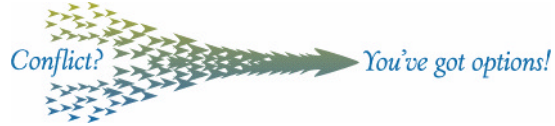




MADRP Bulletin

October 2005



Maine Association of Dispute Resolution Professionals

Volume X, Issue X

October 2005

Message from the President

Are we part of the problem? This is the title of one of the sub-sections in Beyond Neutrality, the book by Bernard Mayer that will be the subject of our November 9 MADRP Conference and Annual Meeting. In this sub-section Mr. Mayer writes, "We try to remain neutral, we try to keep relationships intact. But if broad social change is desired, then advocacy is needed more than neutrality, conflict needs to be deepened – and often escalated – and good relationships are probably not appropriate as a central focus. This field is inevitably going to be a force for social control and social stability at times. When that is appropriate, that is fine, but when it is not, we can be part of the very problems that many of us are motivated to struggle against and that we look to conflict resolution as a means of addressing." I'm soberly considering this passage as I come off of another week of facilitating public meetings where I heard many passionate advocates speak of the ills that an airport brings to their neighborhoods: noise, air quality issues, relocation issues, just to name a

few. Last month I talked about my role as hopefully bringing some open communication to the proceedings. But have I, in fact, been contributing, as Mayer says "to a process of maintaining social inequality and supporting exploitative practices...as conflict resolution provides an effective form of social control."? Yipes! Please join me and your conflict resolution colleagues as we ponder such questions at our Annual Meeting and Conference on November 9th at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell, from 8:30-3:30. Diane Kenty, Albie Davis, Paul Charbonneau and Pat Finnegan, City Manager of Auburn will give their response to Mayer's book during a panel discussion moderated by Jonathan Reitman. Then we'll get into small groups to discuss our own responses to the book. If you're interested in a 20-page summary of Beyond Neutrality, developed by the author, email me at Susanna@bartongingold.com.

See you on the 9th.



MADRP Annual Meeting and Program

Beyond Neutrality by Bernard Meyer

Please join MADRP for our 15th annual Meeting at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell on November 9, from 9:00 - 3:30. Our program, "Beyond Neutrality: Colleagues at Talk", will feature a panel of three mediators and one mediation client, who will discuss their reactions to Bernard Meyer's book, Beyond Neutrality.

Jonathan Reitman will moderate the panel. Jonathan is an attorney, and a full time mediator, facilitator and arbitrator. Panel members are: Diane Kenty, Director of CADRES, the Maine Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Program; Albie Davis, former Director of Mediation for the District Court of Massachusetts; Paul Charbonneau, Mediator and

ADR educator; and Pat Finnigan, Auburn City Manager.

The panel presentation will be followed by discussion groups to gather member reactions to the book and to the panel discussion. Lunch will be provided. Then we will hold our third MADRP 2005 ADR Awards ceremony, followed by the election of MADRP Officers and the Board of Governors and other MADRP business.

Please contact Jeff Croft at (207) 775-3130 for more information and to register for this event.

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Submissions Wanted!

Have an opinion you want to express? An insight? A musing?

Share your perspective and inspiration with everyone in MADRP.

Send your work to tobey@bartongingold.com





Association for Conflict Resolution 5th Annual Conference *by Marc Sevigny*

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

It's a good practice to find out where your business is coming from.

When you find out that the referral came from MADRP, please let the board of governors know by emailing Marc Sevigny: msevigny@penquiscap.org .

No names, no content, just a quick contact will suffice. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Loyalty to petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul.

— Mark Twain

Family Law for Mediators Course

The 10-hour FAMILY LAW FOR MEDIATORS COURSE will be offered on October 27th and 28th in Augusta. If you have questions or would like to be on the mailing list, contact June Zellers at 582-9007 or jzellers@prexar.com .

This year Minneapolis, MN was the site of the Association for Conflict Resolution's 5th Annual Conference—*Conflict Resolution in a Changing World: Building the Practice and Fostering Hope*. Dispute resolution professionals and people interested in dispute resolution came from around the globe to attend this year's conference.

A very wide range of workshops was available and provided participants with many interesting, and sometimes lively, discussions on topics related to dispute resolution in our changing world. Examples of some of the workshops were the following: "Conflict and the Schools in the Basque Country (Spain)"; "Using Psychometric Instruments to Enhance the Effectiveness of Mediation"; "Hot Topics in Family Mediation"; "The Evolution of Ocean

Policy"; "the Truth about Transformative Mediation"; and MUCH, MUCH, MORE.

The conference's keynote speaker was Francis Moore Lappé, author of *Diet for a Small Planet*. "In recent years Francis Moore Lappé has involved herself in what she calls "Hope in Action," a broad-ranging study of the original and creative approaches by people here and around the world to resolve the pressing problems of hunger, isolation and environmental devastation. Of these, the systematic and peaceful resolution of disputes is a major growth area..."

ACR's 2006 conference will be held in Philadelphia, PA at the Wyndham Philadelphia Hotel from October 25 to October 28, 2005. For more information you can go to www.ACRnet.org.

MADRP Looks to the Future

The following is a nutshell summary of what the "Restructuring Committee" of MADRP has been doing over the past several months. It has been working feverishly to put together a plan for growing MADRP into the twenty first century.

In October 2005 the MADRP Board of Governors agreed (using the consensus process) to the committee's proposal to change the structure of the organization. The structure being proposed is one that organizes the state into three sections, organized by county. The Northern region will consist of Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington and Hancock Counties. The Central region will consist of Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset and Cumberland Counties. The Southern region will consist of York and Cumberland Counties. The three areas will each have their own regional coordinator, who will be on the MADRP BOG and who will essentially run the regional organizations in collaboration with the BOG.

each region on one of four standing committees. The committees being proposed are the Ethics and Standards Committee, the Public Policy Committee, the Public Information/Public Relations Committee and the Membership Committee. The Nominating Committee will become an *ad hoc* committee. This essentially blends some of the existing committees together. The proposal will now come to the membership for review and comment at the MADRP November membership meeting.

A final vote by the membership on the new structure, revised by laws and a revised mission statement is tentatively scheduled for May 2006 with implementation to take place in January 2007. Please join us in these important discussions about the future of your organization. Any questions regarding the restructuring proposal may be directed to the BOG *ad hoc* Restructuring Committee: Susanna Liller, Bambi Magaw, Paul Charbonneau, John Alfano, Marc Sevigny, or to any member of the BOG.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc Sevigny

The MADRP committee structure will also be changed to include two members from

With a Twist, Straight Up, or on the Rocks: My Experience At Summer Camp by Debbie Belanger

Once again this summer I was blessed with the opportunity to spend time at Seeds of Peace Camp in Otisfield. This summer my role expanded to Coordinator of the Facilitators. I had been a facilitator in the past with the kids from the 'region' as well as the coordinator of the Maine Seeds program but not coordinated the Middle East program. This year, for the first time, all the facilitators were coming from the region, 5 Palestinians and 5 Israelis. I was excited and a bit nervous.

My first experience was to travel to Jerusalem in April and meet the facilitators who were hired to come for the summer. We had a workshop on 'difficult conversations' with Michael Tsur. He is an Israeli who has translated the book we all know and love into Hebrew and does workshops in Israel. It was a disaster of a workshop but we bonded as a group which was a plus. We all looked forward to the

upcoming summer.

It was amazing to watch these folks at work with the 14 and 15 year old campers. Each group of 14 kids had 2 facilitators, one Palestinian and one Israeli, one male and the other female. This provided Seeds with the opportunity to have kids from Gaza attend camp because we had translators in the room. Although there was always the issue of 'how comments were translated', and 'who was translating for whom', having facilitators who understood the language was a big help.

These facilitators worked with the kids, not as individuals, but as representatives of their countries. For example, if an Israeli was constantly interrupting a Palestinian it would be observed as such. This challenged the kids in many ways. It was frustrating for teens who like to be seen as individuals and it also brought the issues from the

region into the room. I learned a lot from my observations of the sessions.

The summer unfortunately was plagued with difficulties for our group of facilitators. We faced one trying experience after the next. There were organizational issues, personnel issues, adjustment issues. Without going into great detail let's just say the mixture of political activists (our group of facilitators!) into the regimentation of a summer camp was not a good fit.

I would also like to apologize for not being able to meet at Merle's this summer as we had planned. It was a disappointment to us all!

This summer was one of the more professionally challenging experiences I have ever had. No matter how I describe it, with a twist, straight up, or on the rocks I learned a great deal about myself and I am grateful for the opportunity.



NOT GETTING IMPORTANT MADR P MESSAGES?

To join the MADRP email list, contact John Alfano, email: jalfano1@maine.rr.com.

Congratulations!!

Joan Marks and Dave Webb, were the winners of the two free MADRP slots to the Resolving Land Use Disputes Course in Freeport on October 6 and 7th.

If you would you like to sponsor an issue of the Bulletin, Contact John Alfano at jalfano1@maine.rr.com

Conflict Resolution Day - October 20th

MADRP celebrated Conflict Resolution Day, October 20, in several ways around the state. Governor Baldacci signed a proclamation declaring the day, Conflict Resolution Day. We are still working to get onto his calendar to have a "formal" presentation to take advantage of any publicity that might give to our mission to advance the use of ADR in Maine. MADRP also used the day to raise awareness of mediation and other forms of alternate dispute resolution throughout the

state by speaking on two radio programs (WGME and WERU) and hosting a seminar on mediation at The Maine College of Art. Sadly, when we proposed to a local television program that we appear on their show and do a simulated mediation, our offer was declined by the station because they decided that mediation "did not have a broad enough appeal" for their viewers. Obviously, we still have a lot of educating to do!

MADRP Calendar of Events

November 9, 2005 Annual Meeting and Program

Hallowell

**MAINE ASSOCIATION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION
PROFESSIONALS (MADRP)**

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**MAINE ASSOCIATION OF DISPUTE
RESOLUTION PROFESSIONALS**

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2005 MADRP Officers

Susanna Liller, President
Marc Sevigny, Vice President
Carol Corwin, Treasurer
Tracy Quadro, Secretary

2005 Committee Chairs

Expansion: Bambi Magaw/ Marc Sevigny
Events: Jeff Croft
Practice Quality: Paul Charbonneau
Public Policy: Doug Lotane
Public Info: John Alfano
Meetings: OPEN
ME Residential Real Estate Mediation Program
(MRREMP): John Alfano
Membership: Lisa Levinson

Professional Development: Kathy Leen
Advertising: John Alfano
Facilitator Section: Paul Boticello
Bulletin: Tobey Williamson
Nominating Committee: Nancy Markowitz
Program Liaison: Diane Kenty
At-large Board members: Sheila Mayberry,
Kathleen Roberts

MADRP MISSION

MADRP is a non-profit organization of diverse professional interests seeking to broaden public understanding and acceptance of alternative forms of dispute resolution. MADRP strives to enhance professional skills and qualifications of mediators, arbitrators, and other neutrals through training, educational development and promotion of standards of professional conduct.