



**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. – 2:00 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 our program coordinator
Susan Jordan
at 570-374-1718
or email Susan at
casecoordinator@
csvmediation.org

General email inquiries:

info@csvmediation.org

Visit us online:

www.csvmediation.org

Board of Directors:

Elayne Sobel, *President*
elaynesobel@csvmediation.org

Jerry Spegman, *Vice President*
jerry@spegmanconsulting.com

Barbara Skrivaneck, *Secretary*
bskrivaneck@verizon.net

Marie Grossman
mariegrossman@csvmediation.org

Karen Nicholson
karenann@ptd.net

Bob Shabanowitz
rshabano@gmail.com

Tee up to support CSVMC

Have fun while supporting the center – and encourage your friends to join us! The 2nd annual Allan D. Sobel Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Monday, August 11, 2014 at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club. Sponsored by *The Daily Item*, W&L Subaru and private donors, the event will benefit the Mediation Center and support our ongoing conflict mediation work as well as expansion of services. Golfers can register for a fun day of golf and friendly competition on this beautiful course as a twosome or a foursome. Lunch will be served



at 11:30 and the tournament starts at 12:30.

Not a golfer? You can still help by sponsoring a hole! Call the mediation center at 570-374-1718 for more details.



From left to right, mediators Stan Frankel, Marie Grossman, Dot Berting, Stacy Hinck, Sharon Silberman, Thomasina Yuille, Judge Michael Sholley, and mediators Jen Clarke, Gary Campbell, Barb Skrivaneck, Bob Shabanowitz, Joe Moore, Elayne Sobel, Joanne Moyer, and program coordinator Susan Jordan.

Mediators advance skills in special training

On May 3-4, 14 center mediators participated in 15 hours of advanced mediator training with Winnie Backlund from the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation.

Mediators enjoyed spending the weekend together and found the training and extensive role plays to be very helpful in expanding and deepening

their mediation skills. Additionally, taking part in advanced training affords volunteer mediators the opportunity to pursue certification through the Institute.

District 17 Judge Michael Sholley stopped by to thank mediators for their service and answer questions about our court-ordered custody work.

Coming in October: Training for new mediators

The dates are set for our upcoming 2014 Basic Mediation Training for new volunteers! This intensive 40-hour training will be held on consecutive weekends, Oct. 17-19 and 24-26. Training is held Friday evenings (5:00-9:00) and Saturdays and Sundays (9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.). Trainees attend all sessions.

Winnie Backlund from the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation will be returning to facilitate, assisted by CSVMC's program coordi-

nator Susan Jordan.

Willing, dedicated individuals interested in developing their skills as communicators and conflict mediators are invited to apply. The training is free to those willing to commit to becoming a volunteer mediator for the center. Others can take the training for a fee. Contact Susan Jordan at CSVMC for an application at 570-374-1718 or susanjordan@csvmediation.org.

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.



Winnie Backlund (left), a fellow at the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, conducted advanced training for center mediators –including board president Elayne Sobel, at right – in May. Ms. Backlund will return to the Valley in October to train new volunteer mediators at the center.

Center's case sources begin to diversify

Center efforts to expand services beyond our court custody mediations are bearing fruit! We have begun receiving referrals from Union/Snyder Agency on Aging, our local housing authorities and our local Children and Youth Services.

And this year, more and more people are referring *themselves* to mediation. In the first six months of 2013, four out of 110 cases were self-referred. In the first six months of this year, 18 out of 123 cases were self-referred – a 350% increase! Some of these self-referrals come from people who have used our services in the past and found mediation helpful. Others are coming to us for the first time. However people find us, we are happy to be able to provide this service to the members of our community.

Guiding Principles of Practice for Transformative Mediators



- ◆ Be comfortable with conflict, including strong emotion and the negative pattern of interaction between parties.
- ◆ Respect the parties, even if their actions, appearance, language and attitudes seem completely different from those of the mediator.
- ◆ Respect party choices, including choices about participation in mediation, even if they are choices the mediator would not personally make in a similar situation.
- ◆ Be comfortable with a limited understanding of the parties' conflict.
- ◆ Be patient with the parties and the process of their interaction.
- ◆ Focus on the moment-by-moment events in the parties' interaction.
- ◆ Attend to empowerment and recognition opportunities.
- ◆ Choose interventions based upon opportunities for party empowerment and/or recognition.
- ◆ Relinquish problem solving and control of the process.

Mediator Profile:

Cynthia Peltier

When Al Sobel needed help launching the mediation center in the summer of 2010, one of his first calls was to Cindy Peltier, who had proven her passion for the cause as a volunteer mediator at the Neysa Adams Clinic at Susquehanna University.

And in the first three years since CSVMC's founding, in addition to her work as a volunteer mediator, Cindy served as board vice president and was instrumental in fundraising and community outreach on behalf of CSVMC.

Cindy's intense belief in mediation is reflected when she says, "I cannot tell you how many times I have heard at the beginning of a session 'there is no way the other person will listen,' and seeing how two people who could not not look at each other at the beginning fully embrace at the end."

Cindy also volunteers at CARE, where she has been a longtime board member, and is one of the founders of Community Zone in Lewisburg. She retired from Bucknell University in 2012, where she was the operations manager of the Samek Art Gallery. Cindy resides in Lewisburg with her wife, Rosalyn Richards.



Cynthia Peltier

CSVMC by the numbers
800!

In June, we opened our 800th case since we began operations in 2011! We are proud to have come so far in such a short time. This number represents the work of dozens of dedicated volunteers and hundreds of hours of their time. We are grateful for the commitment of our volunteers - past, present and future! The center currently enjoys the support of 20 active, trained mediators.