

Fall 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1, August

Message from the President

It has been a hectic 4 months since I was elected as President of PLCMC. 2014 is going to have a fresh focus on fundraising. We have been pursuing a variety of funding sources both small and large. We are still working on establishing a stable funding stream that includes multiple sources. We have been in business for six years with limited funding that has come from a few generous supporters. We submitted 1 proposal for funding in March and will be submitting a proposal to the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation later this month. I also plan to initiate a direct mail fundraising campaign in September. I hope you will keep your eye out for this first fundraising letter and consider supporting our mission to provide people with the "option of resolving disputes themselves, voluntarily, nonviolently, inexpensively and within their own communities" by donating to the only private, nonprofit Mediation Center in the Champaign-Urbana Metropolitan Area. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Virginia Bolan, MSW,
Board President

Welcome to Our New Fall Intern & Board Members

PLCMC would like to welcome our new Fall Intern Aymer Johnson. Aymer is a student of the University of Illinois in the Department of Human & Community Development. She is interested in working with the youth population and has agreed to work with the Peer Mediation program in Central High School. Welcome aboard Aymer!

A hardy welcome also goes out to our new board members Jason Hood, Marie McCordy and Elizabeth Adams. Jason, an attorney, comes to us from the City of Champaign, Marie, an MSW, has an extensive background in women and children's welfare. and Elizabeth is continuing her studies in the Global Studies Department within the University of Illinois. We are all very excited to have these talented people on our team!



From left to right:

- Jason Hood,
- Elizabeth Adams,
- Mary McCordy.

Looking Forward: Peer Mediation at PLCMC, Fall 2014

The start of a new school year is just around the corner and that means our 6th year of Peer Mediation at Central High School. PLCMC will offer youth mediation training to interested students willing to mediate student-to-student disputes in partnership with the administrators. Also, Joy will again be working with suspended students who have been sent to the Alternative Center for Targeted Instruction and Ongoing Support (ACTIONS) for student-to-student disputes. We thank the Unit 4 School District for these opportunities.

Talks are underway with Katie Ahsell, Program Administrator of Unit 4 School District's ACTIONS, regarding how additional conflict resolution skills can be implemented in elementary schools. In response to this News-Gazette article, [Increase in suspensions a concern for Champaign schools](#) PLCMC hopes to bring its Mediation Program to younger students.



Executive Director, Joy George and CHS Peer Mediators, Spring 2014

Seeking Court Approval: PLCMC in Alliance with the 6th Circuit

Volunteers at PLCMC have worked all summer long to craft a court funding proposal for the 6th Circuit Court presided by Chief Judge Dan Flannell. Our proposal explains in detail the benefits of a Court alliance that would funnel surplus civil cases away from the overburdened courts to PLCMC for professional, efficient, economical dispute resolution. The Circuit Court would allocate \$1 per case referral to PLCMC.

Become a Mediator: State Certified 40-Hour Basic Training Begins

February of this year PLCMC hosted the 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training course intended to train and certify new mediators. The class went so well and we welcome these graduates into our Center. If you missed this class, not to worry. Our next training will be offered this Fall and we are very lucky to have Professor Tom Duncanson lead the class. The cost is \$150 and upon completion, participants will be qualified in the state of Illinois to be mediators. Call 217-552-2813 to sign up.

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **AUG. 9: Community Green Non-Profit Resale Shop to support PLCMC and others.** August 9, 10-4pm. 2200A E University Ave, Urbana, IL 61802.
- ⇒ **SEPT. 4: UIUC Volunteer Fair featuring PLCMC.** Sept. 4, 10:30-1:30pm. Illini Union, Rm A, B, and C.
- ⇒ **TBA: 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training with Prof. Duncanson.**

*All donations are tax deductible.

Fundraising News*

- ⇒ Go to smile.amazon.com and search Prairie Land Conflict Mediation Center to donate .5% of your purchase!
- ⇒ Sign up for a Schnucks eScript Card at any Schnucks and register your card with PLCMC at escript.com.
- ⇒ Our May 7 El Toro Fundraiser netted \$75. Thanks to all for coming out!
- ⇒ The July Garage Sale Fundraiser was rained out two weeks in a row. Reschedule is August 9.

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Questions or Comments?
support@plmediation.org