

A REAL TROOPER



Pictured from left to right: Denise Drake, Bill Cattin, Kirstyn Horan, Fred Mulhauser, Susan Hannah

On Tuesday, December 13, Northern Community Mediation hosted its annual holiday party in person—not via Zoom as we have done in the past few years. It was great to be back together once again celebrating the holidays with mediators, board members and community supporters. Being able to “clink glasses” physically in wishing everyone happy holidays just seemed extra special this year. Here’s to hoping that your holidays be they Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanza were the best ever and that 2023 is everything you hope it will be.

STAFF RETREAT

On Friday, December 9, NCM closed up shop so that we could conduct our annual staff retreat without interruption. As we have done in the past, the staff reviewed and updated as appropriate the Office Monitoring Calendar, Office Policies & Procedures Manual, Personnel Policies, weighted caseload, fee schedule, all forms and templates, list of mediators and their qualifications, inventory list, 2023 calendar, to name a few. The staff also set dates for a Mediator Round Table, two four-hour advanced mediator trainings, and a 40-hour mediation training.

CONGRATULATIONS

Chuck Johnson is going to be president of the Petoskey Sunrise Rotary Club. Way to go, Chuck. And, speaking of accolades, a historic appointment has been made in Michigan. Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado has been appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals. She makes her the first tribal citizen to sit on this court.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH – WOW!

ROUND TABLE

From 4:00pm to 5:00pm on Tuesday, January 17, there will be a Mediator Roundtable. In the words of trainer Bill Cattin, The purpose of this roundtable is three-fold, one of which is to recruit new "tech mediators". As Jane has previously indicated, mediations on Zoom are here to stay and is how the vast majority will be conducted in the future. This means there is a need for new tech mediators now more than ever. If you have an interest in becoming a tech mediator but are uncertain about what is required or have questions about how to learn, then this is your opportunity.

The primary focus of this roundtable is to do a walk-through of the new DocuSign process for current and potentially future tech mediators. I believe many of you are already using the process, but if not, then this is your opportunity to learn. If you are using it, then this is a chance to clarify some questions you may have or learn some tips which may make the process easier and more efficient for you.

Finally, there will be a general Q&A session about Zoom or DocuSign with input from everyone attending. It's a chance to ask questions or share tips and work-arounds that can help make the technical side of mediations a bit smoother.

I encourage all tech mediators to attend as well as anyone thinking of becoming a tech mediator. It's easier than you may think, and it would be a great help for Karen and Laura to have a larger pool from which to pick when scheduling mediations.

FORTY-HOUR TRAINING

If you know of someone who is interested in taking the 40-hour, general civil training, have them set aside the following dates and times:

- All day Wednesday, May 3 & Thursday, May 4
- Morning of Friday, May 5
- All day Wednesday, May 17 & Thursday, May 18
- Morning of Friday, May 19

This training will be a hybrid, some of it being offered via Zoom and some in-person. Details will follow within the month.

ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

There will be two, four-hour advanced mediator trainings offered in the fall of 2023: Both will be in the morning, one on Friday, September 8 and the other on Friday, October 27. Details will follow by the end of this month.

USELES FACT

Playing dance music can help ward off mosquitoes.