

CLEANING DAY



Pictures from left to right: Case Managers Karen Cole and Laura Buckingham

Every year at the staff retreat in November, the staff sets up the calendar for the upcoming year. One of the items on the calendar is the cleaning days, which are specific days that are set aside to give the NCM facility a thorough cleaning. March is spring cleaning, June is summer cleaning, September is fall cleaning, and December is winter cleaning. So, Wednesday, March 3 saw the NCM staff with buckets and cleaning supplies. We are now squeaky clean until June.

ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

On Friday, March 5, Northern Community Mediation held a four-hour, advanced mediator training session. Nineteen people participated. Four were mediators from the Mt. Clemens center, three from the Eastern Upper Peninsula, one from Macomb, and 11 from Northern Community Mediation. The topic was "The Mediator's Health & Well Being." There were two guest speakers: Damon Whitfield, a physical therapist out of Harbor Springs and Dr. Amy McKenzie, a physician with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan. The evaluations were very positive. In fact, one participant said the workshop should be offered once a year.

FORTY-HOUR TRAINING

Northern Community Mediation will be offering the 40-hour, general civil mediator training in May. Five hours of the training will be done asynchronously online; the other 35 hours will be over Zoom. The class will run from 8:30am to 4:30pm on May 12, 13, 14, 20 and 21. One hour each day will be set aside for lunch. Information about the training and the registration form are available at <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/> on the NCM website. Help spread the word.

CONDOLANCES

From 2005 to 2009, Ray Kiogima served on Northern Community Mediation's Board of Directors. His commitment to NCM, however, did not end with his going off the Board. Ray and his wife Mary Jane took great pride in being bartenders at the annual, Petoskey Theatre Party. In fact, even after his death in 2014, Mary Jane has continued to be a bartender. It isn't even necessary to call her to remind her. She simply shows up. Unfortunately, Mary Jane has suffered another loss. Ray and Mary Jane's son Alan died this past February 26. He was a devoted son. I remember when he brought his mother to the Appreciation Gala in 2014 so that she and Ray posthumously could receive the Advocate of the Year Award.

Our sympathy is also extended to mediator Amy Stikovich and her husband. Within a two-week timeframe, they lost both her mother and her husband's mother. That is more grief than anyone should have to experience.

GOOD-BYE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Due to work conflicts, Liisa Morley had to resign from the Board. And, yes, it is Liisa with two i's. Her insight during discussions will be missed. On the other hand, NCM has gained a new Board member Hob Ingleson, who is both an attorney and mediator, has agreed to join the Board.

RESEARCH SURVEY

Maria Cudowska is a Polish attorney with a Ph.D. She is also trained as a mediator. She is working on a project founded by the Polish-American Kosciuszko Foundation at Michigan State University to learn more about the role of empathy and mediation in the legal profession. If you are so inclined, she would appreciate your responses to the following four questions.

1. What do you find most frustrating serving as a mediator?
2. What do you find most satisfying serving as a mediator?
3. In your opinion, what are the most important lessons for students/legal educators that can be taught by community mediators?
4. What advice would you give to someone who would like to establish a teaching curriculum for a Mediation/ADR class that would employ your experience as a community mediator? What in your opinion are the core elements of a Mediation/ADR class that would prepare students to effectively address their clients' future goals and needs?

Please, send your responses to jane@northernmediation.org

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"My life is my message." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

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