

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Pictured: Mediator Bruce Herbert & Judy Zorn

Kudos to Northern Community Mediation Board members Judy Zorn and Lisa Hoyt for all that they are doing to make Phase Two of our Capital Campaign a huge success. One of their strategies has been for Judy to record video testimonials by some of the board members and mediators proclaiming the value of mediation and the services that NCM. Then, Lisa is posting these videos on Facebook, Instagram and the NCM website. Additionally, written endorsements are being posted.

Thanks should also go to those who volunteered to participate in the project: Mitch Brown, Laura Buckingham, Bill Cattin, Denise Drake, Suzy Engle, Steve Hall, Jennifer Mancini, Jane Millar, and Cyndy Tonkavich.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Through the Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program, if a farmer has a dispute relating to an agricultural loan, he/she can receive free dispute resolution services through Northern Community Mediation (NCM).
- Through the Behavioral Health Mediation Services Program, if a client is receiving services from Community Mental Health and does not feel that he/she is receiving the services to which he/she is entitled, that individual can receive free dispute resolution services through NCM.

NCM BOARD MEETINGS

The NCM Board of Directors meets every other month (January, March, May, July, September, and November) at noon. These meetings either in person (generally at NCM) or via Zoom and are open to the public. If you ever want to attend, call NCM at 231.487.1771 for details of location or link.

PARENTING TIME WORKSHOP

From 8:30am to 12:30pm on Friday, October 17, 2025, Northern Community Mediation (NCM) is offering a Parenting Time Workshop. Amanda Guarisco from Emmet County Friend of the Court will be the trainer. This session is actually a follow-up from the first session that was held on Friday, June 27, 2025.

In the first session, Amanda focused on alternative dispute vs. mediation, ingredients of a successful session, and components of mediation agreements. This second session is the result of the participants in that first session requesting a follow-up session that would address agreement writing, particularly including those issues that are unique to parenting time.

The workshop is limited to 20 participants and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participation in the first session is not a prerequisite for the second session. To register, go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/>

SIGNATURES ON AGREEMENTS

As a review of who signs and does not sign agreements:

- Whether it is an agreement or a partial agreement, all of the impacted parties must sign the agreement in order for it to be considered an agreement.
- If attorneys are involved, it is the parties themselves who must sign. The attorneys cannot sign on their behalfs unless they have power of attorney.
- Although it is not necessary for attorneys to sign the agreements, if they want to do so, NCM accepts that practice.
- If the parties come to mediation without their attorneys, reach an agreement but before signing want their attorneys to look over the document, that is acceptable. They must understand, however, that until the agreement has been actually signed there is no agreement.
- If the parties reach an agreement in mediation and their attorneys are not present and if the parties want to sign the agreement without having their attorneys peruse the document, the parties may do so. As the mediator, however, it would be a good practice to ask the parties if they do in fact want to sign without having their attorneys look over the agreement before signing.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” ~ Thomas Edison

USELESS FACT

Playing dance music can help ward off mosquitoes.