

## BRIDGES

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### A LOOK BACK



It was not until January 2004 that our newsletter *Bridges* was published on a monthly basis, and the first time that a picture was inserted was in the March 2007 Vol. 4 No. 3 issue of *Bridges*. Pictured above is that first picture that featured ex-Executive Director and mediator Kathy Lane with a hybrid, 40-hour training workshop she conducted for tribal members of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa. Ever since that first picture appeared in *Bridges*, there has always been a picture. As the old saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words.”

### A HUGE THANK YOU

In reflecting back over the years, I cannot help but think of how indebted Northern Community Mediation is for the generosity of so many companies, organizations, agencies, and individuals. Just to name a few: Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, Charlevoix County Community Foundation, the court system, Charlevoix and Emmet Counties, the service clubs such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and Zonta and numerous restaurants, stores and establishments.

### OFFICE CLOSED

The NCM office will be closed on Monday, January 15 in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### SAVE THESE DATES

On March 7 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm via Zoom, there will be a Mediator Round Table. We will share our “Tips and Tricks” as mediators with one another. Then, on Thursday, May 30 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm, NCM will host its annual Appreciation Gala at Palette Bistro in Petoskey. This is always a fund event not only does it give us an opportunity to give special recognition to special people, but it is also an opportunity simply to enjoy one another’s company/

### MAKE USE OF OUR WEBSITE

For all practical purposes, all that you ever wanted to know about Northern Community Mediation is on our website. For example, under the NCM Documents tab you can find the annual reports, yearly audits, background check information, all documents relating to governance, meeting minutes, copies of press releases, and monthly case reports, financial statements and newsletters.

Under the Events tab, all of the activities in which NCM is involved are listed and described, and there is even a monthly calendar. Other tabs include information about our staff and board members, copies of state documents that relate to mediation, descriptions of our various programs and dispute types that are mediated.

The NCM website is a wealth of information. In fact, the NCM website is highly regarded because of its transparency. It was this transparency that played a significant role in our easily being approved for a loan when we purchased our new “forever home.”

### ANNUAL MEETING

The 2024 annual meeting will take place at noon on Thursday, January 18 at City Park Grill in Petoskey. At that time, the outgoing board members (Hugh Conklin and Kirstyn Horan) will be recognized for their years of service, and the incoming board members (Denise Drake, Jason Guthrie and Jody McLeod) will be introduced. Then, the annual report for 2023 will be presented by Executive Director Dr. Jane Millar. Additionally, there will be a short report on the Capital Campaign, which will be followed by a short board meeting. Both the board and staff of NCM encourage everyone to attend. If you plan to attend, please let a staff member know so that we can let City Park Grill know how many will be in attendance. We want to make certain that you have a place to sit

### USELESS FACT

The term *loggerheads* implies harsh disagreement but not necessarily violence. Kind of sounds like some mediations that we facilitate. But, where does the term come from? It is a nautical term. An iron ball attached to a long handle was called a “loggerhead.” When heated, it was used to seal the pitch in deck seams. It was sometimes a handy weapon for quarreling crewmen.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Do not think of knocking out another person’s brains because he differs in opinion from you. It would be as rational to knock yourself on the head because you differ from yourself ten years ago.” ~ Horace Mann