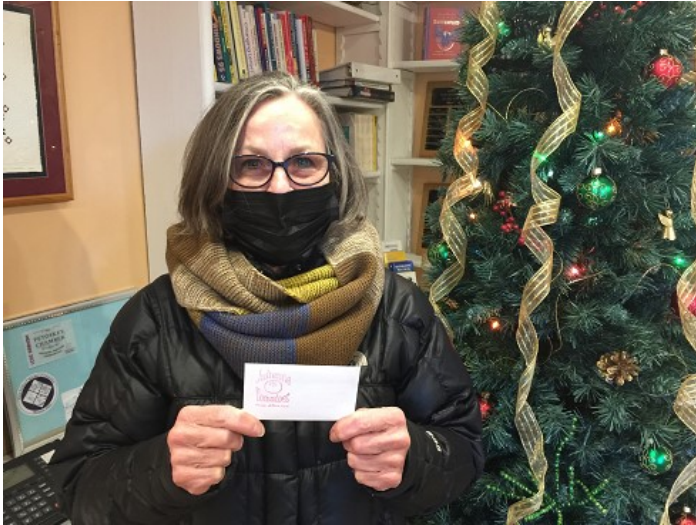


**AND THE WINNER IS**



For the second year in a row, Northern Community Mediation held its annual, holiday party via Zoom. That does not mean, however, that fun was not had by all who attended. The party began with somewhat of a thought-provoking question. Each person was told that he/she would be given \$500,000 (in a make-believe world that is) and asked “to what non-profit organization or cause (other than NCM) would you donate your \$500,000 and why.” The answers varied from the environment to children to peace, and the list went on.

Following this somewhat serious discussion, a scavenger hunt was held. All 20 items were ones that could be found in a home, such as a plunger, a fly swatter, a can of beans. With only one item not found, Suzy Engle won the big prize of a \$10 gift certificate to Julienne Tomatoes. The only item she could not find was mistletoe.

God willing and the creek don’t rise, 2022 will see us returning to an in-person holiday party at the NCM office.

**DONOR CAMPAIGN**

Where does one even begin to give thanks when a donor campaign far exceeds even one’s wildest dreams? NCM’s goal for its 2021 donor campaign was \$10,000. To date, \$16,405 has been received from 69 contributors, which represents a response rate of 22% from those who received donor campaign letters.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

“Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and learn to find joy in the story you are actually living.” ~ Rachel Marie Martin

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Northern Community Mediation’s Annual Meeting is scheduled beginning at noon on Thursday, January 20 via Zoom. Outgoing board members Bob Banner as president, and Iza Babinska and Nikki Devitt will be recognized for their service. The new board members Mark Andresky, Jenny Brower, Bill Cattin, Lisa Hoyt and Cyndy Tonkavich will be introduced. This will be followed by the year-end financial statement and the annual report itself. Generally speaking the annual meeting along with the brief board meeting that follows last just over an hour.

For your convenience, the link for the Zoom annual meeting is <https://miscasc.zoom.us/j/99617065011?pwd=RzQzaVpKOXByVFdVZmFrVmtXWjZLUT09>

**BOARD MEMBERS**

To learn about NCM’s board members, go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/board-directors/> on the NCM website. There is a picture of each board member along with a brief bio.

**WHEN WILL WE BE BACK TO NORMAL?**

The answer is quite simple. Who knows? I think this much is for certain. We will not be doing face-to-face mediations in the near future. It is hard to comprehend that come March 2022, it will be two years since NCM has held a face-to-face mediation.

**YOUR OPINION**

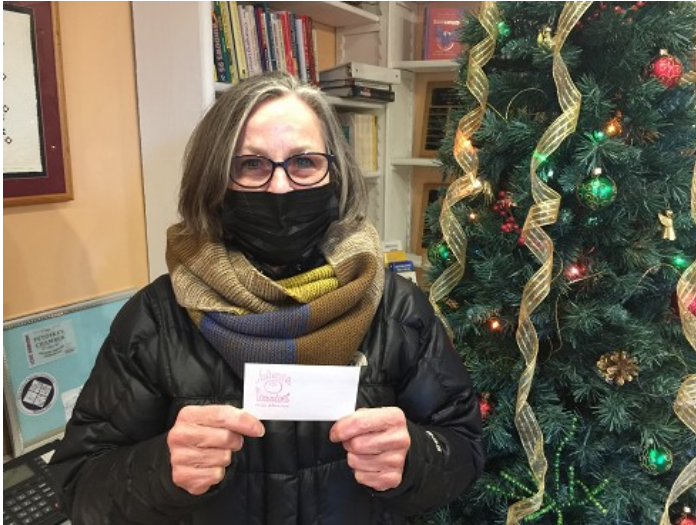
NCM will be offering two, four-hour advanced mediator trainings in 2022. Staff has discussed three possible topics: 1) ethical dilemmas; 2) comparison and contrast of the American, Canadian and Australian court and legal systems; 3) tribal procedures and processes in resolving conflicts.

Of the three, which two do you think would be the most interesting? Which would be the most valuable to you as a mediator? Assuming no conflict in the times the trainings were offered, which would you definitely want to take?

**USELESS FACT**

Thank you to mediator and new board member Bill Cattin for the following statistic. According to the Royal Statistical Society, the world as a whole spent a collective 5.5 million years on Zoom in 2020, or more than 3 trillion minutes. I wonder what that figure is for 2021, and as Bill asked, “I wonder what NCM’s contribution towards that total is.”

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