



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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CDRP EVALUATION



Pictured from left to right: Izabela Babinska, Kirstyn Horan, Dennis Halverson, Tina DeMoore

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) is in the process of conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP). Part of that evaluation involves a visitation of the 18 CDRP centers by Harry Mika, the researcher. On Thursday, January 30 and Friday, January 31, he interviewed 41 individuals at Northern Community Mediation over the two-day period. The participants represented mediators, board members, community leaders, legal professionals and staff. All of the research will result in a comprehensive report titled “An Evaluation of Michigan’s Community Dispute Resolution Program at 30 Years: Appraising the Past, Assessing the Present, and Planning the Future.” A preliminary version of the report will be available on May 1.

HE MADE A DIFFERENCE

On January 8 at the age of 87, Lou Fantini passed away. Lou was a mediator for NCM for approximately 10 years. In 2000, he was named NCM’s Volunteer of the Year. Not only was he trained as a general civil mediator, he was also qualified for divorce and child protection mediations. He served on the board from 2001-2005. In 2002, he was Vice-President, then served as President from 2003-2004.

On a personal note, I owe a great deal to Lou for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that it was under his watch as president of the Board that I was hired as the Executive Director of NCM. Thank you, Lou.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The more you know who you are, and what you want, the less you let things upset you.” – Stephanie Perkins.

KUDOS TO IZABELA

One of the initiatives of NCM’s Board of Directors is a commitment to help raise funds through innovative ideas. One of the ideas is for a board member to host a party in the format of his/her choice. Well, Iza had a clever idea. She invited a group of friends over for pierogis, adult drinks and friendship. In doing so, she asked that her guests make a donation to NCM if they were so inclined. And, she simply had a basket by the front door that people could drop in a donation. No pressure. Guess what? Her little party raised \$368.

MORE KUDOS

One of the Board committees is the Community Focus Committee. Serving on that committee are Iza Babinska, Nikki Devitt, Emily Hoffman, Brian Kasiborski, Maureen Hollocker, Liisa Morley, and chairperson Kirstyn Horan. It is this committee that came up with the idea of board hosted parties. But, they also came up with another unique, fun idea. Announcing this idea now is premature, but it is something that will happen this fall. Stay tuned.

PETOSKEY THEATRE PARTY

It is hard to believe that this will be our 16th, annual theatre party in Petoskey. Tickets are still only \$25 each, which entitles you to a sufficient for dinner, door prizes and the movie of your choice of appetizers. Festivities begin at 5:30 at the Petoskey Cinema.

Since this is a major fund raiser for NCM, give consideration to being a sponsor at the \$100, \$250 or \$500 level. After all, a sponsorship at the \$100 level really costs only \$50 since the sponsorship includes two, \$50 tickets.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Trainings at the local level include an 8-Hour Advanced Mediator Training and two Mediator Roundtables. A 40-Hour, General Civil Training is scheduled in Sault Ste. Marie in the fall. Being offered downstate is an 8-Hour Advanced Mediator Training, as well as Divorce/Domestic, Guardianship and Child Protection Mediation Training. For more information, go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/> on the NCM website.

USELES FACT

Active internet users who often have an “emo,” punk-rock style are referred to as eboys or egirls. The terms seems to be gaining on TikTok.