



Member Newsletter March-May 2019

Greetings and salutations! (We might be old if we get that reference but at least we can still laugh, right?) Hopefully, sometime soon after production of this newsletter, we'll actually begin to see a semblance of spring weather! Now, onto the news... including some updates on previously mentioned events, new events to share, and an editorial.

- Your editor, David Reedy.

A BRIEF RECAP

A Great Event We Forgot to Share

One shortcoming about being the sole researcher and writer of this newsletter is that I have no one reminding me when I've missed something. We do have a great editor, webmaster and media specialist, Billie Jo, but unfortunately, she also lacks the psychic ability to know when I've overlooked something! The event I forgot to share with all of you was *Mediation in the Wild: New Options, New Practices*, hosted at the end of November by MSEI. My sincere apologies to Annie Tucker and others at MSEI, but I would like to include a short summary of the event here.

About 30 or so mediators, activists, educators, and concerned citizens showed up and had a great time at the Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery in Swisher, Iowa. The topics of interest ranged from utilizing circles in conflict resolution and restorative settings, strong presentations and advocacy of restorative justice, an enlightening

presentation on fair and affordable housing, and a demonstration of how a variety of different conflict resolution officials approach the same conflict, and more. It's impossible to replicate all the details in this summary, of course, but it was a great event with a lot of takeaways regarding using circles, basic mediation strategies, methods and problems of "silo-ing," and an understanding about how housing and other issues determine a lot, ranging from mental focus to resources available. You can learn more about MSEI (Mediation Service of Eastern Iowa) here: www.mediateiowa.org.

Iowa Family and Divorce Mediation Program Proposed Changes

Several IAM members, including Christine Crilley, Annie Tucker, Jim Mahoney, Terry Parsons, Mark Hagist, Carroll Edmondson, and others worked hard over the past several months to gather and share information about the proposed changes and to provide a means for people to give input to the Iowa Supreme Court. At the Winter Respite Training Event in North Liberty on March 1st, Kristen Hall (IAM president) Christine Crilley (IAM executive board member) and Annie Tucker (MSEI Director) made sure all who attended were brought up to speed regarding the proposed changes. Currently, the state is deliberating, but public commentary on the proposed Chapter 15 rules has ended. If you would like a copy of the proposed rules, email david-reedy@hotmail.com or contact your local district administrator's office.

Winter Respite & Advanced Mediation Training



On March 1st, about 30 people gathered at the Tin Roost in North Liberty to discuss the future of mediation in Iowa and to receive training in dealing with impasse during mediation sessions.

First, a few acknowledgments:

Kristen Hall (IAM president), Scarlett Lunning (IAM Executive Secretary and Heartland Conference Committee chair), David Reedy (IAM Vice President), and a few others deserve accolades for putting together the training. Special thanks also go out to Christine Crilley, Annie Tucker and other members who helped spread the word about the well-attended event. Thanks also to David Goldman and Mike Thompson, the IAM executives who delivered a great presentation with methods of dealing with impasse. The feedback tells us that attendees loved the training and want more! IAM executives are working on bring more of the trainings you want and need.

The morning session was devoted to discussing the future of mediation in Iowa. A fair analysis of the discussion and feedback is that event attendees appear to have an understanding of the challenges facing mediators. However, there is a decent amount of work that's needed to develop ideas and consensus on how to address the issues mediators currently face in Iowa. IAM has a wealth of knowledge among its members, so members likely have the answers, but may be hesitant to get involved

or have insecurity regarding their ideas, which could be holding the group back from its individual and collective potential. As you'll read in the Upcoming Trainings & Events section, we will be hosting monthly IAM member Zoom meetings and invite you to join the call to learn, discuss and share any ideas you may have.

There were a few other off-shoots from the event, as well. Dialogue was sparked and has continued about creating mediation centers in Iowa to provide safe places for clients and practitioners to utilize for mediation. Someone mentioned wanting to advocate for more Restorative Justice practices in Iowa, and we intend to follow up with them. One group began discussing co-mediation. We will also institute a new monthly member meeting via Zoom. More information about these monthly meetings is included in the trainings and events section below.

UPCOMING TRAININGS & EVENTS

Monthly IAM Members Meeting

With mediators spread out across the state, it can be challenging to stay connected. Starting on **Friday, April 26th**, IAM members will be invited to join a monthly phone meeting via Zoom. These will be one hour long, scheduled over the lunch hour on the last Friday of the month and will cover a new topic each month. Kristen Hall, IAM president, will send out an invitation prior to each meeting with the link to join the call.

All past or current members will be invited to join this first meeting and then current IAM members will be invited going forward. We hope you will renew your membership and join in the conversation with us. You can renew your membership here: [JOIN/RENEW](#).

40-hour Family Law Mediator Training, April 8-12. This training is for those who want to mediate in family law disputes, court ordered roster mediation programs, in the workplace, and facilitate in other areas of dispute resolution. The training will form a foundation for your mediation practice and provide a comprehensive background in dispute resolution, enabling you to develop your own style and area of mediation. It will also help you develop a plan to set up a mediation practice or to use the knowledge gained to become more effective with people you encounter or facilitate dispute resolution. We also do a lot of role playing, so you get a chance to practice mediation.

For information or to download registration forms, call Christine Crilley at (319) 363-5606, email cmm@crilleylaw.com, or visit www.CrilleyMediation.com.

Restorative Justice Panel – Wednesday April 17th, 6pm. Held in the Schwab Auditorium of the Coralville Public Library, a panel will discuss Restorative Justice. The panel will include several teachers and administrators from the Iowa City Community School District, who are already successfully implementing Restorative Justice methods. You are encouraged to go check it out. For more information, contact Annie Tucker at admin@mediateiowa.com or visit www.mediateiowa.org.

16-Hour Parenting Coordination Training – May 2-3. Christine Crilley will present a comprehensive training that will form a foundation for your parenting coordination practice. Parenting coordination is an alternative dispute resolution process that is non-confidential and child-centered, whereby the parenting coordinator works with parents (usually high conflict) toward a healthier co-parenting relationship, dispute resolution and decision making (sometimes by contract or Court

Order the parenting coordinator makes the decision when the parents are unwilling or unable to do so).

This specialty training is in topics relating to parenting coordination including the parenting coordination process, guidelines for the practice, family dynamics, domestic violence, best interest of the children, dealing with high conflict parents, parenting skills, problem solving techniques, dealing with conflict and much more. And yes, we do a lot of role playing so you get a chance to practice parenting coordination.

For information or to download registration forms, call Christine Crilley at (319) 363-5606, email cmm@crilleylaw.com, or visit www.CrilleyMediation.com.

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>.

EDITORIAL

Well folks. That's about all I have for you in this issue. I'm always on the lookout for additional submissions, articles, ideas, questions, concerns, trainings or events you are hosting or attending, and the initiation of dialogue. Please consider coming forward to get involved with IAM and specifically with this newsletter (both or either). The current executive team, including me, will eventually turn over, and we're looking for means to get other voices on these pages.

In order to keep the newsletter fresh for readership and also keep it manageable and sustainable, I'd like to see a group or committee of 3-4 members dedicated to keeping our membership informed. It's not too hard – and even enjoyable. Plus, with our media person, Billie Jo, behind the scenes working to make these newsletters look nice, the only thing you must do is assemble the facts and put them together in, hopefully, coherent, sentences that she can edit and polish.

My editorial comment this issue is about the uniquely divisive world we're currently living in and our role as mediators in this climate. The world is changing fast. The world is also becoming so divided as it speedily hums along. If I mention President Trump, you've already had an emotional response and are likely headed into one of two camps. If I mention Pro-Vax and Anti-Vax, again you've probably had a strong response and have gone into one of two camps. If I mention abortion – wham-o! – one of two camps. *Liberal* and *Conservative* likely bring up emotionally charged connotations related to your personal echo chamber about who are this country's true heroes and villains.

Of course, as we all know, the truth is generally much more complicated than a black or white, Democrat or Republican, Coke or Pepsi kind of diametric. There are infinitely more than two ways of looking at everything, but we often get stuck in this false dichotomy ourselves. Yet, as mediators, we are tasked with helping others who are stuck in their own dichotomies. I'm not lecturing here – just pointing out how we need to remind ourselves to question our beliefs, our attitudes, our roles, and what we want the role of our organization to be, as well. As mediators, we can have a unique position in this very divisive world we currently live in.

While we're smart enough to not be dragged down by the taboo subjects of politics, religion, or sex, we do have a responsibility as conflict resolution experts to be able to listen to other points of view and to consider how we might play a role in bridging the great divides growing in our country and world. In spite of this chaos, can you, as a mediator, truly *live* mediation in your own mind and in your own actions? And can we, as a mediation organization, exemplify this same ideal – this *living mediation*?

IAM NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

As mentioned above in the editorial, we are recruiting members who are interested in helping with the newsletter. Your role can be as limited or extensive as you like. More collaborative minds will help keep this newsletter fresh, sustainable, and the most informative. Please connect with me if you have an interest in being part of a newsletter committee.

David Reedy, IAM Vice President
David-Reedy@hotmail.com
319.558.8985

REMINDER OF DUES



Your IAM annual association fees were due in January. These fees help cover training opportunities like 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>.