



Heartland Mediators Association

Newsletter for Midwest Mediators

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2014 Heartland Mediators Association

A Message From the President:

Marking 25 in style

As I look back it doesn't seem possible it has been a quarter century since Heartland Mediators Association got its start.

No, I've not been around that long, just almost.

It was back in 1996 that I met a volunteer mediator for the Parent Adolescent Mediation Program in Topeka. I was so intrigued by conflict resolution that I included it in my college studies, then volunteered and took training to help families and teens negotiate the rough waters of adolescence.

It was 1999 when I first became involved with HMA by attending its first regional conference.

Most of those who know me also

know I'm a professed mediation junkie. Just love to see that "Awe ha" moment when people realize they can change and see it as a good thing.

And what I like about HMA is that it promotes conflict resolution in many ways especially in the education of mediators from all walks of life. HMA promotes conflict resolution even with young people by honoring and showing attention to peer mediation groups in schools. We didn't find one this year, but we know there are students out there doing it.

Our state of Kansas is progressive enough to know mediators

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'Mediation: More Than Agreement' Comes With CLE and CMEs

"Mediation: More Than Agreement" is presented by Dan Simon, J.D., M.A.

Simon is a Minnesota licensed attorney certified in transformative mediation who has practiced in the area of family business and business litigation. Simon is certified by the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and currently maintains a practice in transformative conflict resolution and mediation.

This conference is appropriate for attorneys, attorney/mediators, mediators, social workers, HR professionals and others who work or are interested in conflict resolution training.

The conference begins with registration from 12:15-1 pm Thursday April 10 and workshops from 1 to 4:30 pm. Thursday's program begins with "Remaining Impartial with High Conflict Clients." In this half-day session, participants explore a technique for remaining focused on the ways we can stay impartial AND be most helpful, even when facing the most difficult parties. Then ways are explored to help families heal

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Sponsorships Helpful to HMA

At the HMA Annual Conference we plan on celebrating our 25th Anniversary Thursday evening. From 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10, HMA will have a party with heavy appetizers to network and celebrate 25 years in this industry.

For this special occasion, HMA is offering sponsorships for conference breaks, award luncheon and the party. HMA is a 503C6 so sponsorship must be used as an advertising expense. The Sponsorships are listed below.

DIAMOND SPONSOR - CONTRIBUTION \$1000 - Conference Sponsor; Full Page Ad in Program; Exhibition Table; Three Registrations; Newsletter Ad for One Year; Website Sponsor for One Year.

PLATINUM SPONSOR - CONTRIBUTION \$500 - Annual Awards Sponsor; Full Page Ad in

Program; Exhibition Table; Two Registrations.

GOLD SPONSOR - CONTRIBUTION \$250 - Lunch Sponsor. Half Page Ad in Program; Exhibition Table.

SILVER SPONSOR - CONTRIBUTION \$100 - Break Sponsor; Half Page Ad in Program; Exhibition Table.

BRONZE SPONSOR - CONTRIBUTION \$50. Break Sponsor; Exhibition Table; Name Recognition in Program.

Your sponsorship advertising will be displayed throughout the entire conference.

Let Janet Lhuillier know how you want to help celebrate these special times for HMA by becoming a sponsor. Thank you for your great support of HMA!

President's Message

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need to be trained in the specific way mediators work and it has set rules to help us be better at what we do. Therefore, we need a certain amount of hours to retain our approval with the Kansas Supreme Court.

Art Thompson lead us as OJA coordinator since 1999 and recently retired. We hope to see him at our conference this April to tell him how much we have appreciated his service. Mark Gleeson has taken over his duties and has been a longtime mediator.

This year for our annual conference we will be having Dan Simon, a Minneapolis attorney, who will provide us with an advanced training on some of the finer points of conflict. You won't want to miss this. It is scheduled for April 10-11 at JCCC in Overland Park.

Every eighth year, HMA is responsible for providing the regional conference on conflict resolution. Yes, next year is that year and we will be having Bill Eddy, author of "BIFF." That special two-day workshop is set for April 16-17, 2015, in the Kansas City area.

I want to let you know how much I've enjoyed and appreciated being your president this past year. I also want to thank the board of directors, Deborah Medlock, Wayne Olsen, Becky O'Donnell, Ann Zimmerman, Kathy Perkins, Terrie McCants, Verdell Taylor

and Sanford Nathan, the backbone of this organization. And Janet Lhuillier, one of the best executive directors any organization could ask for.

HMA is making progress this year in creating some higher standards for our profession. Many of us are working in new pilot projects to create new ways of providing conflict resolution for families and parties in conflict. HMA has upgraded its website so it is more interactive with members and people wanting to find good sources for conflict resolution.

HMA annually honors people who have put great effort into the practice of mediation or to promoting conflict resolution within the regions of Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska. Kansas Governor Sam Brownback signed a proclamation in March designating April as Mediation Month in Kansas. HMA started this more than a decade ago and continues to let everyone know mediation is an important step to solve any conflict.

I look forward to talking with each and every one of you at the Annual Conference in April.

Linda Laird

Spring Conference Features Dan Simon

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conflicts at the deepest level. How can mediators and attorney/mediators remain neutral and impartial when concerned about the welfare of the children?

Mediators of domestic conflicts often encounter parents who are so wrapped up in their fight with each other that they fail to take their children into account. We may be tempted to side with the parent that seems more invested in what is better for the children.

From 4:30 to 7 pm Dan Simon will sign books and members will celebrate the organization's 25th anniversary with heavy appetizers, wine, beer and soft drinks while networking with old and new members.

Friday, Simon will help participants study "Impasse" and "How to Use the Training and Expertise You "Already Have to Overcome Obstacles to Mediation Success."

Most mediators and attorney/mediators believe their effectiveness comes from the size of their toolbox. When confronted with impasse, we want to know as many tricks possible for getting around it. This training day will be spent questioning conven-

tional wisdom and learning that the important tools are the ones we already have - we just need practice using them with the right intention.

Registration Friday is at 7:30 to 8 am with the HMA Annual Meeting over lunch from 11:30am to 1 pm. Workshops are from 8 to 4:30pm.

Remember registration is available at www.heartlandmediators.org/training/

Those who wish to come just a half day or Friday only may sign up on the website.

Mediation Begins First With Family Training

HMA Members Aline Cole Barrett, Ann Zimmerman joined Kate Hamilton and Topeka attorney Hurst Coffman for an afternoon about mediation with seniors on Feb. 21 at Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library in Topeka.

About 50 participants were interested in how neutrals can play a positive role when working with families at a time of need.

Panelists basically urged training in working with families to be helpful for this kind of conflict resolution. Three KS CME hours and 1 hour of CLE were given for the training.

Kate Hamilton, a social worker and mediator, highlighted some of the specific issues that cause difficulties for seniors and their families such as durable power of attorney and health power of attorney and other legal matters often confusing for families.

Coffman, a Topeka attorney specializing in estate planning and elder care, discussed guardianships, estate planning, and how mediation might assist.

Barrett, a Topeka attorney mediator, talked about the actual mediation process and how the mediator might make accommodations for elderly clients, the legal issues that a senior and his/her family members might face and how mediators might help with some of those issues.

An hour of ethics discussion with Ann Zimmerman, Salina attorney and HMA past president, ended the training.

HMA Registration Online

HMA received approval for 10.8 MO CLE Hours, 9.0 NE CME hours, 9 KS CME hours and 10 KS CLE Hours.

Register online to attend the Heartland Mediators Association (HMA) Annual Conference at Johnson County Community College (JCCC) in Overland Park, KS, April 10 & 11.

Dan Simon, an attorney-mediator from Minneapolis, MN, will be presenting for 1.5 days on six topics that match our diverse membership interests. We hope you can join us to receive great training and help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary.

The Vision for HMA always been there

Back in 2004 an HMA President Evan Ash offered some predictions that we should all be considering on this our 25th anniversary. Is HMA doing what it should? What is the future of Heartland Mediators Association after 25 years. Come and be part of that future.

Ash, who this year is retiring from Johnson County Court Services, may join us for our celebration of 25 years.

“The Vision of HMA’s Future: Building on the Best of a 15 Year Legacy”

The specific details of how any human endeavor began is usually forgotten in the burst of enthusiasm about the birth that is unfolding. It is not until that human endeavor is established and has a life of its own that people start asking, “How did this begin?” “When?” “Who did what?” And it is then that history is written.

The actual beginnings of Heartland Mediators Association have followed a similar path. At this time 15 years ago informal discussions took place between the pioneer mediators in our region, discussions about “What do we do?” “Read any good books on mediation lately?” “Did you hear what John Haynes or Robert Benjamin had to say?” “How can we help each other?” “Who else is out there trying to mediate cases?” And a network began.

According to one official record, on October 12, 1989, the first actual meeting of what became the Heartland Mediators Association occurred. From this gathering of committed professionals came the birth of what you and I are enjoying here today. We have reason to celebrate. This year marks the 15th birthday of Heartland Mediators Association! Let us rejoice on this occasion!

In those early days, and the years that followed, mediation was practiced in a spotty amalgam of divorce, small claims, and some hit and miss civil cases. A heritage of farm loan mediation continued and victim-offender mediation was pioneered by our Mennonite colleagues. Heartland Mediators Association was a place for these isolated expressions of conflict resolution to find mutual support and affirmation.

HMA’s Mission Statement

The mission of Heartland Mediators Association is to advocate for the use of conflict resolution in our region by directly and indirectly supporting its members in their conflict resolution practice.

In the years that followed we have seen an explosion in the application of conflict resolution philosophy in our region. The federal government made mediation a matter of policy in its various agencies such as the REDRESS program of the U.S. Postal Service, EEO discrimination cases, and the Medicare program we heard about at our banquet.

Cities like Kansas City added mediation to its services to improve the quality of life of its citizens by reducing the cost of conflict. Kansas state government have begun to pro-actively use conflict resolution techniques to develop public policy as well as experiment successfully with using mediation in foster care cases. Missouri established an office to foster and support the use of mediation in that state. The list goes on and on.

Today the field of dispute resolution is a kaleidoscope of settings where peace makers ply their trade. HMA has a potential constituency in every aspect of our public and private lives. Practitioners who practice conflict resolution may be called mediators, facilitators, consultants, neutrals, case managers, collaborative lawyers. They may go by a myriad of titles

But this array is the new constituency for Heartland Mediators Association!

This is the future of HMA!

And the scene continues to grow! Heartland Mediators Association may not be just for mediators any more!

**We Want to Know How
You Became Interested
in Conflict Resolution**

Send your stories to Janet
at hmaorganization@everestkc.net