use the technology. This creates humor within the group.
 - With the courts’ being back-logged, participants want to get on with their lives, which creates an atmosphere of truly wanting to come to an agreement.
 - In a face-to-face mediation, each participant can see everyone except himself/herself. In Zoom mediations, participants can see their own faces as well. Who wants to look at your own scowling face?
- In other words, Zoom mediations are not all that bad.

FACE-TO-FACE MEDIATIONS

Northern Community Mediation was hopeful that we would be able to begin offering face-to-face mediations. In fact, we did schedule a few of them. Unfortunately, with the number of COVID-19 cases on the rise in Charlevoix and Emmet counties, NCM will only offer face-to-face mediations in the case of an emergency until further notice.

CHARLEVOIX THEATRE PARTY

For obvious reasons, the Charlevoix Theatre Party scheduled for Monday, March 12 has been cancelled.

TECH SAAVY MEDIATORS NEEDED

Through the National Association for Community Mediation, NCM has received three free, new, corporate Zoom accounts, which means that we will be able to accommodate more Zoom meetings. In order to do so, however, we need at least one of the mediators who is comfortable handling the technical aspects for each mediation. If you know how to do some of the basics, let us know. WE NEED YOU.

USELESS FACT

The King of Hearts is the only king in a deck of cards without a mustache.