

President's Message

August, 2011

As the recently elected President of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to address the membership of NHCRA and those interested in Conflict Resolution/Alternative Dispute Resolution to offer my encouragement in these times of economic and political uncertainty. To continue the theme of my acceptance speech at our 2011 Annual Meeting and Conference, these times labeled "crisis" by some, apparently fraught with danger, provide also an undeniable opportunity.

Reliance on the litigation model to resolve most disputes has become inordinately expensive in terms of actual monetary cost, lost productivity and lost opportunity for our society that could benefit from mending or healing conflicts. Our mission at NHCRA is to be a "statewide organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing the practice and public understanding of peaceable and effective conflict resolution". Mediation, Arbitration, Collaborative Law and Neutral Case Evaluation are a few among many Conflict Resolution techniques that are available to address the issues of cost, lost productivity and lost opportunity.

Most of us raised to fight and compete, have now consciously trained to resist the impulse and lead in cooperative resolution of conflicts. NHCRA has set a goal to "promote conflict resolution services to interested individuals, professionals, organizations and the general public". Every one of us has the opportunity, in this time of crisis, to address the dangers created by an underfunded and overworked court system by speaking out about alternatives, by writing and blogging and Tweeting about what we know to be true: Alternative Dispute Resolution's time has come.