

NEW MEXICO MEDIATION ASSOCIATION

NMMA MONTHLY
MARCH 2019

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Treasurer – Alan Highcove

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New Mexico Mediation Association President's Message March 2019

Greetings Mediation Community in New Mexico:

I trust all your Dispute Resolutions have been interesting and afforded you and your clients to reach resolution that is meaningful and positive. It's been a busy 45 days for your Association Board as we waded through issues and opportunities of which I will share with you this month.

In no particular order:

1. The **website** now has the capability to accept Stripe payments seamlessly. This proved to be much more a tedious task but it is now ready to accept payments through the website. Check out this new feature, as well as the new look of the site if you have not done so!
2. For over a year, I have committed myself to create an Online Member Directory. The board has agreed to go forward with the directory and maintain security of our site for our members. We are beta testing data entry utilizing Board Member profiles as we speak. **We hope to be able to request data from members who wish to be listed on the site page within 30 days.** We have discussed a secure site for our paid members that contains more detail data than what would be found on the "Search for a Mediator" page that the general public searching for a mediator would/could access. Our goal is to ask for the specific data to be included on the public page first.
3. **Board Meetings** are being held face to face in Albuquerque for 2019. In 2018 we tried to hold monthly Conference Call/Video calls and struggled to reach quorum numbers to vote and make decisions. Since Maggie Reynolds and I are the "Outside Albuquerque" board members we decided – we would go to Albuquerque and meet face to face. I hope you will join us at these board meetings. Our next Board Meeting is scheduled **May 9 at 6:00 p.m. at Mimi's** on the I-25 South frontage road. **JOIN US!!!**

New Mexico Mediation Association President's Message
March 2019
(Continued)

4. **Open Board Seat** – We currently have an Open board seat and a Vice President seat on the Board. The board would like to ask anyone from the general membership that has an interest in the Open seat(s) and is willing to serve until the next general election to please email Elena Hernandez at ehmediator@email.com with your questions and interest. Board members must be willing to attend all board meetings and be willing to chair a committee to continue to promote the association goals and objectives. Please let Elena know, the board would then like to schedule an interview before deciding.
5. **Board and Officers Liability Insurance** was discussed at the annual meeting. It has been researched and decided that we will not purchase this at this time. Due to the large cost and recommendations by several insurers, the board has decided that this is not needed given the low annual income and liability risk to this association board in New Mexico. Should anything change with regards to this subject, we would of course revisit it.
6. In the course of regular audit and review of the organization Policy, Procedures and Financial instruments it was learned that the Association had not submitted the proper *Federal Income tax forms to IRS* since 2009 and our 501(c) 6 nonprofit standing had been revoked since 2009. No panic necessary, I have been working with a Pro-Bono Attorney specializing in this area and a CPA spouse (it's great to have friends in low places!) to correct this deficiency. We will share with the board what should be submitted to the IRS to regain this status and request the final board submission approvals needed.

This is YOUR Association as well as mine; I hope you will continue to support us as we continue to move forward to create a vibrant, active, informed and committed association. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please let me know.

All the Best and until next time

Ted Ramirez, NMMA Board President



If you or someone you know would like to contribute to either the “Lunch and Learn” or “Contributing Columnist” please email our board Secretary at ehmediator@email.com. All member contributions will be brought before the board for consideration and placement.

The newsletters will continue to be placed on NMMA's website at www.newmexicomediationassociation.org. Elena will also continue to send the NMMA Monthly via email. Please feel free to contact our Board Secretary with any questions, comments or contributions for the Newsletter. As always, please feel free to contact any of our Board Members with questions and comments. We would like to thank those of you that have and will make suggestions regarding education content and membership benefits.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP THROUGH OUR WEBSITE

If you have not paid dues for the 2018-19 year, and are interested in renewing your membership, please complete the Membership Form found at www.newmexicomediationassociation.org. Please contact our Treasurer, Alan Highcove at ALHighcove@salud.unm.edu with any questions regarding your membership dues.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Hello, I'm New to the Neighborhood!



By Mateo Page, N.M. Administrative Office of the Courts

If I have not met you already, I would like to introduce myself. I am the new ADR statewide program manager at the N.M. Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Having started in this position in January, I am very new to the world of ADR in New Mexico. After having been an attorney and a judge for the last 12 years, I am so pleased and excited to become part of your community. The mediation folks that I have met so far have been extremely welcoming and helpful. As time goes on, I hope you will say the same about me. One of my main goals is for the ADR department at AOC to become a beneficial collaborative partner with the New Mexico ADR community.

A Pitch for the N.M. Magistrate Court Mediation Program: Currently several volunteers (including many NMMA members) provide valuable mediation services to mainly self-represented parties in eight Magistrate Courts throughout New Mexico (Alamogordo, Belen, Bernalillo, Clovis, Las Cruces, Los Lunas, Taos, and Santa Fe). We gladly welcome new and experienced mediators to practice their craft and develop their skills by volunteering in these courts; additionally, we are happy to offer free advanced mediation training and mentorship/coaching. We are also very interested in expanding our mediation program to other Magistrate Courts, *especially* in the Four Corners area and Chaves, Eddy, and Lea Counties. If you would like more information about volunteering as a mediator in the Magistrate Courts or helping us expand to your community, please contact me at aocmsp@nmcourts.gov or (505)827-4960.

I look forward to working with you to bring quality ADR services to our fellow New Mexicans around our wonderful State!



UPCOMING EVENTS – EDUCATION- NEWS

CALLING ALL MEDIATION TRAINERS!

The NMMA would like to include your proposed and scheduled training classes, seminars and meetings scheduled for the balance of 2019 in our calendars. As part of the growth of the website pages, we will provide a calendar by month of all future scheduled activities. If you are accepting students, volunteer participants or the general population of new to mediation or want to-be-a-mediators, let us know. Send your calendar items to: Elena Maria Hernandez @ ehmediator.com. The Association will not be responsible for updates or changes, we would ask the Mediation Trainer or provider to keep their information updated. Further, the Association reserves the right to limit content due to space reasons and Association members only.

ONLINE MEDIATION TRAINING

The Administrative Office of the Courts has been in the process of rolling out a Statewide On-Line mediation program nicknamed MODRIA. While the majority of the Mediation Community in New Mexico was kept in the dark, somehow AOC found it wise to invest \$450K in startup costs and requested the State Legislature fund \$350-450K for the next few years to launch the program. Whether you are pro or con to the program some serious questions regarding the effort need to be addressed in order to determine the long-term success. While the program was sold as “tried and tested” it seems New Mexico is helping the vendor beta test the program.

From a personal level, I have grave concerns about how the money magically appeared to provide the initial development and yet we have mediators in the state that provide mediation “free” and many times within certain state agencies the mediators pay for their personal travel mileage and out of pocket costs. While some mediators don’t have an issue, some members have expressed some consternation with this invisible practice.

It’s too early to tell if the program has wide appeal and acceptance statewide, I do hope we will give the program a chance to be tested to determine if this stealth program has true merit to the constituents that need to be served by ADR and the dispute resolution process. TED



UPCOMING EVENTS – EDUCATION- NEWS

Continued

Mediator Skills Refresher: *Back to the Basics*--- Taught by Cynthia Olson
Tuesday, April 30, 2019; 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Aztec, New Mexico

For more information please visit: www.olsonmediation.com
Or Contact Cynthia Olson at
(505) 890 0603 or (505) 573 1417

pre-requisite: a 40hour beginning mediation class

Whether you have just finished your beginning class or have mediated a little or a lot, please join us for a day of review and practice. We invite you to “refresh” some of the elemental concepts and skills key to effective mediation practice. We will explore neutrality, interventions and the skills of listening, acknowledging, questioning and reframing.

The Magistrate Court Mediation Program is recruiting new and experienced mediators! Our volunteers mediate small claims cases in eight Magistrate Courts statewide. Our mentorship program is a great way to gain experience and build your skills if you're a new mediator, or to get feedback and refine your skills if you're more experienced. We have particular need for volunteer mediators in the Albuquerque area (Magistrate Courts in Bernalillo, Los Lunas, and Belen), Santa Fe, and Clovis. Interested? We'd love to hear from you.

For more information on programs in Taos and Santa Fe, contact Sally Margolin at sallymargolin@yahoo.com.

For more information on programs in Bernalillo, Los Lunas, and Belen, contact Cassandra Brown at cassandrajoycebrown@gmail.com.

For more information on programs in Las Cruces, Alamogordo, and Clovis, contact Maggie Reynolds at maggiereynolds@gmail.com. Thank you for your attention, and happy mediating!

For More information please contact Abby Foster, Administrative Coordinator for the Magistrate Court Mediation Program at 505-433-8685.