

USELESS VALENTINE'S DAY FACTS

Happy Valentine's day!



At the end of the 5th century, Roman Pope Gelasius officially declared the date of February 14 "St. Valentine's Day." It wasn't until the Middle Ages, though, that the holiday became associated with love and romance, a tradition that first started from the common belief in France and England that birds started their mating season on February 14.

According to the [National Retail Foundation](#), Americans spent over \$20 billion on Valentine's Day gifts in 2019, and were expected to spend a record-breaking \$27.4 billion for 2020 — including \$2.4 billion on candy alone! People also expected to spend an average of approximately \$196 for Valentine's Day last year, with men spending around \$291 —compared to women spending \$106.

In Japan, it's customary for just the women to give confections to the men in their lives, with the quality of the chocolate indicating their true feelings, according to [Fortune](#). On March 14, exactly a month later, the men repay the favor by celebrating the increasingly popular "White Day." On this day, all the men who received presents on Valentine's Day must return the favor.

TWO REPORTS

Many of you participated in group interviews with Harry Mika, who was hired by the Office of Dispute Resolution to evaluate the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program after 30 years of existence. His report, which reflects trends and practices throughout the state, is now available and posted on the NCM website at <https://www.northernmediation.org/reports-2/>. His summary and recommendations can be found on pages 17 to 23.

Also available on the same webpage is the Justice for All Report, which was researched by a task force appointed by the State Court Administrative Office. This is both a strategic plan and inventory report for ensuring that equality of justice exists throughout the state of Michigan. Of particular interest to community mediation are pages 28 – 29 and pages 52 – 56. With all of the value that community mediation provides, there remains "room for improvement."

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held at on Thursday, February 21 via Zoom. President Bob Banner opened the meeting by having those present introduce themselves. He then acknowledged the outgoing board members, each having served for six years on the board. Ed Engstrom was thanked for his design of the donor campaign graph, Stuart Fenton for having served as secretary, and Bill Meengs for his oversight as treasurer.

Banner then welcomed the three new board members. Phil Harmon is the Executive Director of Unit 1 of Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa, Brooke Jacoby is an attorney, and Suzanne Kanine is the Emmet County Clerk.

Executive Director Jane Millar then presented the annual report. Although 2020 turned out to be a highly successful year, she stressed the fact that the success was one-hundred percent dependent upon the staff, mediators and board all rising to the occasion. She also emphasized the importance of having received two grants each from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and the Petoskey-Harbor Sprigs area Community Foundation, as well as having received support from the Payroll Protection Plan.

ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

It is not too late to sign up for the 4-hour, advanced mediator training scheduled for Friday, March 5. The topic is "The Mediator's Health & Well-Being." Fifty minutes of the training will be asynchronous prior to March 5. On March 5, the training is scheduled from 9:00am to 12:10pm via Zoom. For the registration form, on the NCM website go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/>

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Thank you Charles Ryan for your service as president of the Charlevoix-Emmet Bar Association, and congratulations to Joel Schraw as the incoming president. Our local bar association plays a key role in the community. The dedication of its officers is greatly appreciated, especially by NCM.

QUOTES ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY

"If love is the answer, could you rephrase the question?" ~ Lily Tomlin

"Love is a lot like a backache: it doesn't show up on X-rays, but you know it's there." ~ George Burns

"An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her." ~ Agatha Christie

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