

### WHAT'S WITH THE TEDDY BEAR?



If you want to have the answer to the question “What’s with the teddy bear?” you will have to read next month’s newsletter. Let’s just say that the September issue of *Bridges* will have a very special picture.

### OUR SYMPATHY

If only words could take away the hurt! Dan McGuire has been Northern Community Mediation’s tech person for over 15 years. We would be lost without him. Our sympathy to Dan on the death of his wife Marla. Our sympathy also goes out to Polly Cheney, who has been a mediator for us since 2007. Her husband John died last month. And, there is one more loss. Dennis Kusina, who just completed his 40-hour training this past May, also passed away last month. Our sympathy to his wife Peggy.

### CHARLEVOIX THEATRE PARTY

As much as Northern Community Mediation would like to hold its annual Charlevoix Theatre Party on Monday, October 12, the decision has been made to postpone it for yet another year. If we could be certain that herd immunity existed in October and that it would be safe for large groups of people to gather indoors, we would be jumping up and down for joy. Since there are no guarantees, however, we feel that it is premature to solicit sponsorships, sell tickets and plan such an event with the possibility that we would have to cancel.

### THANK YOU

Mediator Ken Lobenstein nominated Northern Community Mediation to be one of the Great Lakes Energy grant recipients. Although we made it to the final round, we were not one of the chosen three.

### HOW ARE MEDIATORS ASSIGNED?

Several factors go into who is asked to do specific mediations. While cases are being done via Zoom, the Case Managers call on only those mediators who are willing to mediate via Zoom. Additionally, at least one of the mediators has to be tech savvy.

Whether via Zoom or in-person, the Case Managers look at the following factors:

- Trying to have both a man and a woman as mediators
- Using mediators trained in specializations, i.e. divorce
- Balancing which mediators work well together
- Ensuring that at least one of the mediators is comfortable writing the agreement on the laptop
- Availability on given dates and times
- Honoring how often or how infrequently mediators want to be involved
- Respecting that many mediators prefer certain types of cases
- Respecting that many mediators do not want to mediate certain types of cases
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### MI-RESOLVE

Although Hugh Conklin, Denise Drake, Steve Hall, Bruce Herbert and Amy Stikovich have been trained as MI-Resolve mediators, we have not been able to make use of their talents because we have had no cases. Hopefully, this will change in the near future. Originally, MI-Resolve was limited to two parties over small claims cases. MI-Resolve is expanding such that more than two parties can participate and parenting time can now be mediated via MI-Resolve.

### SCREEN SHARING

One of the most useful tools in Zoom is the ability to share the screen such that everyone for example can see the agreement as it is being written. NCM is working on having that feature when we return to in-person mediations.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The world is composed of the takers and the givers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better.

### USELESS USEFUL FACT

Go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/covid-19/> on the NCM website, click on Pre-Zoom vs. Zoom for some interesting data.

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