

**WELCOME!** Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of an IAM newsletter to come out in a very long time. More will follow, but it will require more volunteers and memberships submissions to come out in a timely manner in order to have the information you need. This newsletter, like IAM itself, has near infinite potential but depends largely on what you are willing to contribute to it.

This edition has been written by your new Vice President, David Reedy, with contributions and assistance by other executive members.

If you wish to be a part of the newsletter or to send contributions, stories, questions, etc., then send your emails to [David-Reedy@Hotmail.com](mailto:David-Reedy@Hotmail.com).

**NEW OFFICERS** As of May 11, 2018, the following members were elected or appointed to the following executive positions:

- President – Kristen Hall
- Vice President – David Reedy
- Secretary – Scarlett Lunning
- At-Large Members – David Goldman, Mike Thompson, and Christine Crilley.

The position of Treasurer and additional At-Large Members are still open, as are key committee memberships.

Recent leaders of the organization, Laurie Stewart and Dan Bechtol have gone onto greener pastures in the forms of business opportunities outside of the state. We thank them both for their service. Dan continues to assist with the Heartland Conference and in an advisory capacity to new officers and committee members.

**STANDING IN THE FIRE** On May 11<sup>th</sup>, several IAM members came together at the stylish and historical River Center in Des Moines to hear Larry Dressler give a fantastic presentation on methods and techniques for persons to use in mediation and facilitation in high-heat situations. The techniques and methods were not how-to's in terms of directing the conversation or affecting others, rather, his methods were about keeping calm, collected, and present in high-heat situations. His presentation was based on his book by the same title, *Standing in the Fire*. Following this CEU event, elections and appointments for new officers were made and a discussion regarding the focus of the organization took place while the attending members enjoyed each other's company and great food.

**PARENT COORDINATION** On April 16-17, 2018, Crilley Mediation Services conducted a two-day 16-hour training in Parent Coordination for a small group of attorneys, mediators, and business evaluators. That same day, Parenting Coordinators of Eastern Iowa was born. More information about this organization can be found at [www.pcofei.org](http://www.pcofei.org).

#### **UPCOMING TRAINING & EVENTS**

If you know of additional events, trainings and opportunities, be sure to submit them. They will also be listed on the IAM website.

#### **Cedar Rapids area trainings:**

Crilley Mediation Services will be presenting the following seminars this FALL 2018 for Mediators, Collaborative Professionals, Attorneys, CPAs, Financial Planners, Therapists, Child Advocates, Parenting Coordinators, Human Resources, Social Workers:

- 16-Hour Parenting Coordinator Training – **Sept 6-7, 2018**

- 40-Hour Family Law Mediator Training – **September 17-21, 2018**
- Coaching Emotional Positivity During Mediation & Dispute Resolution – **September 28, 2018**

For more information or to download registration forms for any of these trainings, visit their website [www.CrilleyMediation.com](http://www.CrilleyMediation.com), call 319-363-5606 or email: [cmm@crilleylaw.com](mailto:cmm@crilleylaw.com).

### **Des Moines area trainings:**

Iowa Mediation Services offers the following trainings:

- Advanced Mediation Skills Training one-day course to provide advanced mediation skills to experienced mediators -**August 28, 2018**
- Introductory Mediation Training 32-hour course on mediation, role of mediator and negotiation. Duration of training can be increased for additional fees. – **October 15-17, 2018**

For more information visit [www.iowamediationservice.com](http://www.iowamediationservice.com), call 515-331-8081 or email [kathy@iowamediationservice.com](mailto:kathy@iowamediationservice.com) .

### **HEARTLAND CONFERENCE**

Every three years, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas mediators come together for a regional mediation conference, offering fresh ideas and opportunities about what's happening in the other states. 2019 is Iowa's year to host, and the Regional Mediation Conference Committee is excited to share its plans:

**Date:** May 2 & 3, 2019

**Times:** Thursday from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa

The past two Iowa-hosted regionals have been held in central Iowa. The committee decided it was time to offer the western side of the state a chance to host and encourage more participation from other states, especially Nebraska. 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.

**Speaker:** Attorney, Katherine E. Miller, from the Center for Understanding in Conflict will be presenting on “**Facilitating Conversations of Consequence – Advanced Mediation & Conflict Training.**” 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.”*

This is a conference you will not want to miss, so SAVE THE DATE! (Submitted by the Regional Mediation Conference Committee. Questions, and opportunities to get involved can be addressed to Scarlett Lunning: 515-314-8141 [Scarlett@lunningcoaching.com](mailto:Scarlett@lunningcoaching.com) )

### **LOCAL MEDIATION CHANGES & ADR NEWS**

**-1<sup>st</sup> District** Recently, changes in the roster mediation program have been made. Parties now have 150 days, instead of 120 days to comply with mediation, and the orders now include the phrase “Following the conclusion of any mediation, the mediator will return the unused portion of any prepaid mediation fee.” 1st District roster mediators should have received an email with details.

**-6<sup>th</sup> District** Mediators have been asked to strongly emphasize the evaluation/survey and to set the expectation of filling out the survey at the start. Walk consumers through the process on their phones at [mediateiowa.org](http://mediateiowa.org) or provide them with paper surveys and an SASE addressed to MSEI, 509 Kirkwood Ave. Iowa City, IA 52240.

**-6<sup>th</sup> District** An email Sent on 7/11/2018 from Rachel McCrate, President of the Board of Directors of Mediation Services of Eastern Iowa, provided the following information in a letter sent to roster members concerning a new opportunity for attorneys in the 6<sup>th</sup> District. “All attorneys who are on the roster will now have the option to be listed on our website as an attorney willing to provide Mediation Prep Sessions.” “A Mediation Prep Session is intended to be a meeting between an attorney and a future mediation participant to allow the participant to receive legal advice about the mediation process and issues they will be addressing at mediation. Presumably, the attorney would be able to produce child support guidelines, give advice on the division of assets and debts, child custody/care, spousal support, etc. and provide any additional services needed to prepare the client for mediation.” “If you are interested in having your name included on the list of attorneys willing to provide Mediation Prep Sessions, please fill out the enclosed form and return it by email to Annie Tucker at [admin@mediateiowa.org](mailto:admin@mediateiowa.org) within 15 days of the date of this letter. Please contact Annie if you have any questions about the logistics of having your name added to the list. For any questions about the Mediation Prep Sessions process, please feel free to contact me.” (Rachel McCrate can be reached: [rmccrate@gsmlawyers.com](mailto:rmccrate@gsmlawyers.com) or at 319-364-1535. )

**Regional** The SBA Office of Advocacy is holding round tables across the nation, July

17<sup>th</sup> through July 19<sup>th</sup> in Iowa, for small business in order to hear from small business owners concerning federal regulations and how they affect them. For more information on the office of Advocacy, its efforts, and these round tables: <https://www.sba.gov/advocacy/regulatory-reform>

**-National** Dated July 10<sup>th</sup>, WASHINGTON, DC — Today, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) announced it is launching a new pilot program to enhance the use of its Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program. The new pilot program will increase participation opportunities for parties in the ADR program and help to facilitate mutually-satisfactory settlements. <https://www.nlr.gov/news-outreach/news-story/nlr-launches-pilot-proactive-alternative-dispute-resolution-program>

If you know of more local changes or news, or wish to add to or correct what is here, email [David-Reedy@Hotmail.com](mailto:David-Reedy@Hotmail.com) .

## JOKES

*A very contentious* and emotional mediation is coming to a successful resolution and the mediator thinks the time is ripe for an apology. She gently raises this possibility to both the parties. The parties look at each other; nod to each other and looking crestfallen say. “We’re very sorry you had to mediate for us.”

*This big record producer* rang a mediator and said “Can you help me I need someone to come straight away because U2 are in the middle of recording their next album and they cannot agree on anything! The only thing they can agree on is that they would use a mediator; but no-one is willing to pay. Could you do it pro-bono?”. “I’m sorry”

replied the mediator “I couldn’t possible take a case so one-sided!”

*After a long session*, two parties in mediation are inching closer to a financial settlement having started miles apart. They are now arguing about the last \$50 dollars that separates them. In a final attempt to get an agreement the mediator pulls out his wallet and says “I think you’re doing really well but I can’t believe you would let all your hard work go to waste over fifty dollars. If it’ll make a difference I’ll put in the last fifty dollars.” “What!” says one of the parties, “If you’re going to be a part of this agreement you’re going to need to put in way more than fifty bucks!”

*(The preceding jokes are written by and used with permission by John Kenyon and are found on <https://www.mediate.com/articles/kenyonJ1.cfm#> )*

**YOUR AD HERE** For the foreseeable future, and for inclusivity, you can send any announcement you want to the editor for free and it will be printed ASAP—most likely quarterly. It may become a bit much to do a newsletter as one person and such donations or a flat fee may be requested. Perhaps, this could become an additional source of revenue for your Iowa Association of Mediators.

**GOALS & INITIATIVES** Over the past year the executives and various volunteers have met and discussed new visions, mission statements, and directions for the organization. The reality is, though, that this is your organization and thus needs your input, your time, your voice, your participation, and your votes to determine where it will go. Some ideas have been discussed and some initiatives are being taken but you are invited and are needed to come along for the ride. Issues and ideas so far:

**1. Spring/Summer Events** What are your ideas for next year’s spring conference or Summer Chautauqua?

**2. Heartland Conference** We have a great team working on this and we will keep you well-informed as it is shaped into the event it is going to be. Plan to be there and represent Iowa.

**3. IAM Governance** There are a couple of open positions in the Executive Board, and in our committees. There is even more possibility if you want to get involved and spearhead a special project, training, legislation, etc.

**4. Membership Growth** Following this newsletter is a survey. The executives want to know what works for you and what doesn’t and what it will take to make IAM your personally-owned, committed-to, service-providing, need-fulfilling, CEU-providing, fun organization. Some ideas have also been presented such as creating new kinds of membership for retired/emeritus-folks and possibly for volunteer mediators.

**5. Boosting Mediation and ADR in the State** This editor has a personal interest in seeing mediation more widely utilized in Eastern Iowa. Perhaps, we could research and problem-solve the lack of mediation in the entire 1<sup>st</sup> district. Perhaps, we could encourage the 7<sup>th</sup> district to adopt more than the pre-trial conference they utilize—and that’s just referring to Family and Divorce programs. We should be looking at all opportunities to utilize our craft, and frankly be the experts in it, become better at it, and provide the services all throughout the state. Why couldn’t IAM have contracts with all levels of government across the state? Could we not also work with other ADR/ACR organizations within and around the state?

The revival and energization of our Legislative Committee would and should be doing just that. As an organization we should be boosting the ability and knowledge-base of all our members while also boosting opportunities to earn a living for all of our members.

### 6. Working with Other Organizations

There are several organizations across this state, whose interests are in collaboration, ADR, ACR, mediation, cooperation, etc. A multitude of organizations training together, putting out advertisements and publications, and forming alliances to jointly persuade our governing officials would be much more effective than just one. We could and should be the organization at the center of promoting Mediation and all forms of ACR and ADR across the state.

**7. Training and Compensating** There is a lot that could be done to provide benefit for everyone in the organization and that is to be on top of not only educating you as to what trainings are available on the state, but to take the initiative and to work with those trainers and other organizations to provide mutually beneficial training opportunities across the state. What if a person wanting either or both practical training and required continuing education could get the very best our state has to offer at a great rate, and our trainers could benefit from a good compensation and marketing of their training?

**8. Your Initiative Here** Some of the aforementioned initiatives are being acted on by your executive committee, some are being discussed, some are straight out of the IAM bylaws, and some are ideas being thrown-out by your editor/Vice President. What do you want? This is your organization. As noted in the following

section, please take the time to complete the survey and let us know.

**SURVEY** We are requesting your feedback through an online survey and sincerely hope you'll take the time to complete it. You can access it several convenient ways:

- A direct link in the email you received with this newsletter
- From this direct link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K5B8CV2>
- We will follow up with a second notice email about the survey.
- It is also attached as a PDF to your original email. You may print and return it to the editor at [David-Reedy@hotmail.com](mailto:David-Reedy@hotmail.com) or P.O. Box 160, Fairfax, Iowa 52228.

**NEXT ISSUE** There will be more newsletters to follow in what it is the revival of the IAM newsletter. It will be in a few months.

- ***It will look a lot better*** as the editor will be working with someone to greatly improve the appearance and format of the newsletter.
- There will be updates or corrections as needed.
- Progress on the **Heartland Conference** will be reported to you.
- New stories such as one that reported on a link between low emotional intelligence and violent crimes, and **any trainings or events** discovered by or reported to your editor.
- When surveys are returned, answers, comments and concerns will be printed (with the submitter remaining perfectly confidential and information protected, of course).
- Of course, there will be ***more clean mediation jokes*** as well.

Please send your newsworthy information, submission ideas, questions, and concerns to your editor. This is your newsletter.

[David-Reedy@hotmail.com](mailto:David-Reedy@hotmail.com) or P.O. Box 160, Fairfax, Iowa 52228.

Your calls are welcome as well: 319-558-8985.