

Indiana Association of Mediators

Advancing the Practice of Mediation in Indiana



Welcome to our newest members - **Pete Morgan** (South Bend) & **Doug Jeschke** (McCordsville) and to returning members: **Kirsten Bouthier** (Columbus), **Ron Brodey** (Indpls.), **Joseph Bumbleburg** (Lafayette), **Rick Demkovich** (Chesterton), **John Eisele** (Anderson), **Cindy Felsten** (Columbus), **James Gothard** (Lafayette), **Mary Hoeller** (Indpls.), **Jo Hughes** (Indpls.), **Bill Kuntz** (Indpls.), **Diana Mercer** (Playa Del Rey, CA), **Doug McMillan** (Valparaiso), **Janet Mitchell** (Fort Wayne), **Richard Norris** (Indpls.), **Marvin Pavlov** (Columbus), **Richard Payne** (Indpls.), **Susan Umpleby** (Paoli), **Kim Van Valer** and **Joe Van Valer** (Greenwood), and **Rick Wacker** (Trafalgar).

Personal Notes:

Diana Mercer, IAM's CA member will be speaking at the ABA DRS Annual Conference in NYC: Marketing Plans Workshop on April 17, 2009. She's also posted a new MySpace page at <http://www.myspace.com/431968537> and invites IAM members and others to visit the page and add it to your friends list.

From Bill Kuntz, IAM Board Member: "On my Mother's passing, I would like to thank all those IAM members who sent sympathy notes, memorial contributions and appeared at either the viewing or the funeral this past month. Your thoughts and prayers were much appreciated and comforting. Special thanks to Rick Wacker for publishing and distributing the notice so quickly to the membership."

Legislative Update:

In addition to the bills listed in the February newsletter, two other bills are making their way through the legislature. **HB 1663** and **SB 492** are both designed to force lenders to meet with borrowers hoping to renegotiate their mortgage terms. The bills would give Courts the authority to order lenders into a settlement conference if the homeowner asks for a face-to-face meeting with a representative of the lender. The lender's representative is required to have the authority to modify the loan terms. Neither bill would require lenders to work out a new payment plan, but would put pressure on out-of-state lenders to have local representatives available to meet with borrowers. HB 1663 passed the House by an 88-7 vote and SB 492 passed by a 46-3 margin. Indiana Chief Justice Randy Sheppard has pushed for training sessions for judges, attorneys and mediators and the first of 30 training sessions was held in Indianapolis in late February for 100 attendees.

Promote the Use of Conflict Resolution:

FYI - an online petition to President Obama to promote the use of Conflict Resolution can be found at <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/core2009/>. It was written by Kenneth Cloke and is being circulated by Elder Decisions, a division of Agreement Resources, LLC for signatures.

Request for Newsletter Items:

Have a funny mediation story? Want to share an announcement about your practice, speaking engagement, a good book on mediation or other item of interest? Have you run into a situation you weren't sure how to handle? Your item can be distributed to the membership and insights shared! Contact Rick Wacker at rawacker@iquest.net.

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