

A CELEBRATORY ANNUAL MEETING



Pictured in front row from left to right: Suzi Kanine, Lisa Hoyt, Karen Cole, Nikki LaDeur, Jenny Brower. Pictured in back row from left to right: Kirstyn Horan, Brian Kasiborski, Mitch Brown, Mark Andresky, Bill Cattin, Phil Harmon, Jane Millar, Honorable Jenny Deegan

At noon on Thursday, January 19, 2023, Northern Community Mediation held its annual meeting. The short and sweet of the annual report for 2022 was that it was another successful year for NCM. Executive Director Jane Millar could not stress enough how the staff pulled together to overcome a variety of challenges that were unique to 2022. She also emphasized the fact that salaries for staff were finally respectable due in large to the diligence of the board. Not only was the annual report filled with positive news, but equally important was the fact that everyone at the meeting had a wonderful, happy time—as is obvious from the picture above. For a copy of the annual report, go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/annual-reports/> on the NCM website.

BOARD RETREAT

The NCM Board will hold its annual retreat on Wednesday, February 8. As in the past, the board gathers at 5:00. In order to ensure that it does not go beyond 8:00, the board has a working dinner together. Although the agenda is still in the process of being written, much of the focus will be on the various committees and how their goals integrate into the strategic plan of the organization as a whole.

CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS

Three people who have direct connection with NCM were recognized for their service to the community at the Petoskey Celebration of Champions; 1) Phil Harmon and Bill Meengs as outgoing Chamber board members a; 2) Christian Smith as the Community Enthusiast of the Year. Thank you to all three for everything that they do for the community.

ROUND TABLE

A huge thank you goes to Bill Cattin for his facilitating the Mediator Round Table on Tuesday, January 17 via Zoom. If there is interest, we will schedule two additional Round Tables later in the spring. One would be for learning solely about Zoom and the other for only DocuSign. While on the subject of DocuSign, if you are one of the mediators who is still having trouble with DocuSign, we need you to answer two questions for us. First, are you able to get into the northern mediation e-mail that was set up for you? If you are not able to get into your northern mediation e-mail account, you would not be able to get into your DocuSign account. On the other hand, if you are able to get into your northern mediation e-mail account and not into your DocuSign account, does the problem appear to relate to your password? The bottom line in either case is that you need to let us know so that we can step you through the process.

FORTY-HOUR TRAINING

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Northern Community Mediation will not be offering a forty-hour, general civil training this coming spring as had been previously announced. One of the primary reasons for this is that there are several this spring, some of which are at no cost to the participants because of grant funding through the Michigan Community Mediation Association.

SLIGHT CHANGE IN PLANS

Northern Community Mediation will be offering two, four-hour advanced mediator trainings this fall. One will be on Friday, October 27 as had been previously announced. The change relates to the one in September. Rather than being held on Friday September 8, it will be held on Friday, September 22. The September topic will be *Understanding the Court System*, which will be primarily for non-attorneys. The October session is going to be *Parenting Time*. Both will be held from 8:30am to 12:30pm via Zoom. Registration will be available in the summer.

CONGRATULATIONS

Back in the fall, Lee Hornberger, a Traverse City arbitrator, mediator and attorney who supports Northern Community Mediation, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section of the State Bar of Michigan. Among the many kudos that were expressed about his contributions, one that stands out is "He has tirelessly promoted the inclusion of women and people of color in the ADR community." It is no wonder that Lee is recognized on local, statewide and national levels.

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