



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Attorney Michael Riley of Axley Brynson told the Waunakee Rotary Club about mediation and arbitration at the Aug. 23 meeting.

Mediation has been a wonderful system for a lot of years, allowing more cases to be settled because lawyers talked with other lawyers or with insurance companies.

Although Dane County has had volunteer mediators for many years, mediation has become a subspecialty of practice, Mike said. In the past, many cases went to trial because people never got down to brass tacks and specified exactly what they wanted.

Mediation may be preferable to a trial because it forces a lawyer to prepare and learn the case and see the pros and cons in a more timely manner. It creates an opportunity for all parties to sit down and try to resolve the case.

Mike said in his opinion, lawyers are preferable to ex-judges as mediators because attorneys have more experience with the files and a better understanding of them.

When selecting a mediator, it is a good idea to choose someone who knows the territory and will talk to the lawyers and parties on either side honestly about the risks and opportunities.

Mediation saves the parties the expense, both financial and emotional, of a trial and can allow the parties to settle without emotional trauma.

The type of arbitration Mike is most familiar with has to do with insurance contracts. It's important to find an arbitrator whom other lawyers respect rather than one who is an impassioned advocate. And again, it's important to find a lawyer who is familiar with the ter-

ritory.

Mostly, it is important to find a lawyer who is fair. Mike said he has been in arbitration and seen poor choices where the arbitrator has not been helpful.

Often, people don't take arbitration seriously and treat it like mediation.

Both are much shorter than a trial, he said.

Other items:

- A few club members noted that with the help of Ray and Harriet Statz, the Token Creek Music Festival concerts will be going on this weekend.

- Gary Epping presented the club with a t-shirt from the softball team which Rotary sponsors.

- Lynne Spielman said Lima, Peru, which experienced an earthquake, was nearly destroyed recently. Linda Olson some years ago had written a grant to obtain computers to send to a library there. The club agreed to help Lima with cash in the recovery effort.

- Dan Statz passed around a sign-up sheet for the Oktoberfest event in October. Many volunteers will be needed to help with the event.

Guests: Kelly Hamilton, guest of Neil King; Jim Starling, guest of Phil Willems; Amanda Reuhl, guest of Rich Harris; Todd Kearney, guest of Kevin Kearney.

Birthdays: Sept. 5, Gordy Meicher.

Anniversaries: Aug. 30, David and Mary Jean Kennedy; Aug. 31, Tammy and Jerry Reefer.

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Calendar of Events:

Sept. 6, Golf outing at the Meadows

Sept. 8, Sight Walk in Madison

Oct. 6-7, Oktoberfest

Oct. 14, Rotary Rustic Road Rally

Prayers: Aug. 30, Kim Wilde; Sept. 6, Pat Durden; Sept. 13, Msgr. Kramer; Sept. 20, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: Aug. 30, Madison Audubon; Sept. 6, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Aug. 30, Bob Arntz, Ken Ballweg; Sept. 6, Ron Ballweg, Connie Blau; Sept. 13, Jim Brussell, Roberta Baumann.

A wealthy man commissioned Pablo Picasso to paint a portrait of his wife. Startled by the nonrepresentational image on the final canvas, the woman's husband complained, "It isn't how she really looks."

When asked by the painter how she really looked, the man produced a photograph from his wallet.

Returning the photograph Picasso observed, "Small, isn't she?"

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.