

**ONE SMALL STEP FOR NCM, A GIANT STEP FOR  
MEDIATION**



Pictured from right to left: Kirstyn Horan, Judy Zorn, Lisa Hoyt, Phil Harmon, Suzi Kanine, Hob Ingleson, Jenny Brower, Cyndi Tonkavich, Mark Andresky, Bill Cattin, Mitch Brown, Hugh Conklin, Nikki LaDeur

Northern Community Mediation (NCM) held its annual board retreat the evening of Wednesday, February 8 at The Weathervane in Charlevoix. To a large degree, it was a celebratory occasion because at 10:00am the following morning (Thursday, February 9), NCM was to become owners of office condominium units 3 and 4 at 2202 Mitchell Park Drive in Petoskey. For the past 20 years, NCM has rented the top floor of the old St. Francis Monastery. The relationship with the church has been second to none; however, it has always been the dream of NCM to own its own facility.

Executive Director Dr. Jane Millar shared that as excited as the staff and Board are, "it is a bittersweet move. We will miss hearing the kids during recess on the playground. The charm of this old building cannot be beat. The positives in making the move, nevertheless, outweigh the disadvantages. The new facility will be handicap accessible, there will be convenient parking for the clients, and being located in an actual office complex will portray a more professional image.

The actual moving of the furniture will take place on Monday, March 13, followed by the computers and printers being transported on Tuesday, March 14. The following three days will be devoted to getting settled into "our new home." Our goal is not to miss a beat in terms of service during that week.

The phone number will remain the same: 231.487.1771. The fax will remain the same: 231.487.1770. Our new mailing address is 2202 Mitchell Park Drive, Unit 4, Petoskey, MI 49770. Please, begin using that mailing address now. The ribbon cutting date has yet to be set, but we will keep you posted.

**GENTLE REMINDER**

The question is "What if?" What if what? In writing the agreements for a mediation, the question "what if" should always be asked. "What if one of the parties fails to keep the agreement?" "What if one of the parties keeps only part of the agreement?" If the parties on their own do not include that in their agreement, as the mediator, it is advisable to ask the parties the "what if" question and include that as part of the agreement. Having said that, as the mediator, you cannot force them to have a "what if" clause in the agreement. All you can do is pose the idea.

**FUNDING COMMITTEE**

For 2023, the Funding Committee, chaired by Bill Cattin, has four challenges: 1) raising funds to help defray the relocation expenses is being approached through grants and a Go Fund Me page; 2) Loco Locals, chaired by Jenny Brower, will be a do-not-miss affair on Thursday, June 22; 3) There will be a capital campaign with the goal of raising at the very least sufficient funds to pay off the 10-year loan within five years; and 4) the donor campaign to go towards operational expenses. Additionally, the Funding Committee will be sending out a special newsletter in the fall and the spring. Busy, busy, busy!

**LOCO LOCALS**

I have to say that I am really looking forward to Loco Locals on Thursday, June 22. This is NCM/s big fund raiser for the year, and what a treat it will be! Two bands throughout the evening. Lots of food to enjoy. Door prizes galore! If you so desire, come in costume. I am vacillating between a roaring Twenties out fit and one that relates to Christmas. Tough decisions in life. Wine and beer for purchase. So much fun! What is really neat is that all it takes to get into the party is a \$20.00 gift certificate from a local establishment. By coming to Loco Locals, not only are you supporting Northern Community Mediation, you are supporting our local merchants and restaurants.

**RIBBON CUTTING**

If you are not doing anything better from 1:30 to 2:00pm on Thursday, March 23, come to NCM's ribbon cutting. All five Chambers of Commerce will be represented. Staff, mediators and board members will be there. Everyone is invited. Following the ceremony, everyone is encouraged to tour our new facility, nibble on some snacks, and sip a drink.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.