



Central Susquehanna
Valley Mediation Center
713 Bridge Street, Suite 3
Selinsgrove, PA 17870
570-374-1718

Center office hours:

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Mediation appointments
available:**

Monday through Saturday
10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday
6:30 p.m.

To request an appointment:

Call 570-374-1718
or email
casecoordinator@
csvmediation.org

General email inquiries:

info@csvmediation.org

Visit our updated website:

www.csvmediation.org

Executive Director:

Susan Jordan
570-837-9563
susanjordan@csvmediation.org

Board of Directors:

Elayne Sobel, *President*
elaynesobel@csvmediation.org

Robert Shabanowitz,
Vice President
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Steve Jacobsen, *Treasurer*
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An opportunity for YOU!

Learn how to effectively manage workplace conflict

Would you or your business benefit from learning how you can best manage conflict in the workplace?

CSVMC is pleased to invite community participation in a training workshop and reception with Dr. Joseph Folger, president of the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation.

The workshop, *Responding Effectively to Workplace Conflict: The Transformative Perspective*, will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, September 28 and again on Tuesday, September 29. This workshop will provide helpful training to people involved in all organizations on how to manage

conflict more effectively. It is open to all members of the community. The cost of the workshop is \$75.00, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Please register by calling CSVMC at 570-374-1718 or contact us at info@csvmediation.org.

Community members are invited to attend an evening wine and cheese reception with CSVMC and Dr. Folger at Susquehanna University's Degenstein Campus Center on Monday evening, September 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. Please join us!

Both events are co-sponsored by the Arlin Adams Center for Law and Society at Susquehanna University.



Dr. Joseph Folger

Joseph Folger is Professor of Adult and Organizational Development at Temple University where he teaches courses in conflict theory, third-party intervention and group process. He has worked as an executive coach in the private sector and is President and Co-founder of the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation.

Mediation Center opens 1,000th case

On March 23, 2015, the Center opened its 1000th mediation case. This milestone marks the growth and success of CSVMC and is a humbling moment in which we reflect on the people we serve. Steve Jacobsen, a founding volunteer of the center, described this momentous progress: "We opened our doors for mediations almost exactly four years ago. Enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers turned the dream of our late founder, Al Sobel, into a vital community service. Passing the milestone of having opened 1,000 cases is an affirmation of a lot of hard work and a reminder that creative solutions to com-

munity problems exist and that the solutions can be realized by groups of people with the energy and commitment to tackle them."

Steve reminds us to look at this progress as proof that one person's vision can dramatically alter a community, and plant a seed of progress for all. Steve added, "We've had a profound impact on the lives of hundreds of local children and families. All of us associated with CSVMC can be proud of our accomplishment and set our sights on continuing to provide quality services and passing the 2,000 case mark in fewer than another four years."

Center's volunteer mediators pursue advanced training



Fourteen mediators recently spent 15 weekend hours developing advanced mediation skills. Left to right: Amiee Snyder, Steve Jacobsen, Danielle D'Alessandro, Amy Gronlund, Susan Jordan, Cindy Peltier, Renee Sosland, Stacy Hinck, Sharon Silberman, Jim O'Connell, Mary Zimmerman, Neal Bulger, Joanne Moyer; Tom Travis (not pictured). The center's volunteer mediators regularly participate in continuing training to sharpen skills and learn to handle difficult challenges in mediation.



Thank you!

So far this year, CSVMC's dedicated volunteers have given more than 900 hours to our conflict mediation work in the Susquehanna Valley. The center celebrated its volunteers in May at the home of our board president, Elayne Sobel.

Mediator Profile:

Neal Bulger

Neal Bulger trained as a volunteer mediator at CSVMC in 2014 and recently joined our board of directors. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Neal earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina and served four years in the U.S. Air Force during the 1960s. He moved back to Pennsylvania four years ago and serves as the general manager of Sporoco, Inc.



Neal Bulger

Neal was initially drawn to the mediation center by an article in *The Daily Item*. He was interested in mediation because of the opportunity it offered to help others in the community, while also using some of the skills developed during his management career. Neal says, "I have gained a new and valued perspective in dealing with conflict that I have been able to utilize in my current professional environment. But, I have to say the most valued part of my involvement with the Center is the people I have met and have had the pleasure of working with along the way. What a great group!"

Neal and his wife of 41 years, Gloria, live in Kreamer and have a son, David, who serves as an Army helicopter pilot stationed near Seattle, WA. Neal and Gloria enjoy travelling and playing golf.

Kids First

Program helps parents help kids

In January, the center launched Kids First, a program designed for parents or caregivers going through separation or divorce to help children through the transition by understanding the child's perspective. Based on the work of Chet Muklewicz, Ed.D, the program offers forty years of research done in the area, as well as tips and tools for parents to use to help their children cope through the conflict. Volunteer teachers Benita Kolmen-Solomon, Sharon Silberman, and Amy Gronlund have worked to bring Chet's program to our local community.

As of July 2015, more than 300 people have been referred to the program by Snyder, Union, and Northumberland counties. Party evaluations reflect that most participants learn what helps children and what behaviors and practices should be avoided because they hurt children. Participants report that the program helps them better understand their child's point of view and become clearer about the situation they face. These results reaffirm the faith that the center has in the value of the program and the positive difference it can make. The program supports custody mediation by offering parents additional tools to navigate their conflict.

Moving forward, CSVMC plans to collaborate with other community agencies to bring Kids First to their clientele. In August, teachers will present the program to teen parents from the region who participate in the Project Elect program.

Good-byes: This summer, we say good-bye and thank you to one of our founders and dedicated volunteers, Marie Grossman, who moved to Maryland in June. We will miss her! Also, our excellent AmeriCorps volunteer, Danielle D'Alessandro, is leaving us in August. We have appreciated her work immensely and wish her the best of luck with all her future endeavors!

You should know... Central Susquehanna Valley Mediation Center, Inc. is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation is fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Wish List

We are so grateful to those who provided items from our winter wish list! We received donations from the Selinsgrove Moose Lodge, the Community Zone and Knowlysis, LLC.

We are currently in need of :

- ★ a round 5' table for our mediation room
- ★ a DVD player for our Kids First program

Can you help? Please contact Susan Jordan at 570-837-9563 or susanjordan@csvmediation.org.