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The Mediator

Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center Newsletter

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The Mediator is the WDRC quarterly newsletter conveying and communicating to you all that's going on here at the Center. We'll give you updates on our successes, the skinny on trainings and events coming up, and introductions to our mediators, staff, and volunteers.

Director's Report

Notes from the desk of Moonwater

As our County and its citizens continue to grapple with difficult economic times, the WDRC is increasingly finding ways to help. Whether it be through cutting edge uses of mediation in foreclosure matters, or ensuring our young people have the skills they need to be successful in school, we are here to support.

Not surprisingly we continue to see demand increasing for our services. In 2011 we were able to meet these rising needs by mediating 215 cases and training nearly 1,400 individuals. We wouldn't be able to accomplish all of this if not for the amazing

[Visit our website](#)

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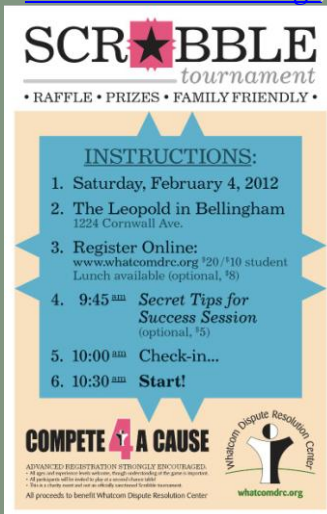
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Upcoming Events


Compete for a Cause
Scrabble
Tournament *February 4*
at the Leopold
(REGISTER
at www.whatcomdrc.org!)



SCRABBLE
tournament
• RAFFLE • PRIZES • FAMILY FRIENDLY •

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Saturday, February 4, 2012
2. The Leopold in Bellingham
1224 Cornwall Ave.
3. Register Online:
www.whatcomdrc.org \$20 / \$10 student
Lunch available (optional, \$8)
4. 9:45 ^{am} Secret Tips for
Success Session
(optional, \$5)
5. 10:00 ^{am} Check-in...
6. 10:30 ^{am} Start!

COMPETE 4 A CAUSE
ADVANCED REGISTRATION STRONGLY ENCOURAGED
• All gifts and equipment remain with us until the game is complete.
• All proceeds will benefit the WDRRC.
• No cash prizes will be awarded for this event.
All proceeds to benefit Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

whatcomdrc.org

Compete for a Cause
Bocce
Tournament *April 21 at*
the Sportsplex

20th Anniversary
Fundraising
Luncheon *June 20 at*
Northwood Hall

volunteers that help on a daily basis. Last year more than 80 volunteer mediators, board members, office support, youth program facilitators, and more contributed over 5,600 hours. A special acknowledgement and thanks to our 2011 Volunteers of the Year, former Board Member Tom Anderson and mediator Nancy Waters. Both have individually contributed nearly 6 years of service to help advance the WDRC's mission.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the WDRC. I invite you all to mark your calendars now for Wednesday, June 20th. We'll have a special celebration luncheon and will welcome your attendance and support.

I look forward to the upcoming year with a renewed sense of trust and belief in our mission. I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to lead this wonderful organization.

Meet our Interns!

Abigail George

I first came to the WDRC after talking to a friend who volunteered here and said it was one of the best experiences of her life. I became more interested in conflict studies after working with refugees when I studied abroad in India and Thailand in 2011, which also drove me to apply for an internship at the WDRC. My time as an office intern here has taught me many new skills I'm sure I will utilize the rest of my life. It also has provided me with the opportunity to interact with the WDRC's remarkable staff. I learn something new every day, whether it's how to send a fax correctly to how conflict is handled in our community. I look forward to my continual involvement with the WDRC.

Patti Drews

As a student at Fairhaven College with a concentration in "Social Advocacy," I feel very fortunate to be doing my internship with WDRC. Having lived and worked in the community for many years, I was well aware of WDRC's reputation and impact in the community. I am eager to learn from this knowledgeable and wonderful staff!

Notes from the Youth Program

AmeriCorps Emily Wilson brings us up to speed on her work with Carl Cozier Elementary

"We're going to need a couple volunteers for a role play." Instantly,

Upcoming Trainings

Understanding Conflict Workshop February 22, 29

Professional Mediation Training March 15-17 and 22-24

You can learn more about all our trainings at our website.

To register, please call (360) 676-0122!

Our Board

Kacey Alleman, *Board Chair*

Kara Black

Jerry Brownfield

Joan Cervisi

David Doll

Randy Doucet

Marian Exall

David Grant

Margo Hammond

Mary Sass

Advisory Board

Tom Anderson

Nancy Blume

Betsy Gross

Leon Henley

Carlton Nathon

Mark Rogers

Staff

Moonwater
Executive Director

Erin Corday
Office Coordinator

twenty hands raise as students eagerly anticipate the chance to get to perform in front of their class. It's the second day with the fifth grade classes at Carl Cozier Elementary and we are learning about the five different conflict styles. Each conflict style has a mascot: the sheep for the accommodating style, fox for compromising, ostrich for avoiding, shark for directing or aggressive, and the owl for collaborating. Once the two lucky volunteers come up front and perform their scripted role play, groups of students all lean into their small groups: "It's the fox!" "No! It's definitely the owl!" and just as suddenly, five paddles declaring their group vote are waving in the air.

For an hour each Wednesday in January, I have been welcomed along with a reliable volunteer into each fifth grade classroom to share the basics of conflict resolution: drawing the connection between conflict and unmet needs, discovering different conflict styles, dealing with strong emotions, and encouraging active listening and assertive communication. Doing classroom presentations is one of the ways that the youth program at the DRC educates young people in the skills of conflict resolution. The larger group allows us to reach a large number of students and also helps to provide the school with some common language around conflict and how to deal with it. As a facilitator, it is immensely rewarding to see students working together as they brainstorm, try out different ideas, and try to reach consensus. So watch out world! A new generation of creative conflict solvers is on the rise, starting right here in Whatcom County.

Moonwater Appointed to Leadership Positions

ED of WDRC, Charities Advisory Council Member, and Co-President of Resolution WA

Moonwater has been appointed to the Washington Secretary of State's Charities Advisory Council. The Council was formed by Secretary of State Sam Reed to help identify training and educational needs of charitable organizations, model policies related to governance and administration of charitable organizations in accordance with fiduciary principles, and emerging issues and trends affecting charitable organizations. This appointment ensures Whatcom County nonprofits will continue to have a direct link to Olympia.

Moonwater was also recently elected as Co-President of Resolution Washington, the state-wide association of Dispute Resolution Centers. There are currently 20 Dispute Resolution

Kaitlin Davis
Youth Program Coordinator

Cynthia Moore
Case Manager

Calhan Ring
Program Manager

Ellie Rogers
Program Assistant

Rosanna Wadkins
Fiscal Support

Centers operating in the cities and counties of Washington State, with a coverage area of approximately 93% of all Washington residents.

Board Openings at the WDRC

Could you serve on our board?

The WDRC bids adieu to Linda Stewart who recently left her position at the City of Bellingham to accept an opportunity with the Post of Seattle. We are appreciative of all of Linda's contributions - including her infectious energy and creativity.

The Board is currently accepting applications for several openings. Amongst general positions, the Board is seeking members with backgrounds in real estate, finance, and local business ownership. Those interested in applying should submit a cover letter and resume, as well as a volunteer application ([found on our website](#)) to our Executive Director, Moonwater.

The WDRC welcomes Nancy Blume to our Advisory Board. Nancy joins Leon Henley, Carlton Nathon, Betsy Gross and Mark Rogers.

Two Grants Awarded to WDRC

City of Bellingham Tourism Grant: The WDRC recently received a \$6,750 grant from the Tourism Commission to help promote our April 21st Bocce Tournament.

PSE Grant: The WDRC recently received a \$2,000 grant from Puget Sound Energy to help fund an outreach campaign. With a desire to serve more clients, the WDRC is thankful for this support!



FUNdraising Report



Peace Builder Awards Gala - November 18, 2011

This year's Awards Gala was bigger and better than ever. We packed the Majestic with more guests than we've ever had to celebrate the eight awards to community members and organizations doing incredible peace work here in Whatcom County. We raised over \$18,000 from the event and can't wait to invite you all again! Remember to be thinking of folks you can nominate...

**Compete for a Cause Scrabble Tournament
THIS Saturday, February 4 at the Leopold! Register at
our website!**

Over 5500 Volunteer Hours Logged in 2011

Enormous gratitude to our dedicated volunteers!



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Boundary Bay - Dec. 2011

Welcome to our new volunteers! Patti Drews and Judy Osmundson

Ongoing support: Arthur Abrahamson, Chris Beers, Kris Buettner, David Donohue, Greg Elgee, Abigail George, Ryan Goelzenleuchter, Elizabeth Hart, Helen Hollister, Kristin Jager, Leon James, Joel Litwin, Tom McNutt, Bernice Rappaport, John Summerson, Justin Therrien, Dave Thorngren, Erika Werdal, James Whisenhunt, Carolyn and Dean Withrow, Wes Withrow

Youth Programs support: Brenna Anderst, Jaina Germin, Micah Shanser, Emily Wilson (AmeriCorps)

Congratulations and welcome to our new Practicum program participants: Nancy Joseph, Alice O'Donnell, Ann Russell, and Emily Wilson

Thank you as always to our many skilled and dedicated mediators! Joel Bergsbaken, Rachel Brown, Jeanne Chadwick, Kaitlin Davis, Randy Doucet, Mary Dumas, Roseanne Featherston, Doug Fenton, Deborah Forgays, Kathy Hilmoe, David Imburgia, Robert Kelly, Michael Kleps, Jessica Lee, Michael Light, Don Lotze, Howard Lowe, Jean MacGregor, K. Ann McCartney, Moonwater, Mark Ortman, Bill Palek, Mark Polin, Calhan Ring, Barbara Rofkar, Mark Rogers, Sheri Russell, Felicia Staub, Nancy Waters, and Irene Wysocki

May 2012 be a year to celebrate! Thank you for supporting the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center all the way through our 20th Anniversary.

Sincerely,

The Staff
Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

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