



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 case 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:

Marie Grossman, *President*
mariegrossman@csvmediation.org

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

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chante03@verizon.net

Mediation Center welcomes new volunteers



In September, 2013, CSVMC added five volunteer mediators to its roster after they completed 40 hours of training with Winnie Backlund, a fellow at the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation. From left: Gary Campbell, Conor Griffin, mediator Thomasina Yuille, Benita Kolmen-Solomon, trainer Winnie Backlund, Jim O'Connell and Vincent Stoops.

Susan Jordan joins CSVMC as case coordinator



Susan Jordan

After one year as a volunteer mediator at CSVMC, Susan Jordan has been hired by the board of directors to work as the center's case coordinator. In her new position, Susan administers our office and programs, interviews mediation participants, schedules mediations and serves as the center's liaison with local courts.

Susan brings a passion for conflict resolution to her work, as she looks forward to helping the center grow and expand its services in the community.

She resides in Lewisburg with her husband, Steve, and their three children. Susan volunteers with the Boys Scouts of America, the Lewisburg Area Music Association, the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail, the Local Soup Kitchen and her church's missions/community outreach team.

At CSVMC, Susan replaces Erika Bozyk, who left the center to return to nursing school.

To learn more about mediation services or volunteer opportunities, call Susan at 570-374-1718.

Who we are, what we do and why it matters

The Central Susquehanna Valley Mediation Center (CSVMC) provides mediation services to residents of the Central Susquehanna Valley, using trained volunteer area residents as mediators. Most of the Center's work involves child custody disputes, referred by the local courts. By helping parents deal constructively with their differences, center volunteers help families – and, by extension, children – through difficult transitions.

Center mediators also help parties with conflicts involving eldercare, parents and teens,

neighbor disputes, landlord-tenant relations, among others. Mediation often empowers parties to communicate more effectively and creates an opportunity for an amicable resolution of disputes.

In using mediation, parties can learn to work together despite conflict, avoid costly adversarial litigation, and reduce the burden on local courts. It also provides an exceptional opportunity for community members to perform truly important volunteer work in service to their neighbors and hometowns.

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.



Allan D. Sobel

Golf tournament raises funds for mediation center in honor of center founder Allan Sobel

The inaugural Allan D. Sobel Memorial Golf Tournament on September 16 raised more than \$5,000 to support mediation services at CSVMC. Organized by Ned Host, the tournament enjoyed the support of many community businesses, including lead sponsors *The Daily*

Item and W & L Subaru.

The event was held in honor of Al Sobel, who, during the summer of 2010, organized the original group of volunteers who launched the center. Though Sobel died in November 2010, the groundwork he laid helped lead us to opening

for services in late April 2011.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!

Mark your calendar for next year's tournament, which is scheduled for Monday, August 11, 2014 at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club.

Our guiding principles about people and their capabilities:

1. A person's reality is unique to that person and based on his/her life experiences.
2. People have inherent needs for both advancement of self and connection with others.
3. People are capable of making decisions for themselves.
4. People are capable of looking beyond themselves.
5. People are motivated by (sometimes competing) desires to be strong and independent and to be in relationship with others.

Mediator Profile:

Sharon Silberman

After many years as a social services professional, Sharon Silberman joined the CSVMC as a volunteer mediator in 2012.

She has spent much of her career as a psychologist, and currently works on the Pennsylvania Sexual Offenders Assessment Board and supervises mobile therapists for Laurel Creek Counseling.

Sharon has been interested in mediation for many years and took the training at the center in 2012. "I'm finding mediation extremely rewarding. The people that come into the center seem to feel they've gotten a lot out of it. I worked doing psych evaluations for custody cases and it is an extremely stressful time. It's very gratifying to see people communicate better."

In her spare time, Sharon is an avid reader, takes piano lessons, is a Reiki master and volunteers for Evangelical Community Hospital.

Sharon and her husband, Matthew, a retired Bucknell sociology professor live in Lewisburg and have two grown children. Sharon is originally from Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Like Sharon, all CSVMC mediators are trained volunteers.



Sharon Silberman



The center's office is in the Snyder County East building in Selinsgrove.

CSVMC by the numbers

In **2011**, the CSVMC began offering mediation services to the community.

34 volunteer mediators serve at the CSVMC.

546 individuals were referred to mediation in 249 cases by the Union and Snyder County Courts in 2012.

55% of parties who mediated came to an agreement in mediation and avoided going to court about their dispute in 2012.

82% of parties felt mediation helped them communicate better with the other person.

81% of parties felt mediation would help them in future communication with others.

89% of parties felt mediation helped them understand the next steps they need to take.

74% of parties felt mediation helped them understand the other person's point of view.

71% of parties felt mediation helped the other person understand their point of view.