



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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WEBSITE VIDEOS



Pictured from left to right: Jane Millar & Emily Hoffman

As a part of the NCM Board orientation for new Board member Emily Hoffman, Executive Director Jane Millar took advantage of the situation to demonstrate the new videos that are on the Northern Community Mediation website. Funding was awarded by the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation to develop a total of 17, 30-second videos that explain how mediation works. NCM contracted with Abuzz Creative to design and develop the videos. To view the videos go to www.northernmediation.org. For the videos explaining the eight programs (School Attendance, American Veterans, Victim-Offender Reconciliation, First-Time, Offender Reconciliation, Child Protection, Special Education, Preventative Shoplifting, and Anti-Bullying), go to the drop downs under Programs in the menu. The nine dispute types (small claims, general civil, parenting time, divorce/domestic, employment, guardianship/custody, personal, landlord/tenant, and other types) are found in the drop down under dispute types in the menu.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2020 Board will again consist of Izabela Babinska, Mitch Brown, Hugh Conklin, Nikki Devitt, Ed Engstrom, Maureen Hollocker, Kirstyn Horan, and Liisa Morley. Joining the Board is Emily Hoffman, who is an attorney trained in Australia and a mediator for NCM. Bob Banner will continue as president, Brian Kasiborski as vice-president, Bill Meengs as treasurer, and Stuart Fenton as secretary.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH - 1927

“Who is the world wants to hear actors talk?” ` H.M. Warner

BOARD RETREAT

On Monday, February 17, NCM will hold its annual board retreat. Topics to be discussed include but are not limited to a review of the personnel policies, board governance policies, bylaws, and the processes for selecting board member and officers. Additionally, a good portion of the time will be devoted to the strategic plan, specifically targeting funding challenges. If you have suggestions of topics that you think should be addressed by the board during the retreat, please contact Jane Millar or any one of the board members with your ideas.

CDRP STATEWIDE EVALUATION

In the late 1990s, the State Court Administrative Office (SCA) authorized a statewide evaluation of the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program. It was conducted by Harry Mika, Professor Emeritus of Central Michigan University. Mr. Mika has again been contracted to do a similar evaluation of the 18 CDRP centers in the state. He will be visiting NCM on Thursday, January 30 and Friday, January 31. Although he will spend some of his time talking with the NCM staff, his intention is to reach out to the Board, mediators, major referral sources, court personnel and others who have interactions with the center on a somewhat regular basis. In order to be most efficient with his time, many of the interviews will be arranged in groups, i.e. a group of mediators. If you are interested in participating in this study, please let Executive Director Jane Millar know so that she can do her best to get you into the schedule.

ANNUAL MEETING

This year’s Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16. It will begin at noon at Knot Just a Bar in Bay Harbor. You are encouraged to come to the meeting, which will last no more than an hour. It will be followed by a very brief (5 – 10 minutes) board meeting. If you do plan to attend, please call NCM so that we can let the staff at Knot Just a Bar the number of table settings we will need.

ANOTHER UPCOMING EVENT

Set aside Monday, March 9 for the 16th annual theatre party in Petoskey. Any help in getting sponsors or door prizes would be greatly appreciated.

USELES FACT

Nowadays a “Karen” is typically used to refer to an entitled mom, who can be a bit irritating with her frequent requests to “talk to the manager.”