

REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR 2023



The 2024 Annual Meeting was held at noon on Thursday, January 18 at City Park Grill in Petoskey. Outgoing board president Kirstyn Horan and outgoing board vice-president Hugh Conklin were recognized for their six years of service. Incoming board members Denise Drake, Jason Guthrie and Jody McLeod were given a warm welcome. Standard business was conducted, followed by Executive Director Dr. Jane Millar summarizing the year 2023—a very good year. The obvious highlight was the purchase of Northern Community Mediation’s new home. The annual report itself is available at <https://www.northernmediation.org/annual-reports/> on the NCM website.

Following the Annual Meeting, Josh Galle, Human Resources Director for Petoskey Plastics, approached the Executive Director and said that he was so impressed by the caliber of people at the meeting, their comradery and the board itself that if ever there were an opening on the board, he would appreciate being considered for the vacancy. As fate would have it, there happened to be one opening, and via an electronic vote, the board unanimously welcomed Josh to the board.

SAVE THESE DATES

Mediator Round Table	March 7	4:00pm to 5:00pm
Appreciation Gala	May 30	5:00pm to 6:30pm
Mediation Celebration	June 20	TBA

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“To be good, and to do good, is all we have to do.” John Adams

USELESS FACT

Elephants can “hear” with their feet.

YOU ASKED, WE ANSWER

At the annual meeting in January, it was reported that those cases that were mediated in person had an agreement rate of 46%, cases mediated via Zoom had an agreement rate of 62%, and those cases conciliated over the phone had an agreement rate of 55%. These data surprised most everyone in attendance. Most people thought that in person mediations would have had the highest agreement rate. Mediator Renee McDuffee raised the question, “Within each of these three categories, what were the percentages of the different types of disputes?” Here is the answer to that question.

With a total agreement rate of 46% for in-person mediations, the breakdown is as follows:

- 28% - Divorce with Children
- 27% - Parenting Time
- 14% - Divorce without Children
- 11% - Landlord/Tenant
- 7% - Victim/Offender
- 7% - Small Claims
- 3% - Property
- 3% - Real Estate

Agreement rate of 62% for mediations via Zoom:

- 26% - Parenting Time
- 13% - Divorce with Children
- 11% - Child Protection
- 11% - School Attendance
- 11% - Victim/Offender
- 7% - Divorce without Children
- 7% - Estate
- 6% - Property
- 4% - General Civil
- 2% - Custody
- 2% - Small Claims

Last, but not least, with an agreement rate of 55%, conciliations over the phone:

- 97% - Small Claims
- 3% - Landlord/Tenant

Great question, Renee!

ANOTHER DATE TO SAVE

From 1:30 to 3:30 on Thursday, June 6, Tribal Judge JoAnne Cook will host a workshop in the Tribal Court at 911 Spring Street in Petoskey. We will have the opportunity to learn more about their court system from a variety of perspectives, such as the prosecuting attorney, police and child welfare. Although the date and time have not yet been set, a workshop will also be held at the Tribal headquarters at 7500 Odawa Circle in Harbor Springs in May. We will have the opportunity to learn about the tribal government, culture, customs and the like. Once the date has been set for the May workshop, registration information will be sent out. In the meantime, call NCM at 231.487.1771.