

GTMA NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the Arena</i>	1
<i>Suggestion Box</i>	1
<i>GTMA Luncheon</i>	2
<i>Back Page Blog</i>	3

FROM THE ARENA

With the 2008 annual meeting and elections over, I would like to take this opportunity to have a discussion with all current and past GTMA members. There is no doubt that GTMA has a lot to offer both area mediators and the communities we serve. However, we must also agree that GTMA must offer something of value for participation.

If we frame the goals for 2009 in the context of "Who does GTMA serve, and how?", it is apparent that GTMA must create some value for our members and area mediators. This is where YOU come in.

I am vitally interested in your comments; both positive and negative. I believe we can grow GTMA and provide value for our members in the process, IF we listen to your needs.

To that end, some of the changes we are working on include:

- Membership Participation—GTMA will institute quarterly membership meetings. These meetings will be social in nature, with a short business meeting to update attendees on the progress of GTMA. The GTMA Board will meet before each meeting to prepare a status report to you.
- Training—We are in the process of identifying and establishing a training schedule for GTMA members and area mediators. I will be meeting with end users of mediation services in the next few weeks to get a better idea of how GTMA can integrate our knowledge and experience into serving the end users more effectively, and what training needs are required.
- Promotion—GTMA will be contacting potential users of mediation to present what mediation has to offer in the community, outside of our historical role. Please let me know if you have any potential leads or ideas.



Fred "Rocky" Clark,
GTMA President

Upcoming:

- November 10—GTMA Luncheon, 12 noon, London Café, Idaho Falls. Speaker will be Rusty Broughton, President of Interpersonal Dynamics. Topic is Organizational Communication.

SUGGESTION BOX

With a new year comes new challenges. The leadership of GTMA is vitally interested in your comments, criticisms, kudos and general thoughts about what GTMA must do to grow our organization and offer value for membership.

Rather than a survey, we are asking each current and past member to drop us a line at:

President@gtmediators.org

Let us know what's on your mind. **Feel free to be open, honest, and most importantly, blunt.**

GTMA ELECTS OFFICERS

During the GTMA Annual Meeting held October 29, GTMA elected new officers for the 2009 business year. Elected were:

President: Fred "Rocky" Clark

Vice President: Richard Struthers

Secretary: Sue Young

Treasurer: Terese Bonney

Board of Directors: Henry Henscheid (Past President)

Jan Baxter

Bob Hart

Lila Gold

These new officers bring a wealth of experience to GTMA, and are committed to moving our organization forward. Congratulations to the new GTMA Board!

FROM THE ARENA—CONT'D

- Professional Development—GTMA must serve as a vehicle for area mediators to improve their skill set, and be a resource for CPM certification for those interested. To that end, GTMA is investigating developing internal resources to provide basic mediation training and certification mentoring through development of "train the trainer" courses with the IMA.

As you can see, this is a pretty full agenda. However, it cannot be accomplished without your thoughts and comments.

On another note, I wish to personally acknowledge the efforts of Past President, friend, and mentor Henry Henscheid for his leadership during the past year. Anyone who knows Henry cannot deny his passion for mediation and GTMA. He has been an extraordinary mentor to me, and a great resource for all in our association. ***From all of us, Henry—Thanks, and job well done!***

Best personal regards,

Rocky.

GTMA LUNCHEON—NOVEMBER 10

November's Luncheon speaker will be the esteemed Rusty Broughton, President of Interpersonal Dynamics. Rusty's topic will be Organizational communication and leadership. If you have not had the opportunity to attend one of Rusty's presentations, you will find an engaging, enlightening and very interesting program on November 10!

Topic: Organizational Communication and Leadership

Date: Monday, November 10, 2008

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: London Café, 354 W. Broadway, Idaho Falls.



P.O. Box 51165
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83405

Fred "Rocky" Clark, President

Phone: 208-520-2654
E-mail: President@gtmediators.org

We're on the Web!
www.gtmediators.org

The Grand Teton Mediation Association exists to provide a professional organization for persons interested in alternative dispute resolution. Based in Idaho Falls, Idaho, our area includes all of Eastern Idaho and Western Wyoming.

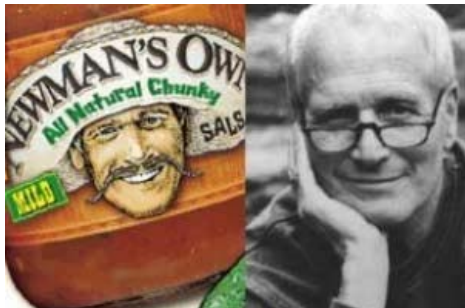
Our membership is open to all persons interested in mediation as a vocation, profession, or area of interest. We constantly strive to provide value to our members through educational opportunities, forums to discuss alternative dispute resolution, and opportunities for the public to engage our services in disputes.

We cordially invite all interested persons to join us.

BACK PAGE BLOG

Lessons on Improvisation from Paul Newman (1925 - 2008) (10/21/08)

[Jeffrey Kravis](#), [Mariam Zadeh](#)



A sign famously hangs in Paul Newman's Westport, Conn., office that reads, "If I had a plan I would be screwed." Newman, who died of cancer this year at age 83, firmly believed in the benefit of "creative chaos," welcoming the opinions of others whether in business or on the movie set.

Newman understood and appreciated that success in today's age depends on how good we are at improvising rather than merely sticking to a script or plan. The concept of improvisation, while rooted in the arts and music, has widespread application to all disciplines including the legal and ADR field. At its heart, improvisation is a tool that can facilitate greater communication,

learning and transformation, which are in and of themselves, the cornerstones of innovation and growth.

At the negotiating table, improvisation demands that parties deal with the reality they are presented in real-time rather than continually revisiting scenarios of what they believe could or should be. By limiting oneself to a scripted plan, options for solving problems are narrowed and opportunities for solutions are more likely to be missed, leading to a failed negotiation. Improvising instead of following a script or a plan, allows one the flexibility to stay nimble, operate more freely and authentically, and invite the participation and entrepreneurship that are essential to success as Newman aptly identified.

From the [First Mediation Blog](#) of Jeff Kravis and Mariam Zadeh.

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