

**UNIFICATION**



The election is all but behind us. Some people are going to be happy with the results; others will be despondent. It will serve no purpose, however, to continue with the divisiveness within our country. American citizens are better than that. No matter who the leaders are, American will and determination are what makes the wheels turn. It is now time that we heal as a nation. It is now time to listen to one another. It is now time to express our thoughts in a civil manner without demeaning rhetoric. It is now time to work towards solutions that protect the rights of all people. Now is the time to practice what we preach. If there ever was a time to apply our mediation skills, now is that time. Let us go forward and make Uncle Sam proud of us.

**IN THE NEWS**

Northern Community Mediation was featured as the Member Spotlight in *Harbor Happenings*, the newsletter of the Harbor Springs Chamber of Commerce. Executive Director Jane Millar was asked, “How are things going these days, when many of us have had to change how we conduct business?” Among other things, she said, “Surprisingly enough, the transition to our new way of doing business is going quite well. In fact, the mediations over Zoom seem to be less contentious than those in-person.”

Both the *Petoskey News-Review* and *Harbor Light* ran an article describing the fact that Millar was one of the presenters at the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) annual conference, which was held virtually on October 16 and 17. Her topic was “Bullying at the Mediation Table.” She explained that interestingly enough both the bully and the target tend to have low self-esteem. She also stressed the fact that the mediator could not allow bullying to take place, but at the same time could not become an advocate for the target. “It is essential that the mediator remain a neutral party.”

**WAY TO GO BOYNE CITY**

Boyne City Main Street in Boyne City, Michigan is one of three winners of the 2020 Great American Main Street Award (GAMSA), which recognizes communities for their excellence in comprehensive preservation-based commercial district revitalization. Selected by a national jury of community development professionals and leaders in the fields of economic development and historic preservation, Boyne City is being recognized for turning their previously industrial downtown into a thriving destination to live, work, and play.

**HOLIDAY PARTY**

Remember to put Tuesday, December 8 from 5:00PM to 6:00PM on your calendar. Nothing will stop NCM from having our annual holiday party. One precaution. We will celebrate together via Zoom, but do not be disillusioned. This will be a celebration complete with invitations, party games and surprises.

**MEDIATOR TRAINING**

On Monday, October 26, Case Manager Laura Buckingham and Mediator Denise Drake started taking the 16-hour, Guardianship Training via Zoom. They are half way through the training and will have a break the first week in November, but will complete the training on November 11.

Beginning on October 28, Mediators Bill Cattin and Steve Hall will begin the 48-hour, Divorce/Domestic Training via Zoom.

**STAFF RETREAT**

The 2020 staff retreat will be held via Zoom on Friday, November 20. This gives staff the opportunity to review documents, plan for 2021, and address concerns and issues without interruption of phone calls, etc.

**USELESS FACT**

At 46 letters, Massachusetts’s Lake Chaggoggagoggmanchaugggoggchaubunagungamaugg has the longest place name in the U.S (even though it’s based on a joke).

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

Be thankful for what you have and you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.” ~ Oprah Winfrey