

### OUTREACH



Table designed by NCM staff

Since 2018, Northern Community Mediation has been reaching out to its communities to help increase awareness of the services offered by NCM. One of the really fun ways the staff enjoys doing so is by decorating a table for the Women's Resource Center fundraiser *Women Can / Women Do*. NCM supports both the event in Charlevoix and in Petoskey. This year's event in Charlevoix was held on Wednesday, June 12 at Castle Farms. Part of the enjoyment for the attendees is getting a favor to take home. With the theme of Valentine's Day, NCM provided little pink poodle stuffed animals along with a heart-shaped candy dish. The *Women Can / Women Do* luncheon in Petoskey will take place on Wednesday, September 11 at the Bay Harbor Yacht Club.

### DISAPPOINTMENT

Thank you to all of you who made a point of voting for Northern Community Mediation to be the recipient of the \$7,000 given to the organization who received the most votes by Great Lakes Energy members. The winner of the money, the Crawford County Food Bank, was definitely a worthy recipient.

### RECOMMENDATION

I would highly recommend the book *Reading the Constitution* by Stephen Breyer, a Supreme Court Justice from 1994 to 2022.

### USELESS-FACTs

Interestingly, John Adams, while serving as the second President of the United States, refused to participate in the celebrations and other events on the 4th of July because he believed that July 2 was the real Independence Day.

### TRIBAL COURT WORKSHOP

All of us are very busy in the summer. Therefore, we will postpone the re-scheduling of the Tribal Court Workshop until the fall, probably September or October.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Capital Campaign solicitation letters are all signed, sealed and will be postmarked and mailed on Wednesday, July 3. So, look for your letter in the mail and give serious consideration to making a contribution. The goal is to be able to pay off the mortgage within five years. The sooner we can do that, the sooner we will be able to divert the \$1,321.77 monthly payment towards programming. Just as an example of ideas the staff has discussed with some of our mediators is having an even greater presence in our schools. This would be done by using the tools of mediation to teach the kids positive conflict resolution so that they could on their own resolve disagreements, as well as provide peer mediations. Dreams are a wonderful thing, but even better when we make them come true.

### A CONUNDRUM

To sign or not to sign? That is the question. As a mediator, what do you do if the parties have come up with an agreement, but one of them wants to have his attorney, who is not present, look it over before he signs? What if one of the parties agrees with everything, but wants to have the evening to think about it before signing? The answer is not simple. As you are all aware, we cannot force anyone to sign an agreement. At the same time, we do not want to find ourselves having to chase after someone who says she will sign but does not get around to it. The best we can do is to encourage signing if the parties are in agreement, but if one of them insists to the contrary, then a time limit should be placed, such as by 9:00am the following day the document must be signed and if not, the mediation will go down as "no agreement reached."

### LENGTH OF A MEDIATION

In general, most mediations last around two hours. Having said that, however, it is wise to set aside four hours just in case you find yourself in a lengthy mediation. If a mediation goes beyond four hours, give serious consideration to scheduling a second session. If you do so, be certain to check with the Case Manager that the mediation room is available or that a Zoom can be scheduled at that time.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right." ~ Peter Marshall, Chaplain of the United States Senate, 1/4/47 – 1/26/49