

BOYNE CITY CHAMBER AWARDS GALA



Pictured left to right: Matt Greer, Sara Ward, Pam Decker, Jane Millar, Andrea Koch. Seated: Ashley Cousens

Fun was had by all at the annual Boyne City Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala, which was held on Thursday, April 20 in the Vienna Room at Boyne Mountain. The Charlevoix County Community Foundation invited Executive Director Jane Millar to sit at their table.

OPEN HOUSES

Since its Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and open house on Thursday, March 23, NCM has hosted two additional open houses. All of our new neighbors and companies that helped to make our move run smoothly were invited for an April 12 party, and on April 24, the original founders and past and present board members, mediators and staff got to see the new facility. There are still two open house to go. On May 3, members of the Charlevoix-Emmet Bar Association and court personnel have been invited. The, on May 11, non-profit personnel and friends are being invited. It has been a great deal of fun showing off our new office space. If you have not been able to attend one of the open houses, feel free to stop in at your convenience.

USELESS FACT

You've heard of post-mortem photo ops and cocaine toothache drops, but another peculiar Victorian Era thing is the mustache shield. Patented in 1876 by Virgil A Gates, the mustache shield was designed to keep facial hair out of the way when eating and drinking.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"With gratitude, optimism is sustainable." ~ Michel J. Fox

HOW TO HANDLE A SUPPORT PERSON

For clarification purposes, a support person is someone who is there to lend support to one of the parties. Generally speaking, a party will request a support person when he/she does not have legal representation. The support person may be in the mediation itself, but usually is in another room. If the support person is in the mediation room, he/she must sign the Consent to Mediate, but must understand that he/she is not allowed to participate whatsoever in the conversation at the mediation table. If the support person tries to participate in the dialog, it is the responsibility of the mediator to remind him/her of the "rules" governing a support person.

The process of a support person's being present at mediation is as follows:

- A party requests a support person prior to mediation.
- The Case Manager contacts all of the other parties to see if there are any objections.
- If there are no objections, the request for a support person is granted.

If a party arrives with a support person without having received prior approval and if any of the parties object to the presence of that support person, he/she should be asked to leave. If it is an in-person mediation, the Case Manager will generally be here to help with that awkward situation.

APPRECIATION GALA

Can you believe it? May is here, and that means that the annual Appreciation Gala is upon us. Set aside Thursday, May 25 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm so that NCM can recognize all of the outstanding contributions of so many of our mediators, board members and supporters.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

As part of the MAMP, the Michigan Ag Today radio station is featuring one of the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) directors to talk about mediations as they relate to farmers on a monthly basis. Executive Director Jane Millar was interviewed for the April edition. To hear the interview, go to <https://www.michiganagtoday.com/michigan-farmers-divorce-mediation/>

PRESENTATION

On Thursday, April 27, Executive Director Jane Millar made a short presentation to the Harbor Springs Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. "As a member of the Chamber, it was a great opportunity to answer the question "What is mediation."