



JANUARY 2018 NEWS

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President's Message by: John Duval

TAPM continues to be the state leader in providing information to the public regarding the use of mediation as an effective means of settling disputes. This past year, Stephen Shields served as our President and achieved great success in helping us move forward during a time of transition and helped us focus on the influence of our many state-wide community mediation centers. Additionally, the influence of Board Members Carol Berz and Marietta Shipley served faithfully and with distinction during their tenure.

As TAPM enters into this next decade of service, we as a Board of Directors are excited about continuing this legacy of excellence. In the coming year it is our desire to faithfully fulfill TAPM's Goals and Purposes to:

- Target CME for our members and other mediators;
- Highlight CME, trainings, conferences from other sources;
- Provide lunch or after-hours CME on a bi-monthly basis;
- Establish an annual meeting with a major speaker;
- Provide peer support groups for civil and family mediators;
- Promote mediation to the public;
- Promote our members through our website and directory;
- Influence the larger community through the legislature and AOC ADR Commission; and
- Provide an e-newsletter for activities and e-forum to discuss current issues.

Our Board of Directors will be meeting later this spring to specifically set out to review how we can best serve our state. As with any forward thinking organization we will reflect, examine and review where we have been and focus on how we will move forward to continue to place TAPM at the forefront of mediation services in Tennessee. As the '18-'19 President, I welcome your response, questions, or feedback. Feel free to personally contact me: John Duval either by email john@wemediateconflict.com or by phone 615-777-8567.

If you are considering TAPM membership, I encourage you to join (<http://tenmediators.org/join>) the largest non-profit group of mediators in Tennessee and begin receiving the benefits of connecting and relationships today.

Most sincerely,
John



Our gifted board ready to serve west, middle and east Tennessee:

John Duval, President (Middle Tennessee)

Sara Figal, President-Elect (Middle Tennessee)

Robin Brown, Treasurer (East Tennessee)

Beth Tarter, Secretary (Middle Tennessee)

Stephen Shields, Immediate Past President (West Tennessee)

Mary Ellen Bowen
(Middle Tennessee)

Frank Cantrell (West Tennessee)

David Noblit (East Tennessee)

Karen Phillips (West Tennessee)

Alan Wolfe (West Tennessee)

Key TAPM Leadership:

Regina Newson, TAPM Newsletter Editor

David Noblit:

David Noblit is an experienced trial attorney and a member of Leitner Williams Dooley Napolitan, PLLC in Chattanooga, TN. His law practice focuses on liability defense and mediation. He graduated from Memphis State University School of Law in 1979. Over the past eighteen years, David has conducted in excess of 1,000 mediations. He is a former National Alumni Association President for the University of Tennessee and has taught Alternate Dispute Resolution at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. David is a member of TAPM, the Tennessee Academy of Mediators and Arbitrators, and the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

Karen Phillips:

Karen Phillips is a full-time mediator living in Brighton, Tennessee, and has served as a mediator throughout West Tennessee. She is the owner of Phillips Conflict Management and Mediation Services, PLLC, which provides private mediation services as well as conflict resolution training, seminars and workshops for governmental agencies and private companies. Karen is a Rule 31 Listed Family & General Civil Mediator and is specially trained in domestic violence issues. She is a member of TAPM. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work (University of Tennessee at Martin, 1981) and a Master of Arts degree in Conflict Resolution (Bethel University, 2014).

Alan Wolfe:

Alan Wolfe is an attorney who is a sole practitioner in Memphis, Tennessee. He is a graduate of the Memphis State University (now University of Memphis) School of Law. Alan's law practice is concentrated primarily in the areas of corporate law and probate & estate law, with particular emphasis on probate guardianships for disabled veterans.. He has served as a substitute judge in both the Probate and General Sessions Courts of Shelby County, and became a Rule 31 Listed General Civil Mediator in 2005. Alan is a member of TAPM and is currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors. He is being nominated to serve a second three-year term.

2018 Annual Event Sponsors

The President and the Board of TAPM thanks the following person for their sponsorship of the 2018 Annual Conference

Carol B. Berz, LSCW, JD, PhD, Private Dispute Resolution Services, LLC

Robin Brown, Mediation Consultants

John C. Duval, Tennessee Council of Conflict Mediation, LLC

Stephen L. Shields, Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute, LLC

Marietta Shipley, The Mediation Group of Tennessee

Alan Wolfe, Law Officer of Alan R. Wolfe

A special thanks to Lipscomb University for their willingness to host our annual meeting. They have been hosting it for eleven years. Finally, we want to thank the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services.

2018 TAPM Annual Conference by: Regina B. Newson

TAPM had its Annual Conference on March 2, 2018. Kim Kovach was the speaker. She is the author of *Mediation in a Nutshell*, which is being used by many trainers. She did an outstanding job by engaging the audience from the very beginning by making us think about how we gather and process information. It is very complex. She demonstrated how mediators can be effective in moving parties to a better understanding of one another's perspectives. This flowed right into the decision-making process and the pitfalls of this process. Kim did an excellent job of helping us understand our role as mediators in helping parties make decisions. However, she cautioned us about having undue influence in helping make decisions. Be sure that it is the party's decisions and not the mediators. She talked about the hurdles that mediators have to overcome in the technology world.



Kim Kovach, workshop speaker

Texting is not the same as talking to a person face to face. Telephonic interviews lose something as well. This does not mean that they cannot be done but be aware that intent and body language are lost when electronic devices are used. She reminded us that anything you put on the web can be pulled up and printed by others and used. The web raises issues of confidentiality.

Finally, in the ethics portion there was a lively discussion of how mediation was originally designed versus what is required in the market place for mediators to get work. Who are the gatekeepers and why they have become the gatekeepers? Does this need to change? How do we change it?

The Grayfred Gray Awards

The Grayfred Gray Award is a public service award that is given to individuals or organizations that have done outstanding work in the area of mediation. This award is given out at the Annual TAPM luncheon-business meeting. The recipients of this award have been in the forefront of educating the public about mediation. They have been the

cheerleaders for mediation in Tennessee. This year this award went to ten (10) Community Mediation Centers and their executive directors. They are as follows:

Mary Ellen Bowen, Mid-South Mediation Services

Wanda Bermudez, Medi8Resolution Center

Sara Figal, Nashville Conflict Resolution Center

Linda Nettles Harris, Esq., Mid-South Community Justice and Mediation Center

Cindy Helton, Community Mediation Services

Jacqueline O. Kittrell, Esq., Community Mediation Center

Jennifer Paden, Community Mediation, Inc.

Beth Tarter, Esq., The Mediation Center

Cecile Wimberly, Esq., Neighborhood Reconciliation Services

Rita Young, Community Mediation Center.







From the Editor's Desk by: Regina B Newson, Editor

Congratulations to our own President Stephen L. Shields (Memphis) on becoming a new commissioner for ADR for the Supreme Court. He is the founding member of Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute. He is a Tennessee Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Rule 31 General Civil Mediator as well as Rule 31 General Civil Mediation Trainer. He is a Listed Mediator in the Mediator Profile Directory of the United States District Court Western District of Tennessee. Mr. Shields is a partner in the Memphis law firm of Jackson, Shields, Yeiser & Holt. He is also a founding member as well as the Chair of the Mid-South Community Justice and Mediation Center (CJAM). He is an adjunct professor at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis where he is the Director of the Mediation Clinic. In 2015, Mr. Shields was chosen as the recipient of the prestigious Grayfred Gray Public Service in Mediation award.



Important News: TAPM has a new number. It is 615-775-9686.

TAPM DUES

Have you renewed your TAPM DUES? Your dues expire on the one year anniversary date of your last payment. We hope you will continue to support TAPM and renew today.

TAPM appreciates your being a member and you, as a member, receive benefits in return!

Marketing Tip: Look for opportunities to speak on mediation...Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Civic Organizations, legal organizations, and etc. Prepare a speech explaining what mediation is and the benefits of mediation, how it can be used in divorce, custody issues, landlord tenant disputes, neighborhood disputes, family, estate, business and in any disputes. Caution: Do not whole yourself out to be an expert in each of these areas. Always have a list of mediators that you feel are competent. Make referrals to other mediators.

This has been reprinted with permission of the Administrative Office of the Courts (ADR) from their ADR FALL 2017 Newsletter.

IMPORTANT DAYS

April 24, 2018 - ADR Commission Meeting, AOC Office, Nashville

For a list of approved Continuing Mediation Education courses, please go to: <http://www.tncourts.gov/programs/mediation/resources-mediators/continuing-mediationalducation>

IMPORTANT NEWS

To file online mediation reports, go to: <http://www.tncourts.gov/programs/mediation/resourcesmediators>

A mediator who has not renewed his/her listing on or before January 31, 2018 has been placed on inactive status as of February 1, 2018, and therefore cannot conduct court ordered mediations. The renewal form and fees information for late renewal can be found on the AOC website:

<http://www.tncourts.gov/programs/mediation/resources-mediators/policies>

On the renewal forms it is important to remember to provide proof of continuing education hours. ADR asks that providers provide a list of attendees to their classes; however, it is the responsibility of the mediator to provide this proof. It is suggested that all mediators request two (2) copies of hours of attendance - one for their records and one for the provider.

A list of approved CME courses can be found at: <http://www.tncourts.gov/programs/mediation/resources-mediators/continuing-meditation>

If you have forgotten your username and password needed to submit an online mediation report, please contact Caitlin Vasser, Programs Assistant, at (615) 741-2687 or by email at caitlin.vasser@tncourts.gov

If you have an article that you want published in the TAPM Newsletter, please contact the Editor, Regina B. Newson at reginanevson@bellsouth.net

[Click here to visit our website](#)