

# WASHINGTON Mediation Association

June 2004

A Professional Resource

## Washington Mediation Association Newsletter

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### Parent-Teen Mediator Receives 2004 President's Award



Cathy Goldman, the "Mother of Parent-Teen Mediation" in Washington State, received the 2004 President's Award at

### Dear Eleanor,

Welcome to the Washington Mediation Association eNews! If you have articles or news to submit, please contact our editor. And don't forget to use the forward feature at the bottom of the page! **Oops! and Ah HA! Moments**



Last eNews we told you about the VA MPC project. the MPC offered a way for practitioners to engage in continuing dialogue about the craft of their profession. WMA took that idea and is working to formulate our own version of dialogue we are calling the "Oops and Ah HA moments!"

What has gained most favorable support is the idea of having some method to communicate about the work being done in mediation.

*"There are so many times I drive home after a mediation and talk to the steering wheel. The next time I see another mediator I want to share my ah-ha or my oops*

*moments - only to find we are rushing to share but have NO time at all" says Sue Pivetta, WMA newsletter editor.*

Sue has offered to work with committee members to consider various dialogue options such as chat rooms, idea boards or meetings around the state. If you have thoughts or ideas on this, please contact us.

[Interesting Outline From VA Here »](#)

### Using Appreciative Inquiry in Parent/Teen Mediation

By Judy Larkins, SPHR



Asking a great question is powerful. By allowing others to discover answers for themselves, agreements are more successful and change is perceived as more positive than if one tries to "tell" another what to do.

WMA's annual May meeting. In the words of the selection committee, "Cathy was picked because her path into mediation reflects someone with passion and commitment to the profession."

Cathy has long been an advocate for using mediation to better relationships between adolescents and their parents. She began as a school teacher, trained and volunteered as a mediator at the Snohomish and King County DRC's, obtained a graduate degree in Conflict Resolution, developed a model for Parent Child Mediation utilizing a co-mediation team of an adult and a teenager, became an advocate for teenagers and their families, and at the request of the City of Bellevue DRC developed and staffs a Parent-Teen Mediation Program.

**Congratulations Cathy!** And thank you for your many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Washington.

#### **Welcome New Members**

Michelle Meith, Virginia Balsler, Leslie Brent, L. Calvin Brown, Debbie Davidson, Sandra Davis, J. Porter Kelley, Pamella Walters \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Congratulations Newly Certified Members**

Debra Norris, Michael Fraidenburg

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In addition, families have specific language among themselves that an outsider won't understand. Beyond the words spoken are key phrases and humor that is developed over years, bringing meaning to communication between the family members.

An outside mediator can learn a lot about the family dynamic by asking great questions and listening to the responses. A recently developed method that works well in family mediations is called Appreciative Inquiry. It solicits responses from all participants in the family mediation, and provides a pace and logical progression to address issues.

#### **Northwest ADR Conference Once Again a Big Success!**



The 12th Annual NW Dispute Resolution Conference at the Shoreline Center hosted 345 participants - more than ever before! This year, the WMA co-sponsored the conference, along with The Washington Law School Foundation, the ADR Section of the Washington State Bar Association and Resolution Washington.

The conference's national reputation for excellence was once again confirmed, as 60 presenters from Malibu and San Francisco to Vancouver B.C. to Washington D.C. enlightened, entertained and educated the attendees.

Conference participants came from all over Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming - Auburn to Yakima; Albany, Oregon to Emblem, Wyoming.

The conference covered the full range of topics including Policy, Group Facilitations, Brain Science, Gender, Employment Law, Body Language, Divorce, Elder Care Issues, Psychology, Ethics, Building a Mediation Practice, Coaching, Collaborative Law, Teens, Diversity, and much more.

The WMA held its Annual Meeting on Friday morning, just prior to the conference. Attendance was high and the crowd was enthusiastic! WMA accomplishments for the past year were reviewed, plans for the future discussed, the President's Award presented, and outgoing board members recognized.

If you were there, the quality of the experience speaks for itself. If you were not able to attend this year, we highly encourage you to make a point of attending next year. This is as good as it gets in the mediation arena. Attendees were reluctant to leave when it was over!

#### **WMA Responds to Model Standards Revision Request**

The American Arbitration Association (AAA), the American Bar Association's Section of Dispute Resolution (ABA), and the Association of Conflict Resolution (ACR), the three organizations that wrote the Model Standards of Conduct for Mediators in 1994, announced the formation of a Joint Committee to review and possibly revise the Model Standards. This review is intended to respond to the rapidly changing dynamics of the mediation field since the adoption of the original Standards.

The Joint Committee has asked all organizations having an interest in mediation to provide input and designate a sole source of contact. Former WMA President Cris Currie has responded on behalf of the WMA Board with suggestions for possible revisions (see his March eNewsletter article). The Board has designated Chris Koser as its agency contact.

The Joint Committee will hold several open forums during the course of their work and make drafts of proposed revisions

available to the public. Their web site is  
<http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/dr/phorum/list.php>

### **WMA Works to Ready UMA for Legislature**

WMA and other leading mediation groups in Washington are engaged in a series of on-going meetings organized by the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) in an attempt to reach consensus on whether to support adoption of the Uniform Mediation Act, and if so, in what form.

WMA's Board supports the adoption of the UMA and has asked the groups to consider two limited changes to the act. WMA has agreed to changes to Section 3 of the act proposed by King County, the City of Seattle and several labor councils to include rather than exclude their programs.

The groups hope to conclude their meetings by early June and make a consensus recommendation to Legislative Committee of the WSBA. The Legislative Committee will then make its recommendation to the WSBA's Board of Governors. Possible introduction of the act may occur as early as the fall of 2004.

### **Native Dispute Resolution Network Seeks Initial Members**

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution has announced the opening of the Native Dispute Resolution Network for initial member recruitment. The purpose of the Network is to create a centralized, broadly accessible, and valued referral system of dispute resolution practitioners with the knowledge and experience needed to assist parties involved in environmental, natural resources, or public/trust lands issues where American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and federal agencies are primary parties.

American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and other dispute resolution practitioners are invited to consider joining and participating in the Network. The deadline for submission of materials is June 18, 2004. For information about the Network, including application information, go to [www.ecr.gov/naan.htm](http://www.ecr.gov/naan.htm).

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### **Quick Bits of Info**



### **Federal Support for ADR Reaffirmed**

Recently U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft told the federal government's Interagency Alternative Dispute Resolution Working Group that the use of alternative

dispute resolution remains as important as ever in light of the ongoing war against terrorism.

"The demands, and competing needs, for finances and resources have rarely been as great as they are today," he said.

The ADR Working Group was reminded that every ADR process that reduces time or litigation costs, narrows issues, or averts future complaints enables the federal government to conserve its limited resources. The attorney general closed his letter with a recommendation that the committee continue to promote ADR.

### **PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

non-profit community mediation center, has a position opening for a full-time Program Coordinator to oversee its Telephone Conciliation program.

To apply, send your resume to the Executive Director, King County Dispute Resolution Center, P.O. Box 21148, Seattle, WA 98111.

### **Region 9 Member Elected IMA President**

WMA Region 9 (Spokane area) Vice-chair Thomas Evans has been named president of the Idaho Mediation Association. Tom has a private mediation practice specializing in high conflict mediation with clients in the western U.S. and Pacific Rim. He would like to encourage cooperation and collaboration between WMA and IMA.

Congratulations Tom! WMA looks forward to developing a closer working relationship with IMA.

Region 9 members meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Deaconess Hospital Education Building at 910 W. 5th Ave (between Monroe & Lincoln in south Spokane). Continuing mediator education seminars are occasionally offered after completion of the business portion of the meeting and are free to WMA members. For more information, contact Bob Zeller at 509.456.0103.

**WMA Region 9 Members Staff New Mediation Center** As the saying goes, "The more things change the more they stay the same!" Region 9 is proving that to be true.

As a start-up organization, NCMC is establishing itself within the community it serves. The Board of Directors has set a course for an emphasis with neighborhood groups and social service agencies.

Robert Zeller is the Mediation Manager. As a former employee of IMC, he is thoroughly experienced in all phases of small claims court disputes and parenting plans. Susan Whaley is the Outreach Coordinator. She comes to NCMC with a strong background in marketing and public relations. The Executive Director of NCMC is Norma Myers. For the past eight years she has been in private practice as an attorney. All of the mediators are certified.

Region 9 holds meetings the first Tuesday of every month at the Deaconess Health and Education Building located at 910 West 5th Avenue, Spokane, Washington from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

[Read June 2004 President's Letter Here »](#)

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