



June 4, 2021

For more information contact Jane Millar at 231.487.1771

Appreciation Gala

On Thursday, May 27, Northern Community Mediation (NCM) held its annual Appreciation Gala from 5:00pm to 6:00pm via Zoom. Approximately 30 people participated. The celebration began with a comical video demonstrating everything that facilitators should not do during mediation. This was followed by Doug Van Epps reflecting upon his years of service with the Office of Dispute Resolution. Doug is retiring as the Executive Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution of the Supreme Court of Michigan. With over 30 years of experience, he has witnessed significant changes in the field of dispute resolution and is highly responsible for the success of Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program in the state of Michigan.

The annual awards were then presented. Bill Cattin received the Veteran Mediator of the Year Award, and Jeanne Baranowski received the Rookie Mediator of the Year Award. The Advocate of the Year Award went to a group of people—the Which Wich Team.

- Mitch Brown for thinking of the fundraising idea
- Rich Sylvester for agreeing to have Which Wich donate 25% of its proceeds to NCM on April 29
- Nikki Devitt for designing the flyers
- Maureen Hollocker for creating the tip jar
- Suzi Kanine, Hugh Conklin, Bob Banner, Brian Kasiborski, Nikki Devitt, Brooker Jacoby and her daughter Preston for being hosts
- Board members who promoted the fundraiser, especially Izabela Babinska, Phil Harmon, Emily Hoffman, Kirstyn Horan, and Hob Ingleson
- Case Managers Karen Cole and Laura Buckingham
- Marty VandeCar, who is neither a mediator nor a board member, but went out of his way to promote our Which Wich fundraiser

Northern Community Mediation is a non-profit organization that provides an alternative means of resolving conflict. Trained mediators, who meet with the parties involved in a dispute, facilitate so that the individuals themselves can resolve the conflict

Anyone interested in learning more about Northern Community Mediation should contact Dr. Jane Millar at 231.487.1771.

Pictured

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