



Mediation Monitor

Issue 15

January-June 2017

Board of Directors

John Albrecht, Chair

Harold Albright, Vice Chair

Dawn Huckaby, Secretary

Andrew Robinson, Treasurer

Dave Randolph, Director

David Gamble, Director

Phil Bushard, Director

Staff

Claudia Wahl,
Executive Director

Monica Kales
Program Director

Inside this issue:

Mediation for Neighbor Disputes 1

NMC Beginning Mediation Training 2

Farewell from the Executive Director 3

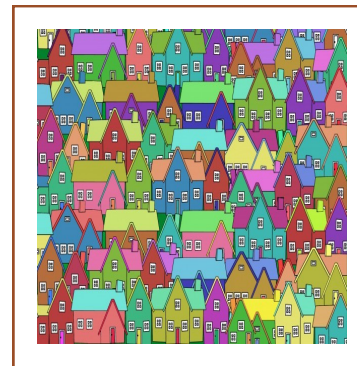
Mediation for Neighbor Disputes

We can't pick our neighbors, and quite often when living in close proximity to one another, fences, property lines, noise, trees, animals, and other issues can lead to conflict. Depending upon how the problem is expressed and received, neighbors make the choice to cooperate with one another, or they may choose to react in a way that escalates the conflict. In too many instances neighbors choose the former, and at that point it becomes ever more difficult to resolve the conflict.

NMC receives a good number of calls from neighbors in conflict. However, only a handful actually get to the mediation table. Unfortunately, most of the time the other party refuses or doesn't respond. Many times after explaining the mediation process the initiating party decides not to move forward. Sometimes they fear retaliation and don't want contact with the other party.

The longer a neighbor dispute is active, the greater the chance for escalation. Once escalated many neighbors find themselves in situations that have little chance for a peaceful resolution. Some neighbors end up in court through a petition for a protector order. Whether the courts actually hold a remedy for the situation is dependent upon the judges interpretation of the law, and if the law hasn't been broken, the court cannot help.

Through mediation neighbors not only have the opportunity to establish a constructive line of communication, they also have the opportunity to craft an agreement that has the potential to make life better for both parties.



The Neighborhood Mediation Center provides trained, volunteer mediators who facilitate communication between parties to help them identify issues, and find a solution to the problem. Seventy percent of parties who enter mediation are successful.

For more information call the mediation center at 775-788-2127 or visit us on the web at www.mediatenmc.org



April 2017 Beginning Mediation Training

Nineteen participants completed the April 2017 Beginning Mediation Training taught by Claudia Wahl and Monica Kales.

Participants: Emily Angelopoulos, Jessica Atkinson, Robert Auer, David Badger, Jan Budetti, Cynthia Cameron, Amy Capra, Gene Dieters, David Gamble, Andy Gebhardt, Patricia Griffith, Carol J. Kelley, Tara Merrill, Shannon Parke, April Shade, Matthew Taormina, Caroline Thomas, Cynthia Willis, and Ivy Wright Bryan

“The instructors were awesome. Very knowledgeable and engaging.”

In partnership with UNR Extended Studies, NMC offers 40 hours of Beginning Mediation Training each year.

The classes cover:

- Models of intervention
- Mediation theory and practice
- Self-awareness and cultural considerations
- Mediation process and techniques
- Communication and facilitation strategies
- Ethics and standards of practice

“Class role playing and interaction was great.”

“I gained some valuable insights.”

“Lots of mediation examples.”



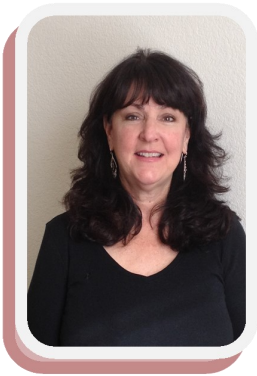
For more information on future trainings check the NMC website:
www.mediatenmc.org

Farewell from the NMC Executive Director, Claudia Wahl

Almost 4 years ago I accepted the role of Executive Director for the Neighborhood Mediation Center. In accepting this important role, I have worked with my colleagues to promote mediation in Washoe County and beyond. I believe that goal has been accomplished. When I began as Director the center was mediating less than 150 cases per year. This fiscal year NMC has mediated over 400 cases. I am grateful to have come to NMC at the time that I did in order to experience the growth of this small but very important organization.

I have enjoyed my time and the many people I have met and had the opportunity to work with. However, it is now time to move to the next phase of my life. My family and I are moving to Florida to be closer to family and friends. I have lived in the tropics for most of my life and returning to that environment is appealing after experiencing four winters in Nevada. With that said, I find Reno to be a great place to live. I look forward to returning to visit.

I personally want to thank NMC Program Director, Monica Kales, the Board of Directors, and the NMC mediators for their support and hard work over the years. It has truly been a team effort, and I commend the volunteer mediators for working hard to bring peace to the community one mediation at a time.



I am very pleased to announce that Monica Kales has accepted the position of Executive Director. Monica will be an outstanding director, and there is no doubt in my mind that she will continue to improve upon the work of past directors to expand mediation in the community. Please join me in welcoming NMC's new Executive Director Monica Kales.