



Chapter News

Your ACR Florida Chapter has been busy!

Last October, your chapter leadership obtained proclamations of support for Conflict Resolution Day from no fewer than 12 units of local government (counties, school districts, and municipalities). This was a joint effort by several members of your board, and we are looking forward to even greater participation from the membership in the coming year.

Congratulations to ACR Florida Past President Chris Shulman upon his certification as a Primary Trainer of Circuit Civil Mediators. With his certification, Chris joins fellow ACR Florida Board Member Elinor Robin (and fellow ACR Florida Chapter member Susan Dubow) in holding this certification. Ms. Robin and Ms. Dubow, whose training company, Mediation Training Group, Inc., is a certified provider of initial training for Circuit, Family, and County Mediation, offer a discount to ACR Florida members – for both initial training classes and continuing mediator education classes. Contact them for more information: <http://mediationtraininggroup.com>.

Legislative Update

In the current Florida legislative session, there are several bills pending relating to alternative dispute resolution, which may be of interest to ACR Florida members. (note the text of these bills and tracking information is available at

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/bills.aspx>.

For example, HB 433¹, in its current form would provide for significant changes to the Florida Division of Land Sales, etc.'s presuit mediation of community association (e.g., homeowner association) disputes. HB 923 would institute pilot mediation programs in the 13th and 6th Judicial Circuits (Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco Counties) for the resolution of disputes in deed-restricted communities. HB 1373 would substantially re-write the provisions concerning the Division's authorities and obligations as to, among many other things, alternative dispute resolution on community association disputes. SB 2488 provides for presuit demands for mediation of disputes between recreational vehicle dealers and manufacturers concerning warranty repairs made by the dealers. There is also expected to be introduced in the regular session a bill to support peer mediation by 6th graders state wide.

Conflict Resolution in the Schools

The Chapter has been successful in promoting a Bill in the Florida Legislature to incorporate conflict resolution education and peer mediation into the curriculum in all public elementary schools in Florida. This proposed legislation (Senate Bill 468 by Senator Siplin and House Bill 867 by Representative G. Thompson), passed the

¹ Note: all bill references and descriptions are as of March 5, 2007, and subject to amendment by the Legislature.

Senate K-12 Education Committee March 27, 2007 after efforts by Chapter President Ken Starr and Board member Leonard Helfand. This Bill is the top priority and sole legislative agenda item of the Florida Chapter Legislative Committee.

Fact Sheets from ARC Florida outlining the benefits of Conflict Resolution Curriculum have been distributed to all members of the Senate K-12 Education Committee and House Committee on 21st Century Competitiveness and House Schools and Learning Council which are the initial Committees to consider the Bill. The ARC Fact Sheet points out that conflict resolution education produces stronger citizens and can lead to a more peaceful society and school learning environment. It is also stated in the Fact Sheet that conflict management education addresses bullying and will help school children to learn respect, tolerance and listening skills.

According to Board member Helfand, the time is right in our state and country for such expanded conflict resolution efforts and he anticipates that school districts throughout the state will jump on the bandwagon of peer mediation and conflict resolution curriculum if the bill passes.

Please contact your local state legislator about supporting this bill.

Committee Opportunities

Looking for a low-impact way to get more involved in improving alternative dispute resolution practice and awareness? Get involved with one of your ACR Florida Committees:

Membership

Darryl Wilson – Chair
Fernaundra Ferguson; Carline Emanuel

Budget

Ken Starr – Chair
Karen Andres

Website/Newsletter

Chris Shulman – Chair
Tom Mack; Dwayne Clark

Public Relations

Ken Starr – Chair
Tom Mack; Lennie Helfand

Programs

Carol Tyson – Chair
Fernaundra Ferguson; Susan Cordero

Diversity

Carline Emanuel – Chair
Susan Dubow; Elinor Robin

Legislative

Elinor Robin—Chair
Lennie Helfand; Fernaundra Ferguson;
Chris Shulman

Conflict Resolution Day

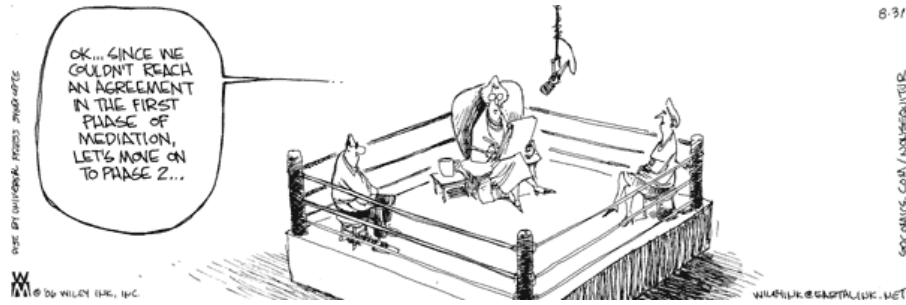
Lennie Helfand – Chair
Carol Tresca; Chris Shulman

Mediator Certification & Training update

The Florida Supreme Court has set oral argument on the finalization of the circuit civil mediator certification standard – especially concerning the current requirement of Florida Bar membership – for May 7, 2007. Hopefully, the Court will shortly thereafter finalize the standards.

Also, the Dispute Resolution Center has engaged a consultant to review mediation training at all levels. If you are interested in having input, you should consider contacting Ansley Barton, LLC, at <http://www.ansleybarton.com>.

Sidebar ☺



**ASSOCIATION FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION
Florida Chapter, Inc.
("ACR-Florida")**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date: _____
 Choose a title: Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr. Name: _____
 Organization and Title: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____, FL Zip Code _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____
 May we contact you (including, sending you Chapter Newsletters, Invoices, and the like) using your email address? Yes No

Your primary area(s) of Conflict Resolution Practice – Please check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Training/Teaching
<input type="checkbox"/> Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/> International	<input type="checkbox"/> Workplace
<input type="checkbox"/> Consumer	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> Court ADR	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Securities	_____

Your Conflict Resolution Role – Please check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Conciliator	<input type="checkbox"/> Judge	<input type="checkbox"/> Researcher
<input type="checkbox"/> Advocate	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Mediator	<input type="checkbox"/> Student
<input type="checkbox"/> Arbitrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Educator	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral Evaluator	<input type="checkbox"/> Trainer
<input type="checkbox"/> Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> Facilitator	<input type="checkbox"/> Ombuds	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify)

Committees – Please check all committees in which you are interested in participating:

<input type="checkbox"/> Conferences/Programming	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Diversity
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Website

Membership Category:

Regular Member (\$25.00 annually) *(To qualify for this category, you must also be a member of ACR International - Are you currently a member of ACR International?)*
 Yes No

Affiliate Member (\$35.00 annually)

Student/Youth Members of ACR International (Non-voting: \$5.00)

Please return this Application and your check made payable to "ACR Florida" to: Karen Andres, Treasurer, Florida ACR Chapter, P.O. Box 23752, Jacksonville, FL 32241-3752.



ACR Florida Chapter News

Issue IV, Spring 2007

In this edition:

Chapter News.....	1
Legislative Update	1
Conflict Resolution in the Schools	1
Committee Opportunities.....	2
Mediator Certification & Training update	2
Sidebar ☺	3
Membership Application	3

Association for Conflict Resolution – Florida Chapter, Inc.
a Florida Non-Profit Corporation
3490 Beach Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207