

**MEDIATOR ROUNDTABLE**



Standing Left to right: Bill Cattin, Kathy Krecke, Bruce Herbert, Denise Drake, Jan Schlaybaugh, Mark Muniak, Leslie Elrod, Jeff Caine. Seated Left to Right: Laura Buckingham, Bill Killoran, Gwen Wilson-Heyer

From 4:00pm to 5:30pm on Wednesday, May 20, ten mediators plus Case Manager Laura Buckingham and Executive Director Jane Millar gathered for a Mediator Roundtable. What is a roundtable? For Northern Community Mediation, a roundtable is an opportunity for the mediators to get together, sit around a table and discuss a topic of concern and or of interest to them. The main topic for this most recent roundtable was the issue of confidentiality in the mediation process. Although the Consent to Mediate that all mediation participants sign binds them to honoring the confidentiality of what is said in mediation, there are exceptions to the rule. For example, when a case is court ordered to mediation, if one of the parties refuses to participate or is making it impossible to schedule a date and time for the mediation, the court can subpoena the case manager as a witness to testify if “the disclosure is necessary for a court to consider issues about a party’s failure to attend.”

Advanced Mediator Training opportunities was another topic. By consensus, there was agreement that eight-hour workshops make for a tedious, exhausting day. On the future, Northern Community Mediation (NCM) will aim to offer a total of eight hours of training per year, but the segments would be one of the following each year:

- Two four-hour workshops
- One four-hour workshop plus two, two-hour sessions
- Four, two-hour segments

There was also consensus that NCM should schedule two or three Mediator Roundtables per year. So, if you have ideas for discussion, let me know.

**APPRECIATION GALA**

This year’s Appreciation Gala will be held on Tuesday, June 16 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at Executive Director Jane Millar’s Bay View cottage, 1812 Fairview. Wine, beer, soft drinks and lots of appetizers will be served. This event is a celebration of all of the NCM personnel—be they board members, mediators, contributors, donors or staff. Electronic invitations have been sent but do not wait for the invitation. Put the date on your calendar now and remember to call NCM at 231.487.1771 for your RSVP. If you did not receive an invitation, it does not mean that you are not invited. It just means that I missed adding your name into the invitee list.

**JUST A REMINDER**

An important date to get on your calendar is Friday, September 25. NCM will be offering an in-person, Advanced Mediator Training from 8:30am to 12:30pm on Agreement Writing. The class size is limited to 20 people and will be on a first-come, first serve basis. So, go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/> on the NCM website and sign up for this workshop. This workshop is pending SCAO approval, which in all probability will be accepted since it has been previously offered. And, keep in mind that almost of the NCM mediators are overdue for Advanced Mediator Training. Some of the sticky wickets that will be addressed in the workshop are

- What is the importance of Who, What, Where, When, How and Why?
- What constitutes a partial agreement?
- Is a partial agreement binding?
- Can copies of notes be sent home with the parties?

**CONGRATULATIONS, JENNIFER**

On Tuesday, May 26, Leadership Little Traverse held its 25<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. Wow! In the words of one of this year’s graduates NCM Case Manager Jennifer Mancini, “Being a part of LLT changed my life in ways I never imagined. It gave me confidence, clarity, and a deeper understanding of who I am and who I want to become. For the first time, I truly believed in my own voice and ability to lead.”

**USELESS FACT**

Most leadership advice is useless.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." ~ John Quincy Adams