

Summer 2015

Volume 2, Issue 2, July-August

Message from the President

We hope your summer has been off to a positive start! Prairie Land Conflict and Mediation Center is looking forward to some exciting developments in the coming months. We are welcoming new volunteers and interns, planning a couples communication workshop, continuing to explore funding opportunities, preparing for a new session of peer mediators at Central High School, and creating school aged conflict resolution curriculum. As the new Board President, and board member for the past three years, I feel honored to be a small part of this big hearted organization. Executive Director Joy George's vision of free mediation services for Champaign County has resulted in many -positive outcomes for divorcing couples who are co-parenting. We are grateful to Ginny Bolan, our outgoing Board President, for her one year tenure as President and many more years of board leadership. Both social workers continue their annual donation of thousands of volunteer hours. Offering a continuum of services aimed at decreasing conflict and increasing harmony and communication, Prairie Land Conflict and Mediation Center delivers an excellent opportunity for learning and growth in our Central Illinois community.



Sue Keller, Board President

Fundraising News*

- ⇒ We are happy to report our efforts have been successful. Nine donors have generously donated a total of \$443 which is nearly 30% of our total goal of \$1500 for this quarter.
- ⇒ 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.

Introducing PLCMC's Summer Interns: Basil Alias & Renee Keyvan

Basil Alias: Basil is a Junior at the University of Illinois, studying Psychology and Molecular and Cell Biology. After taking a mediation introductory course, Basil decided he would like to learn more about the process by interning at the Prairie Land Conflict Mediation Center. With more alternative conflict resolution experiences, he knows that he will be able to further benefit any organization he works for in the future.

Renee Keyvan: I am currently a Junior at the University of Illinois majoring in Global Studies and minoring in Political Science and Study of the Islamic World. I am extremely passionate about international women's rights and children's educational rights in the Middle East. I was interested in working at PLCMC because the organization was a completely new concept to me since there was no service like this in my home town. I was blown away by the honesty and service that PLCMC provides for their clients and furthermore, their community. It became evident to me that the success of this organization was due to the unconditional dedication and passion from the employers.

2015 PLCMC Big Fundraising News!

As many of you know, Prairie Land Conflict Mediation has defined 2015 as our year to move toward financial sustainability. To this end, we have started a GoFundMe campaign (<http://www.gofundme.com/sb34v23w>) and we submitted an application to Ameren for a donation.

PLCMC Receives Ameren Illinois Civic & Community Grant 2015

THANK YOU to Ameren Illinois. This corporation has graciously donated \$2000 to further support the cause of community mediation. As PLCMC's first corporate sponsor, we are very glad of the recognition by this business. They have allowed our Center a giant leap forward toward financial stability. Thanks again, Ameren!



We are happy to report that both efforts have been successful. Nine donors have generously donated a total of \$443 which is nearly 30% of our total goal of \$1500 for this quarter. Ameren very graciously and generously donated \$2000. We are very grateful to Ameren and all of our other generous donors. Those donations are a giant leap forward in our mediation center's journey to financial sustainability.

We will also be submitting an application to the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation in mid-August to try to obtain funding. Their funding comes from the State of Illinois, however, and given the current financial and political situation in the State of Illinois, it is very likely that their budget will be less than last year's. Anyone who is interested in helping us in our efforts to obtain funding, we are always looking for letters of support to include with our applications for funding. We would greatly appreciate your letters of support or letters of recommendation.

Registration Open for Peaceful Parenting 2015

Prairie Land Conflict Mediation Center will begin its next Peaceful Parenting program during the second week of July. The class will meet for 2 hours per session for 8 consecutive weeks. The focus of the program is to help participants to improve coping skills in order to reduce the level of conflict you are experiencing in their parenting relationship. Participants will be assigned to class section by the Peaceful Parenting Coordinator. Assignments are based upon group composition to maximize the learning opportunities of the participants. The tuition for the Peaceful Parenting class is \$160 for each participant. Current and past mediation clients of Prairie Land Conflict Mediation Center are eligible for a significant tuition reductions based on a sliding scale. Tuition reductions are determined on a case by case basis upon request of the person expressing interest in participating in the program. Please contact our office at 217-552-2813 for more information and to register for the program.

Tune in to WEFT 90.1 Saturdays @ 1 PM

- ⇒ Peace Talks Radio is a series on peacemaking and nonviolent conflict resolution created by Paul Ingles and Suzanne Kryder as part of KUNM 89.9 Albuquerque, NM.
- ⇒ The next airing "Reducing Sibling Rivalry will be August 8.
- ⇒ Visit goodradioshows.com for archived episodes.

Upcoming Events/Dates

- ⇒ Peaceful Parenting: Tuesday July 7, 6pm at our office. Saturday July 11, 2pm. This class will meet for 2 hours each and conclude in 8 weeks.
- ⇒ Basic Mediation Training: Sunday October 11,18, and 25 from 1pm-6pm, Saturday October 17 and 24 from 9a.m-6pm. Call today to reserve your spot!


*All donations are tax deductible.

"Mediation Week" Proclaimed by the Cities of Champaign and Urbana

Our Center wishes to sincerely thank the Mayors of Champaign, Don Gerard and Urbana, Laurel Prussing for their support of our work in conflict resolution. Mr. Gerard has proclaimed the third week in October, Mediation Week by issuing a proclamation. Ms Prussing has invited all of us to an Urbana City Council mtg, date to be announced, to have our new proclamation read aloud. To see a copy of the Champaign proclamation, please visit our website to enjoy.

PLCMC Basic Mediation Training Certification Course :: Fall 2015

Training: Ever thought of becoming a mediator? Our 40-hour course offers the required basic mediation training through role-playing, lectures, and demonstrations. Role-play scenarios will focus on a variety of topics yet remain focused on disputes and dispute resolution. The tuition is \$500 and is well below the going rate. If you face conflict in your work or personal environments, you will feel happy with your new tool box. The dates for our upcoming training are: Sunday October 11,18, and 25 from 1pm-6pm, Saturday October 17 and 24 from 9a.m-6pm. Call today to reserve your spot!

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Questions or Comments?
support@plmediation.org