



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

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### RESTORATIVE PRACTICES COORDINATORS



Pictured from left to right: Jim Raber & Ed Cole

Northern Community Mediation is one of three Citizen Dispute Resolution Program centers in the state to receive funding for a Restorative Practices pilot project in two local high schools. The grant will fund the hiring of two part-time, Restorative Practices Coordinators beginning January 2017 through June 2018. Jim Raber will be in the Boyne City High School and Ed Cole will be at Pellston High School. The purpose of the project is to have a mediator in the school so that issues involving students can be addressed in a timely manner with a neutral facilitator. Examples of the types of cases that will be referred to the Restorative Practices Coordinators will be school attendance, suspensions, bullying, harassment, stealing, property destruction, assaults and fights. The study is being overseen by Western Michigan University.

### CLARIFICATION OF PA 93

In all domestic cases, NCM must screen for domestic violence. Just because there has been domestic violence, however, does not mean that mediation cannot take place. As long as neither of the parties feels there would not be a level playing field, mediation can be scheduled.

A second aspect that needs to be considered is if during mediation as a mediator you sense that the playing field is not level, a caucus between the co-mediators and/or with each of the parties would be appropriate. If the decision is to terminate the mediation, the mediators would simply state, "At this time, we feel that mediation should not be continued and therefore, are ending this session."

### HOLIDAY PARTY

Tuesday, December 13 is the date that has been set aside for NCM's annual, holiday party. Make a point of getting over to 415 State Street to celebrate the holidays with board members, mediators, supporters and friends of NCM, and the NCM staff as well. **Remember 4:30 to 6:00pm on Tuesday, December 13.**

### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, January 19** – Annual Meeting at noon at City Park Grill in Petoskey

**Monday, February 27** – Board retreat at 4:00 at the Tap Room in Boyne City

**Monday, March 13** – Thirteenth annual Theatre Party at the Petoskey Cinema

**Wednesday, May 3, Thursday, May 4, Friday, May 5, Wednesday, May 10, Thursday, May 11, & Friday, May 12** – Forty-hour training

**Monday, May 22** – Appreciation luncheon at noon at City Park Grill in Petoskey

### RECEIVING MONEY

Occasionally, a participant will arrive at mediation with either a check or cash to pay his/her mediation fee. If this occurs at the NCM office and a staff member is present, the practice has been for that staff member to give a receipt to the participant. When a staff member is not present or if the mediation takes place off-site, we are asking the mediators simply to write a receipt on the NCM pad and give it to the participant for his/her records.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY HANUKKAH! THE MERRIEST OF HOLIDAYS!

Tis the season to celebrate the beauty of life, the miracles that surround us, the warmth of family and friends, the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Tis also the season to remember those who are fighting for life, those who merely dream for miracles to appear into their lives, those who have lost family and friends, those who would welcome even the simplest of blessings. Take the time to give thanks and reach out to others.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A psychologist is selling a video that teaches you how to test your dog's IQ. Here's how it works: When you spend \$39.95 to see this video, it proves your dog is smarter than you. ~ Anon