



# Maine Association of Mediators

## December 2006 Bulletin



Maine Association of Mediators  
*Professionals Committed to Cooperative Conflict Resolution*  
Formerly known as Maine Association of Dispute Resolution Professionals

Volume XI, Issue VIII

December 2006

## SIGNIFICANT CHANGES VOTED BY MEMBERS

By John Alfano, President

We have a new name - **Maine Association of Mediators**, *Professionals Committed to Cooperative Conflict Resolution*. And we have new bylaws that significantly change the way the Association will operate. On November 17, the membership voted at the annual meeting for the needed changes so that the Association will be able to meet the membership's needs as we progress into the electronic information age.

The Board of Governors (BOG) voted to change the name for the following reasons: First, the new name is computer friendly. Searches for mediators or mediators in Maine will now hit on the Association, something that did not happen with the old name until the fourth or fifth search screen. As the internet becomes the shopping method of choice, clients and public seeking our services will find us more readily. Second, the former name was such mouthful that we had to identify ourselves by the acronym, MADRP, a term totally meaningless to the public. **Maine Association of Mediators** can be spoken easily and identifies the Association clearly, without the need for the acronym. Third, our new name tells the public what we do. We no longer have to identify the Association and explain who we are - the name says it! We are more clearly identified in the legal and public searching for competent and professional mediators and facilitators. Clients search for mediators and facilitators, not conflict resolvers or alternate dispute resolution professionals.

The name change is not intended to exclude our facilitator members. We will continue to be committed facilitators and will continue the facilitator section. **Former President Susanna Liller**, and new **Vice President Tobey Williamson**, both facilitators, supported the name and encouraged the members to vote for Maine Association of Mediators. I supported the name change even though I am an arbitrator, primarily, because we need better public and computer recognition.

The Bylaw changes were initiated by a committee, established during President Liller's first term. That committee developed and recommended structural changes. Bylaws were written to reflect those recommendations. In summary, there will be three BOG meetings each year, in addition to an annual membership meeting. The Annual Meeting will be in October and will be a celebratory and social event rather than a conference since the conferences will be shifted to the regions. The Executive Board will continue to meet monthly either in person or by electronic means. The

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## *Happy Holidays!*

### **BOARD ADOPTS ACR STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

The BOG adopted the Association for Conflict Resolution's (ACR) Standards of Conduct for Mediators at the October meeting. The Standards have been adopted by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the American Arbitration Association (AAA). The comprehensive set of standards will provide the members of the Maine Association of Mediators who also are members of those other organizations one set of standards to conduct their business.

The Standards do not have the force of law unless they are adopted by a court or other regulatory agency. Nonetheless, by the adoption of these Standards, the Maine Mediators Association is alerting its members that the Standards may be viewed as establishing a standard of care and quality for mediators. These Standards will be posted on the website as the website is updated to reflect the name and bylaws changes. They can be viewed on the ACR website: <http://acrn.org/about/initiatives/QualityAssurance/standards-conduct.htm>



**Significant Changes Voted by Members**, *Continued from page 1*

Association is divided into the Northern, Central and Southern regions, with each region having at least one coordinator who may appoint a regional committee. Each region will sponsor training and networking meetings at least three times each year. In this manner, the Association will be closer physically to the membership. Members will be able to attend meetings more easily without sacrificing a full day of work or having to drive long distances. **Members still are invited and encouraged to attend BOG meetings.**

The changes will continue to make the Maine Association of Mediators a vital professional organization, dedicated to making mediation and facilitation the public's first choice for solving conflict and making difficult decisions.

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**UPDATE:  
STATE USE OF ADR**

Representatives of the Maine Association of Mediators met with Attorney General Steven Rowe and Deputy AG Chris Leighton to discuss the possibility of the AG's office establishing a Working Group to train and encourage state agencies in the use of ADR. Attorney General Rowe was very interested in learning more about how ADR could be used more efficiently in state government. The group will meet again with AAG Leighton and other state officials in early January.

## 2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOG MEMBERS

The following new members of the Maine Association of Mediators Board of Directors were seated at the December 6, 2006 BOG Retreat, held from 9am to 4:15pm at the University of Augusta.

### Executive Committee

John C. Alfano, President  
Tobey Williamson, Vice President  
Jane Carpenter, Treasurer  
Carol Corwin, Secretary

### Board of Governors

Bambi Magaw, Northern Region Coordinator  
Karen Tucker, Central Region Coordinator  
Sheila Mayberry and Jay Bartner, Southern Region Co-Coordinators  
Diane Kenty, CADRES  
Jane Clayton, Maine BAR ADR  
Tracy Quadro, Community Mediation Programs

### Standing Committee Chair People (not members of the BOG)

Will Van Twisk, Professional Development  
Tamar Mathieu, Membership  
Jennifer Fox, Public Relations  
Doug Lotane, Ethics  
Pam Plumb and Susanna Liller, Co-Chairs of the Facilitator Section  
Anita Jones, *Bulletin* Editor

At the meeting, including outgoing and incoming members of the Board of Governors, members discussed the nuts and bolts of implementing the new By Law changes. A follow-up meeting to complete the task will be held on January 7, 2007.

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### **Bulletin Goes Electronic**

The Board of Governors voted to distribute the *Bulletin* electronically starting 2007. The *Bulletin* will continue to be posted on the website, but instead of a hard copy being mailed to each member, members will receive an email notifying them that the *Bulletin* is posted with a link to the page on the website. Most professional organizations have adopted this method for distributing their newsletters because it is effective, easier and less expensive. We will save printing and postage costs which are a substantial portion of the \$1200 per year budgeted for printing and postage. The electronic *Bulletin* will permit us to have more articles and information since we will not be confined by paper size and mailing weight. Electronic distribution will be much easier for the *Bulletin* Editor and the volunteer who currently prepares and mails it.

**YOU MUST SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO [rbitr8tr@yahoo.com](mailto:rbitr8tr@yahoo.com) to get it.**

*Part II of***DOES THE MEDIATOR NEED TO LOOK AT A FAMILY MATTERS CASE DIFFERENTLY IN A POST-JUDGMENT CASE?**

By Jane S.E. Clayton, Esq. and Edward C. Spaight, Esq.

*will appear online in the February issue of the Bulletin to make room in this issue for articles on organizational changes.***THREE REGIONS – ONE ASSOCIATION*****Maine Association of Mediators is Coming to a Region Near You***

The new Maine Association of Mediators Bylaws has divided the State into three service regions – Southern, Central and Northern to appeal to more northern and central Maine current and potential members, so that they may participate in the running of the Association. The changes were adopted to assist the Association to:

- Deliver relevant, high quality programs and trainings;
- Support an administrative person for MADRP;
- Develop a more national connection/perspective;
- Help prepare the Association for redirection as it becomes necessary;
- Minimize costs (“get more bang for our buck);
- Advance the field in Maine;
- Streamline the operation of the Association.

The three (3) regions, not unlike the sections that currently exist within the Maine Association of Community Mediation Centers, are:

- Northern (Aroostook, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis & Washington Counties),
- Central (Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo)
- Southern (York, Cumberland).

A Regional Coordinator in each region will appoint members from the region, to serve on the various Association committees, so that each committee has representation from each region. Each region will offer at least three regional training programs each year to satisfy the needs of their local members.

The Board of Governors is be made up of ten (10) members, the four Executive Committee Members (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) plus the three Regional Coordinators, a representative from CADRES, one from the Maine Bar Association (MBA) , and one from the community mediation sector.

The standing committees are:

- Professional Development (quality assurance, conferences, education)
- Public Relations, Ethics (standards, quality assurance)
- Ethics (standards, quality assurance)
- Membership (member recruitment and retention)
- Facilitator Section
- Bulletin

The Board of Governors will meet three times a year, in addition to the Annual Business Meeting in October. There will continue to be a state-wide conference at a time to be announced. A Calendar of Events will be posted as soon as the BOG and the Regional Coordinators have met to develop and coordinate their programs.

**Contact your Regional Coordinator or the Executive Committee at [rbitr8tr@yahoo.com](mailto:rbitr8tr@yahoo.com) if you are interested in serving on a committee.**

**Name Game in the Electronic Age**

The membership’s vote to change our name to the Maine Association of Mediators reflects changes in information technology since the early days of the Association in the early 1990’s. People used telephones and fax machines to do business. Phone books were the resource for lists of service providers. Research was conducted in libraries. All that has changed—email, instant messaging, cell phones, and the internet now are our primary tools.

The Association’s former name was friendly for the old technology, but sorely inadequate for the electronic information age.

Searches for *mediation*, *mediators*, *facilitators* and *arbitrators* would not hit on our website. Marketing consultants advised the Association that an effective way to increase visibility would be to change our name.

The Maine Association of Mediators is expected to come up on multiple searches as soon as it is up and running.

The Association will continue to grow and prosper under its new name.



# MAINE ASSOCIATION OF MEDIATORS

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# MAINE ASSOCIATION OF MEDIATORS

## 2006 Association Officers

**John Alfano, President**  
**Tracy Quadro, Vice President**  
**Treasurer TBA**  
**Carol Corwin, Secretary**  
**Susanna Liller,**  
**Immediate Past President**

## 2006 Committee Chairs

**Events - Conference and Annual Meeting:**  
Bill Van Twisk  
**Practice Quality:** Paul Charbonneau  
**Public Policy:** Doug Lotane  
**Public Information:** TBD  
**Membership Meetings and Professional Development**  
*Portland:* TBA  
*Augusta:* Kim Vogel  
*Bangor:* Bambi Magaw  
**Membership:** Lisa Levinson  
**Advertising:** John Alfano

**Facilitator Section:** Pam Plumb and  
Tobey Williamson  
**ME Residential Real Estate Mediation Program (MRREMP):** John Alfano  
**Bulletin:** Anita Jones  
**Nominating Committee Chair:** To be  
appointed by President  
**At-large Board members:**  
Jane Clayton  
**Program Liaisons:** Diane Kenty  
(CADRES), Community Mediation Center  
TBD

### MISSION

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

## Maine Association of Mediators Calendar of Events

Board of Governors Meetings in 2007

*Members welcome*

- January 17**    **BOG Planning Retreat Continued**
- March 7**     **BOG meeting at University of Augusta, Student Center**
- June 6**      **BOG Meeting at University of Augusta, Student Center**
- October 17**   **Annual Meeting of Membership**
- December 5**   **BOG Retreat**

