



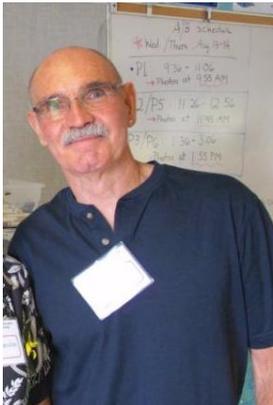
WEST HAWAI'I
MEDIATION CENTER

MAY 2016

WORKING IT OUT TOGETHER

DONATE

MEDIATOR SPOTLIGHT: Leroy



Twelve years ago we were new to Kona and looking for a way to get more involved in the community. My wife saw an ad for mediation training. She was ready to sign up and after some discussion I was willing to give it a try. Today I'm still trying.

One thing that keeps me going is seeing the benefit mediation is to our community.

The opportunity for disputants to meet in a controlled environment and discuss their issues with the help of trained mediators is invaluable. It's great when the disputants can work through their issues and come to an agreement that really works for them; however, I still find satisfaction when they use the process to make progress even if they can't agree on a final outcome. Issues are not always resolved but the disputants generally walk away with a better understanding of their interests and perhaps an approach to resolving them in the future. Another thing that keeps me going is I am often surprised by the willingness of people who initially appeared entrenched in their position to be creative and flexible in trying to find a solution. They really want to fix the problem and move on.

A mediation that sticks in my memory took place several years ago: it concerned the custody of a teenage child with one parent residing in Kona and one in California. As we started the late afternoon mediation session, the

parents advised us that we needed to resolve the issue that day as the California parent was returning home the next morning. At 9:00 pm that evening we signed an agreement, which allowed the teenager to fly to California the next morning with the returning parent. In this case, I believe the time pressure actually helped all parties to be their most creative and flexible selves in order to come up with a solution that worked for everyone.

WHMC relies on volunteer mediators to help us meet the needs of our constituents. To learn more about how to become a volunteer mediator, contact us at (808) 885-5525 or at info@whmediation.org

[VOLUNTEER TODAY](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Walk for West Hawai'i Mediation Center at *The Visitor Industry Charity Walk* May 14, 2016 Waikoloa Beach Resort

Come walk with WHMC to help support the Center and the important work we do. Walkers are treated to food, drink and fun!

The Walk (roughly 3.5 miles) starts at 7:00am and lasts approximately 1-2 hours. Runners start at 6:45am.



Each participant gives a \$35 donation and may gain additional donations by obtaining sponsors. If you choose not to walk but would still like to participate, you are welcome to simply give a donation.

If you would like a WHMC t-shirt, we ask for an additional \$5 donation made to West Hawai'i Mediation Center.

We are looking forward to a fun day together as we walk together to help improve the lives of our Island 'ohana.

Please contact Gina Tumasone with any questions at 885-5525.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP ONLINE THROUGH FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016](#)

WHMC IN THE SCHOOLS

Interest Running High for Peer Mediation



Although the spring focus for the peer mediation program is usually on data gathering and program evaluation, this year has been slightly different. Robyn Skudlarek, Youth Programs Coordinator, and Lauren Canton, Kohala Middle School counselor, made a presentation to the West Hawai'i Complex Area school counselors in early spring; we were invited by

Superintendent Art Souza.

The presentation focused on peer mediation and touched on restorative justice practices that are being used in schools throughout the country. The response from the counselors was one of great interest and enthusiasm. Robyn has met with four schools since the presentation, two of which seem well positioned to start up peer mediation programs in the 2016-17 school year. This would bring the number of participating middle and high schools to eight!

As we end the third full year of our pilot program it is very affirming to have this level of interest from West Hawai'i schools.

If you are interested in learning more about peer mediation or would like to volunteer for the program during the 2016-17 school year, please contact Robyn Skudlarek at rskudlarek@whmediation.org

WHMC IN THE COMMUNITY

WHMC's Executive Director Accepted Into

2016 Weinberg Fellowship Program

WHMC's Executive Director, Zaheva Knowles, has been selected as one of a small group of diverse non-profit executive directors accepted into the prestigious Weinberg Fellowship Program.

Created and funded by The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Weinberg Fellowship Program, is an innovative management enhancement program designed to increase community-based nonprofit agency capacity to assist people in need.

Since 1992, more than 300 Weinberg Fellows have graduated and are making a difference throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

The program fosters a collaborative, supportive environment within which executive directors and key volunteer leaders add to their knowledge, hone skills, develop common standards and understandings of best practices, and position their services for maximum benefit to the community.

TRAINING & EDUCATION AT WHMC

The following are mediator specific training's:

Domestic Violence Training:

We will be holding a domestic violence training at our office in Waimea on May 19. Here you will learn about domestic violence and how it pertains to mediation, and what we can do when we come across it in mediation. We will have a working lunch, provided, to allow us to talk-story about what we learned and how we as mediators can apply the information.

The trainer, Barbara Gerbert, Ph.D., professor Emeritus University of California, San Francisco (Ret.), is a nationally-known DV expert residing on the Big Island. Barbara has studied how health care professionals, family and friends can play a role in preventing and reducing domestic violence.

Hawaii Civil Rights Training:

The civil rights training will be held in Kona, on June 16. At this training mediators will learn about the different types of civil rights mediation's and how they can best mediate them.

Landlord Tenant Training:

We will be holding a Landlord tenant training in Kona on Friday, July 1, 2016 (with time afterward for up to 90 minutes of additional Q&A). The training is a broad overview of the laws that apply to private landlord/tenant relationships.

MORE NEWS & EVENTS

WEST HAWAI'I MEDIATION CENTER * 65-1291 KAWAIHAE RD SUITE 202

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