

Special Edition!

This fall, Heartland Mediators Association marks its 15th anniversary. In its history it has developed some important traditions,

supporting its *members* in their practices,

advocating to the *systems* in which we serve,

promoting public awareness in the *communities* we live, and

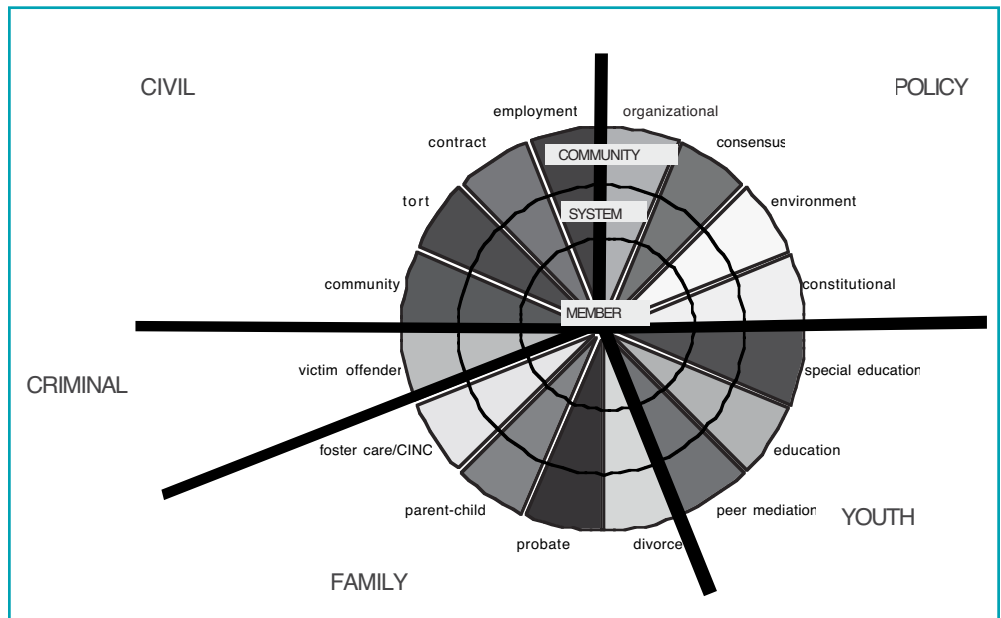
fostering *leadership* in the conflict resolution community.

As HMA goes forward into the future, those traditions will guide its focus and energies.

Your HMA Board has adopted a vision for that future that is driven by the mission we have been evolving since the first gathering of mediators in our region in 1989,

...to advocate for the use of conflict resolution in our region by directly and indirectly supporting its members in their conflict resolution practice.

And our objectives will continue to be our traditions.



To that end, the vision describes a new kind of organization, drawing more purposefully on the *kaleidoscope* of expressions of conflict resolution we all are practicing today (see graphic). The range has exploded over the years! You need HMA to support the setting of your conflict resolution practice. That means more diversity in the life of HMA.

Several strategies to achieve the vision were adopted by the HMA Board at its June 19, 2004 retreat:

1. *to increase the potential scope of services to more effectively match our efforts to the real needs of the conflict resolution field, so our programs and efforts become more representative of the field in our region;*

2. *to increase opportunities for the involvement of members by*

increasing access to the "brainpower", resources, expertise of its members,

redesigning functions to a more manageable size,

creating opportunities that increase the investment and commitment of its members,

defining mutual links and mutual accountabilities, and

fostering the development of future leadership; and

continued on page 2

3. to reduce the Board's role in functional responsibilities, the performance of operational tasks, and micro-managing of all efforts, thereby allowing the Board itself to devote its energies to the oversight of HMA and the coordination of programs, and respond more adaptively to global issues facing the organization and the conflict resolution field.

In pursuit of those strategies, a "blue print" for that vision created two new aspects in the life of Heartland Mediators Association,

the creation of a committee system to govern its life, and

the creation of special interest sections to further support its members in their conflict resolution practices.

Every organization has basic needs to sustain its life. HMA is no exception. Therefore, we are developing standing committees to support those basic needs. Because each of these committees is an expression of the Board's responsibilities, each committee will be chaired by a Board Officer or Director. These committees are:

Committee

Officer/Director Current Chair

<i>Membership Services</i>	
President	Evan Ash
<i>Communication</i>	
Secretary	Ronnie Beach
<i>Finance</i>	
Treasurer	Barry Carroll
<i>Advocacy</i>	
Board Director	Micki Armstrong
<i>Annual Conference</i>	
President-Elect	Rhonda Harris
<i>Continuing Education</i>	
Board Director	Don Hampton.

Sections that represent the *kaleidoscope* of the conflict resolution field were identified by the Board and leadership for several was assigned. Since ours is an organic field — growing and changing — this initial list is likely to evolve and expand with time. Each working section will have a steering committee to organize that section's focus and activity. The chair of each of the section committees may be a Board Director or a HMA member:

Section

Section Committee Chair

<i>Work Place</i>	
	Kathy Robinson, Peggy Hinzman
<i>Family and Youth</i>	
	Don Hampton
<i>Public Policy</i>	
	Larry Rute
<i>Community</i>	
	Claudia Nelson
<i>Civil</i>	
	to be determined
<i>Restorative Justice</i>	
	to be determined
<i>Collaborative Law</i>	
	to be determined.

Two *ad hoc* committees were also defined, in light of the Board's duties,

<i>Policy Development</i>	
Past President	Trip Shawver
<i>Nominations</i>	
President-Elect	Rhonda Harris.

In addition to the chair, each committee will have 3-4 members to help guide its tasks. The chair will be the link to the Board for coordination of efforts. Future newsletters will note the activity of each section. Members are currently being surveyed to learn of their interest in the sections and serving on a committee.

Thanks to all of you who have completed the interest survey.

If you have not yet sent in that postcard, please complete it as soon as possible. and mail it to Evan Ash or e-mail Evan with your interest, to evan.ash@jocogov.org.

Your input to HMA's future is essential and welcomed!

Each committee chair has prepared a draft of that committee's focus and is now approaching members to join their committees. Respond *enthusiastically* when you are contacted!

Once each section committee is organized, it will develop ways of linking HMA members who share in that section's focus.

In light of the *kaleidoscope* of practices, and building on the format of the 2004 Annual Conference, the Board also decided to offer more than one topic /speaker at each HMA event so that we can more closely support the various interests of the members.

Your membership in HMA is a sign of your commitment to the field of conflict resolution and to supporting the best possible practice for us all in our region. If you are not a current member or have not renewed your membership for the coming year, please contact Sandra Sabanske at (913) 381-4458, or at mediation@grapevine.net.

HMA is collaborating with the Association of Missouri Mediators in the development of the 2005 Heartland Regional Mediators Conference

in April, 2005. We are proud to have started this regional tradition in 1999 and pleased to support Nebraska, Iowa, and now Missouri, in this great effort. Again, the range of speakers and topics will reflect the *kaleidoscope* of practice we are all pursuing. Our HMA banquet will be the social event for next year's conference. We are hoping for an inspiring gathering to mark the beginning of our next 15 years!

HMA will also be advocating for our work in our communities and the organizational systems we serve. State and local governments, businesses, communities, schools, congregations, and special interest groups are examples where HMA has the potential to educate and support conflict resolution efforts and the utilization of the resources of our members for a kinder gentler world.

Your Board hopes this overview of HMA's future vision inspires you to want to share in that future. The success of this vision will come from all of us combining our various gifts, talents, and efforts for the activity we find so fulfilling - bringing greater resolution and peace to our world. Make your commitment today!

Evan Ash, President ◆

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The conference steering committee is seeking proposals for presentations at the 2005 Regional Conference to be held in Kansas City, MO on April 1 & 2, 2005. Theme of the conference is *"Challenges in a World of Conflict."*

The conference format will provide for 90 minute workshops and several 4 hour training sessions. Presentations on the following topics are of particular interest: status of confidentiality in mediation, public policy dispute facilitation, narrative mediation, agricultural mediation, training the trainers, mediation ethics, power disparities & retaliation, school conflict resolution - innovative programs, best practices, child protection mediation, healthcare mediation, environmental - Missouri River negotiations, communication & language of negotiation, practice building tips, crisis negotiation in the community and the workplace, restorative justice, mediation in the corporate world and community mediation operations & support.

For a copy of the RFP application contact Kathleen Bird, conference chairman at khlbird@kc.rr.com or call (816) 792-7681. ◆

Mark Your Calendars for October 1, 2004

HMA will hold its fall meeting on October 1, 2004 from 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM at the Wichita Bar Association.

Two concurrent training sessions will be offered. Watch your mail and e-mails for further information on this upcoming meeting.

2004-2005 Heartland Mediators Association Board of Directors

- **President Evan Ash**
Domestic Court Services
1255 East 119th Street
Olathe, KS 66061
(913) 324-6978 • evan.ash@jocoks.com
- **President-Elect Rhonda Harris**
Kansas City Human Relations Dept
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106
(816) 513-1836 • rhonda_harris@kcmo.org
- **Secretary Ronnie Beach**
Advance Mediation Services
P.O. Box 3930
Olathe, KS 66063
(913) 390-7888 • rbeach18@comcast.net
- **Treasurer Barry Carroll**
1140 Coolidge Avenue
Wichita, KS 67203
(316) 269-2448 • barrycarr@aol.com
- **Director at Large Micki Armstrong**
Fort Hays State University
600 Park Street, Sociology Dept.
Hays, KS 67601
(785) 628-5369 • marmstro@fhsu.edu
- **Director at Large Don Hampton**
Mediation Associates
435 Pamela
Wichita, KS 67212
(316) 722-7817 • donhampton@onemain.com
- **Director at Large Peggy Hinzman**
404 Farm Place
Belton, MO 64012
(816) 331-5383 • peggyhinzman@leesummit.k12.mo.us
- **Director at Large Kathy Robinson**
University of Mo - Kansas City
4825 Troost, Rm 214F
Kansas City, MO 64110
(816) 252-8000 • robinsonka@umkc.edu
- **Director at Large Larry Rute**
Associates in Dispute Resolution
212 SW 8th Ave, Suite 102
Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 357-1800 • staff@adr.kscoxmail.com
- **Past President Trip Shawver**
634 North Broadway
Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 262-6466 • nts44@aol.com
- **Executive Director Sandra Sabanske**
8826 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 208
Overland Park, KS 66212
(866) 381-4458 • fax (913) 381-9308
mediation@grapevine.net

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the HMA Newsletter are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the Heartland Mediators Association.

Hearland Mediators Association
8826 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 208
Overland Park, KS 66212
[Address Service Requested](#)

FIRST CLASS

NASD Looking for Mediators

[From a letter to Trip Shawver] . . . I am the new recruiter for the Dispute Resolution team of NASD. This basically gives me a remit to recruit quality arbitrators for financial securities disputes. The caliber of candidates that I am looking for seems to me to be a perfect match with the members of your association. The requirements of the position are for outstanding professionals to take up

to three days to neutrally arbitrate a case with up to 3 other arbitrators. There is a nominal payment of \$400 per day for the individual. Obviously this payment leaves a little to be desired for such quality professionals, however, NASD and myself firmly believe that the genuine benefit that the entire industry and personal investors receive from these services is invaluable. In addition, the personal

satisfaction that the individual derives from the training and completion of an arbitration assignment goes a long way towards justifying the decision to be an arbitrator. Moreover, the chance to invest something back in to a fairer, honest society seems to correlate with the ethos of your organization.

For further information, check out our web site at: www.heartlandmediators.org. ♦

Have You Attended a Peer Mediation Meeting?

We have established peer study groups in various locations.

There is NO CHARGE for these meetings. All we ask is that you be an HMA member. It is a great opportunity to network with other mediators and discuss a topic of interest.

Often, one hour of CME credit is available. Feel free to contact the coordinator nearest you and let them know that you want to be put on the list for notices of meetings — all notices are sent by e-mail.

Regional Group Conveners

Olathe, Kansas

Deborah Medlock, (913) 324-6986,
deborah.medlock@jocogov.org

Kansas City, Missouri

Kathleen McCarther, (816) 531-6265,
kmccarther@earthlink.net

Wichita, Kansas

Jeanne Erikson, (316) 269-2322,
cmc334@juno.com

No. Newton, McPherson, Kansas

Barbara Schmidt, (316) 284-5829,
bschmidt@bethelks.edu

Hays, Kansas

Micki Armstrong, (785) 628-5369,
marmstro@fhsu.edu

Receive Newsletter by E-mail!

This newsletter is being sent by e-mail and “snail mail”. We hope you will consider taking future issues by e-mail — if so, please send an e-mail to mediation@grapevine.net.

Check Out Our Web Site

www.heartlandmediators.org

for information on membership, calendar, back issues of newsletter, and more.
