

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You to the Odawa Casino for their generosity. During the month of September, patrons of the Casino could donate their loose change to Northern Community Mediation (NCM). So, thank you Suzanne Sipe of the Casino for designating NCM recipient of the month and thank you to the patrons of the Casino who put their change in the bucket.

NEED TO UPDATE

Your Executive Director Jane Millar has been somewhat remiss and lackadaisical in her record keeping. Therefore, she will be focusing on updating the records in three areas.

- The Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) centers are required to conduct background checks on all staff and mediators every two years. Within the next two months, you will receive a form to complete, sign and return to NCM, which I will take to MDHHS. You will also need to supply me with a copy of your driver's license.
- Since so many of our mediations are done via Zoom, rather than the hassle of the mediators signing the Consent to Mediate for each mediation, we now have the mediators sign a Consent to Mediate that covers all mediations. You will also receive this document to be signed and returned to NCM.
- The third notice you will be receiving is a statement showing the status of your eight hours of required, advanced training.

I realize that this sounds like a lot. In reality, however, it will not necessitate a great deal of your time. And, as always call Jane Millar if you have any questions.

USEFUL FACT

We are within \$1,650 of reaching our third-phase, Capital Campaign goal of \$20,000.

ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Judy Zorn is an attorney and a Northern Community Mediation board member. Among other things, she chairs our capital Campaign Committee. Additionally, she is an expert on the concept of EFT Tapping, which in simple terms is a proven means of dealing with stress. She has developed a four-hour, advanced mediator training for mediators. Among other places, she has presented this workshop at the annual conference of The Michigan Bar Association. How fortunate for us. She is willing to offer "Emotional Freedom Techniques for Mediators: Regulating the Room" for NCM. Although the date has not yet been set, it will be this winter or coming spring.

AGREEMENT WRITING WORKSHOP

On Friday, September 25 from 8:30am to 12:30pm Northern Community Mediation (NCM) offered a four-hour, advanced mediator training in agreement writing. Eight people participated in the workshop: Stephanie Brew, Laura Buckingham, Jeff Caine, Bill Cattin, Suzy Engle, Steve Hall, Bruce Herbert, and Jennifer Mancini. The facilitator was Executive Director Jane Millar. Not only did the participants find the four-hours spent worthwhile (as was indicated by the evaluations completed by them), NCM learned a great deal from this particular experience.

- Going forward, advanced mediator trainings will be either two or four hours in length. Eight hours of workshop makes for a very long day.
- For obvious reasons, the one exception to the eight hours would be the General Civil, 40-hour training.
- Class sizes will be limited to six to ten people—eight being the ideal number. Having smaller class sizes lends itself to greater interaction and dialog among the participants.

Some of the subject matter under consideration for the workshops are as follows:

- Gender differences & their impact on mediation
- Standards of conduct in mediation, i.e. confidentiality
- Body language
- Role of the mediator, attorney, interested party, support person, etc.
- De-escalation
- How to handle difficult situations, i.e. bullying
- Specialty mediations, i.e. child protection
- WELCOME rather than BADGER
- Panel discussions on the various courts, MDHHS, etc.

If you have any ideas for a workshop, please let us know.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Not only is the FUNDing Committee well named because they do have FUN, they are hard working and have already begun plans for the 2027 Oscar After Party. Put it on your calendar." ~ Jane Millar