



## Member Newsletter January-March 2019

Greetings! A new year is upon us, and this first IAM newsletter is submitted for your entertainment and information. Let's hope that with everything happening in the world today, we can find a little goodness and shine it out as much possible. It really is our choice: to be as happy as we want, to be the change we wish to see... many things are within our control, at least those that rely upon our attitudes. Ideally, as the members of the Iowa Association of Mediators, we can be the best example of this through the work we do every day.

Here's to wishing us all the very best of years.

- Your editor, David Reedy.

### EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The executive team met in Grinnell on December 14, 2018 to discuss a variety of issues. We are steadily moving forward with an Eastern Iowa event intended to engage and reinvigorate mediators, details of which are included in this newsletter.

We briefly discussed the committee recommendations to change Chapter 15 in relation to family mediation. Some executives expressed an opinion that very little would likely affect the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> districts, but we must wait to see what the future holds.

Mike Thompson was appointed acting Treasurer. Congratulations and thank you, Mike!

Ideas were tossed around about adding some "meat" to the IAM certification. Besides appointing Mike Thompson as treasurer and creating the upcoming event on March 1<sup>st</sup> (details below), all other motions and ideas were tabled until we've had a chance to hear from you. In the meantime, consider the following questions:

- What do you think about changes to IAM's certification program?
- What do you think about the possibility of state licensure?
- What should members do to get more involved with IAM?
- What should IAM do to get more involved with mediation across the state?
- What do you think about working with other organizations like AAAA, INADR, Collaborative Lawyers of Eastern Iowa, Ends of Mediation, PC of EI, PC of Central Iowa, Mediation Services of Eastern Iowa, etc?
- What do you think about the merger of some of the above organizations?
- What do you think about the suggestion to drop the phrase "ADR/*alternate dispute resolution*" and simply adopt "*dispute resolution*" and "*conflict resolution*," thereby eliminating the notion that mediation is an *alternative* approach?

## TRAININGS & EVENTS



### Winter Respite & Advanced Mediation Training – March 1, 2019

IAM is hosting an informative session and training at the Tin Roost Restaurant in North Liberty on March 1st. The morning offers a great opportunity to join in on the dialogue about mediation in the state of Iowa and where you'd like to see it go. We'll then break for lunch at the Tin Roost, where they serve "homegrown American food with a southern twist." In the afternoon, David Goldman and Mike Thompson will present a training they have created which focuses on overcoming impasse. More details and registration here: <http://bit.ly/2G0imhP>.

### Heartland Conference – May 2-3, 2019

The Biennial Heartland Conference will feature Katherine Miller from The Center for Understanding in Conflict. Ms. Miller's presentation is "Facilitating Conversations of Consequence – Advanced Mediation & Conflict Training" and will include two hours of ethics.



Date: May 2-3, 2019  
Times: Thursday 1-5pm  
Friday 8:30am – 4pm  
Location: Mid-America Center  
Council Bluffs, Iowa

*Biography:* Katherine Eisold Miller is an attorney practicing mediation and collaborative practice in Westchester County, NY. She has been practicing family law since 1987, first as a litigator and now exclusively outside the court system. She has taught family law at the White Institute and NYU, as well as with The Center for Understanding in Conflict (<http://understandinginconflict.org>), and lectures regularly on mediation and collaborative practice. She is a board member of the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals. The impact of Katherine's trainings brings accolades like:

*"The program teaches more than just new skills..."*

*"This program has forever changed me as an individual...and will forever change the way I manage conflict, personally, and professionally."*

*Event Venue & Lodging:* The conference will be held at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs. The Mid-America Center is a wonderful facility and centrally placed in case participants would like to visit Old Town in Omaha, drive five minutes to downtown Omaha, or visit other sites.



Two hotels have offered special room rates for conference participants. Please visit the event page on the IAM website for direct links: <http://bit.ly/2GiJybE>.

## MEDIATION JOKES

How many mediators does it take to change a lightbulb? Well, let's unpack that, shall we? First, let's be clear that it isn't the mediator's function to change the lightbulb. The mediator will explore with the lightbulb how it feels about the on and off nature of its job, its unhappiness at always having to work nights, and its relationships with the other parties.

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An old man and woman were married for years, even though they hated each other. When they had a confrontation, screaming and yelling could be heard deep into the night. The old man would shout, "When I die, I will dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life!" Neighbors feared him. They believed he practiced black magic because of the many strange occurrences that took place in their neighborhood. The old man liked the fact he was feared. To everyone's relief, he died of a heart attack when he was 68. His wife had a closed casket at the wake. After the burial, she went straight to the local bar and began to party as if there was no tomorrow. Her neighbors, concerned for her safety, asked, "Aren't you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life?" The wife put down her drink and said, "Let the old creep dig. I had him buried upside down."

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**Jury:** Twelve men and women trying to decide which party has the best lawyer.

**Justice:** A decision in your favor.

## REMINDER OF DUES



**Your IAM annual association fees were due in January.** These fees help cover training opportunities like the upcoming Winter Respite event, the upcoming Heartland Conference, past guest speakers like Larry Dressler, and upcoming plans for more advocacy. As such, we appreciate your membership and look forward to an exciting year. You may pay your annual dues through the website here: <http://bit.ly/2AnJcMP>.

## SEND IN YOUR SUBMISSIONS

As always, if you want to advertise your training event, inform members about happenings in the courts or the statehouse, report something to your fellow mediators or raise a question or issue, please do so! Email David at [david-reedy@hotmail.com](mailto:david-reedy@hotmail.com).