

*GTMA Wishes it's members and everyone Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*



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**Grand Teton  
Mediation Association**  
*December, 2007 Newsletter*

**Links to web sites:**

*Grand Teton Mediation Association (GTMA)*

*Idaho Mediation Association (IMA)*

*Business mediation: <http://www.mddailyrecord.com/article.cfm?id=3370&type=UTTM>*

**Subject Matter & Links to pages in this issue:**

*FROM the Prez: Something Bigger than We Are*

*Dick Struthers UK Article*

*Suzanne McCorkle and Melanie J. Reese's Book: "Mediation Theory and Practice":*

*[recommendations@mediationworks.com](mailto:recommendations@mediationworks.com)*

**The Meeting Room:**

The GTMA luncheon will be at **Happy's Chinese Restaurant 549 Park Ave.**, Idaho Falls and please **Note Change:** It will be held at the regular time of 11:30 AM on **Monday, December 10 2007**. This months **distinguished guest speaker** at the luncheon will be the **Honorable Penny Stanford**, Judge of Bonneville County Small Claims Court.

Judge Stanford was born in Ashton, and raised in St. Anthony. Graduated college at Utah State University, and Law School at the University of Idaho in 1981. She practiced law in St. Anthony until being appointed as the Magistrate Judge for Clark County. Her practice was focused on governmental matters: she was the Fremont County Prosecuting Attorney for nearly 18 years, the St. Anthony City Attorney for about 23 years, and had also served some years as the city attorney for Ashton, Teton, Island Park and Newdale. She also served as the civil attorney for Madison County for the last 4-5 years of her practice. Additionally, she also had a civil practice that included family law, wills, probate, contracts, corporations and the like. In a small town practice as a sole proprietor, you do a little bit of everything.

**Our Thanks to Jan Baxter**

Jan Baxter delivered an interesting and informative presentation on Parent/Teen and Victim/Offender mediation practices under Family Court Services of Bonneville County. The GTMA membership and Board of Directors extend our thanks to her for taking the time to speak at our luncheon.

Incidentally, Jan has indicated a need for qualified volunteers in those programs. Those interested can contact her by email at [baxterj@ida.net](mailto:baxterj@ida.net).



*(continued on page 2)*

## *“From The Prez”*

### ***Something Bigger Than We Are***

A few short weeks ago, a number of your fellow GTMA members met to review the progress of the last year and to assess the most meaningful steps we might take in 2008. It was impressive to see the insight that emerged that day and the dedication that we have within our ranks! As we addressed the question: “Who do we serve and how?” It became clear that the role and mission of GTMA is truly, ‘Bigger Than We Are!’

It is clear, in many ways, that mediation and meaningful conflict resolution is not well understood or utilized in this area. It unfortunately remains one of our ‘best kept secrets’. Since the formation of GTMA, we have sought to meet the interests and needs of our members, those in business and the community at large from a perspective of education and service. Yet it may be that we have overlooked a vital element; experience!

As taken from our planning notes: **We should concentrate our efforts on expanding out volunteer work as a means of getting the community experience with the mediation process. With more people actually experiencing mediation, we believe that there will be more acceptance at all levels.** Those of us who have seen, and experienced the power and impact of restored communication, understand what mediation offers. Those who have not, cannot. Whatever opportunities that exist in the field of mediation, for practitioners, or clients, will only occur from an experience of mediation and conflict resolution. That’s what GTMA needs to create, to show, to provide; an experience.

With that in mind, *in addition to expanding our member training activities*, we determined to:

- 1) Explore and develop hands-on mediation opportunities to the community, on a grant-supported sliding fee schedule when necessary.
- 2) Support the efforts of others in the development of community justice services and programs.
- 3) Support opportunities for GTMA members in participating in these programs in order to enhance their voluntary and professional contributions.

The commitment to meaningful conflict resolution is a huge undertaking! In my view, with this new direction, GTMA is beginning to take it’s rightful place of leadership. We each have seen first hand what it can do. But, in order to add to that contribution, we must move beyond our individual efforts. Truly this is, something bigger than we are!

### ***Dick Struthers’ UK Article***

The UK non-profit *Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution* reports that:

By achieving earlier resolution of cases that would otherwise have proceeded through litigation, the commercial mediation profession this year will save business in excess of £1 billion a year in wasted management time, damaged relationships, lost productivity and legal fees.

The study also yielded some interesting findings, including the fact that “The mediation fees of the ‘top’ mediators are now average £3,120. 13 per cent of experienced mediators, each undertaking 50-100 cases a year, are earning £282,000 or more per year (in 2005 this figure was £177,000).

Cheerio, mates. I’m packing my bags for Jolly Old England....

12 Nov 07 | *Interesting*