

**GOBBLE, GOBBLE**



Case Manager Laura Buckingham & Diane Hansell from 96.3

On Thursday, November 2, NCM participated in the Petoskey Chamber Connecting Women in Business Expo. It seems that everyone there wanted to win the Gobble, Gobble, Solve Your Squabbles turkey. NCM is looking forward to the Chamber Expo at Nub's Nob on Wednesday, November 8.

**PERSONAL REFLECTION**

The year 2023 has been a big one for NCM, as well as for me as the executive director of NCM. The most exciting part of the year has been the purchase of NCM's "forever home"—handicap accessible, convenient parking, technological capacity, professional appearance, convenient location—a place we can be proud of. On a very personal level, the year is even more meaningful. I became the executive director of NCM in 2003—20 years ago. I had three goals at the time: to make the NCM salaries at least somewhat competitive, to have some basic fringe benefits for employees, and to own our very own office complex. I do not know where to begin to thank all of the board members, mediators, staff, court personnel and community members whose support over the years has made all of this possible. And, to think that I have been writing this newsletter for 20 years. I still look forward to coming into work every morning. Thank you for allowing me to be your executive director.

**ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING**

Five of the sessions relating to the Michigan Court System have been completed. Kudos to all of the presenters. NCM cannot thank each and every one of them sufficiently. All five sessions have been interesting, engaging and informative.

- The Michigan Court System by Judge Joe Hayes
- Circuit Court by Judge Jenny Deegan
- Friend of the Court by FOC Director Amanda Guarisco
- Probate Court by Judge Valerie Snyder and Court Administrator Matt Miller.
- Tribal Court by Judge JoAnne Cook

It is not too late to sign up for the session on the District Court and Small Claims with Judge Angela Lasher and Civil Clerk Wendy Viles. The registration form is available on the NCM website at <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/>. There is a \$5.00 charge per session.

The session on the Federal Court System has not yet been scheduled, but we will keep you posted on an upcoming date.

**YOUR OPINION MATTERS**

The staff of NCM appreciates the hard work done by all of its mediators. In fact, NCM would cease to exist if it did not have an outstanding group of mediators. That is why it is important that we meet your needs. In order to get feedback from all of you who are mediators, we will be sending out a survey via e-mail the week of November 6. Please, complete the survey and return it to [jane@northernmediation.org](mailto:jane@northernmediation.org) by Tuesday, November 21. And, if you have any questions, suggestions or recommendations that you would like to discuss, please call me at 231.487.1771.

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Board president Kirstyn Horan has served on the NCM board for the past six years. Additionally, she is very active in the community in general. This is best exemplified by the fact that she recently was asked to serve on the Leadership Little Traverse (LLT) Steering Committee. It is interesting to note that several years ago Kirstyn was a LLT participant.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

Try this: say the words "global, global, global aloud several times, as fast as you can. You'll find yourself sounding like a turkey ("gobble, gobble, gobble").

**USELESS FACT**

Wild turkeys can fly at a speed of about 55 miles per hour.