

ATHENS AREA MEDIATION SERVICE

A Conflict Resolution Center
Annual Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Hot Topics for Cool Heads

Athens Library Small Mtg. Rm.

5:30-6:30pm

DECEMBER 10, 2018

Annual Potluck

Dairy Barn

6-8pm

YOU are invited! ALL ARE WELCOME! Bring a dish to share, enjoy an activity, and hear an update of AAMS activities with a call out for YOU to get involved!

JANUARY 14, 2019

Elder Care Conversations

Athens Community Center Rm B

10am-12 noon

JANUARY 14, 2019

Movies, Mediation, and Merlot

at Athens Uncorked

7pm

FEBRUARY 1-28, 2019

Souper Bowl Art Show

Athens Library Glass Cases

MARCH 17, 2019

19th Annual Souper Bowl

Athens Community Center

4:30-6:30pm



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

"I came here to meet someone for a fight, but he didn't show up, so I'll join you." Thus began one of our summer Mixed Bag programs at the library. That week involved a boat-building challenge that required creativity, communication, and teamwork. Instead of fighting, one teenager got the opportunity to learn about new ways of communicating, and therein lies the heart of our mission.

At AAMS, we want people to have difficult conversations in different ways. We all need tools to speak well with one another and express our needs in a way that others can understand. This year has seen growth and change for AAMS as we follow national trends in the field. Thus we are re-branding with the subtitle: A Conflict Resolution Center. As always, we offer mediation and training with the assistance of a dedicated team of volunteer mediators. We have also added a host of new opportunities for our community to engage with one another, connect, and share conflict resolution skills. Community mediation is about ordinary folks leading the way to build a better tomorrow.

Read on to learn how we help families communicate about elder care, get kids excited about non-violent communication, and guide our community to connect in highly divisive times. We can't make this happen without you. Whether you attend a social event, sign up for a training, or make an annual donation, YOU are the bones of this organization. Thanks for another great year!

Rachel Szostek, Director



MIXED BAG & PORTABLE PROGRAMS

Our summer youth program soared through its second year, supported by the Rocky Community Improvement Fund and Athens County Public Libraries. We worked with the summer free lunch programs at Nelsonville and Chauncey branches, and brought fun activities along! The most popular weeks this summer were our Field Day and Water Day, where participants learned about teamwork and "bucket fillers." We also enjoyed two weeks of cooperative board games.

We have adapted several of our programs for adults. If you are interested in bringing a dynamic, hands-on program to your workplace, organization, or community group, please visit our website! From LEGO to Labyrinth, we have something that can help groups of all varieties.

ELDER CARE

Thanks to a grant from the Sisters Health Foundation, we are excited to offer a new opportunity to discuss the many tough decisions families make as seniors need more assistance. Our program supports mediation for elders regarding their autonomy, presumption of capacity, and right to make decisions. We help families, through the use of Supported Decision-Making, navigate issues surrounding finances, medical care, family dynamics, housing, and more.

Join us January 14th from 10am-noon at the Athens Community Center, Room B for a more detailed discussion and seminar about how we can facilitate these difficult conversations and more! Drinks and snacks will be provided.

SOUPER BOWL

The 19th Annual Souper Bowl will take place on **March 17, 2019 at the Athens Community Center from 4:30-6:30 pm**. This year, you can get a sneak peek at some of the bowls that will be up for grabs! Select bowls will be on display in the cases at the Athens Library during the month of February. Tickets will be \$25 for adults, and will include your choice of a locally handmade bowl. Kids tickets will be \$10 and do not include a bowl.

HOT TOPICS

Our ongoing series is staying strong! **Join Trisha Lachman in November** for a discussion about rebuilding common ground after a divisive election cycle, and stay tuned for future gatherings, always tied to current and relevant events.

Hot Topics round table discussions focus on positive communication and give us the chance to listen well, discuss our ideas with others who may have ideas different than our own, and hopefully find common ground!

RENDEZVOUS

You asked for more ways to connect, and we heard you! Keep your eyes peeled for several opportunities to connect and grow as conflict resolution friends. Our first event, Board Games at Tavolino, kicked off the series in November. Meet up with us again at our **annual potluck in December**, our **movie night in January**, our library art show in February, or the Souper Bowl in March. The mediators that play together, stay together!

2018 BY THE NUMBERS:

Total: 85 gatherings/1069 served

Hot Topics: 5 roundtables

30 served

Mixed Bag: 26 sessions

300 served

Small Claims: 14 mediations

32 served

Ohio U: 21 gatherings

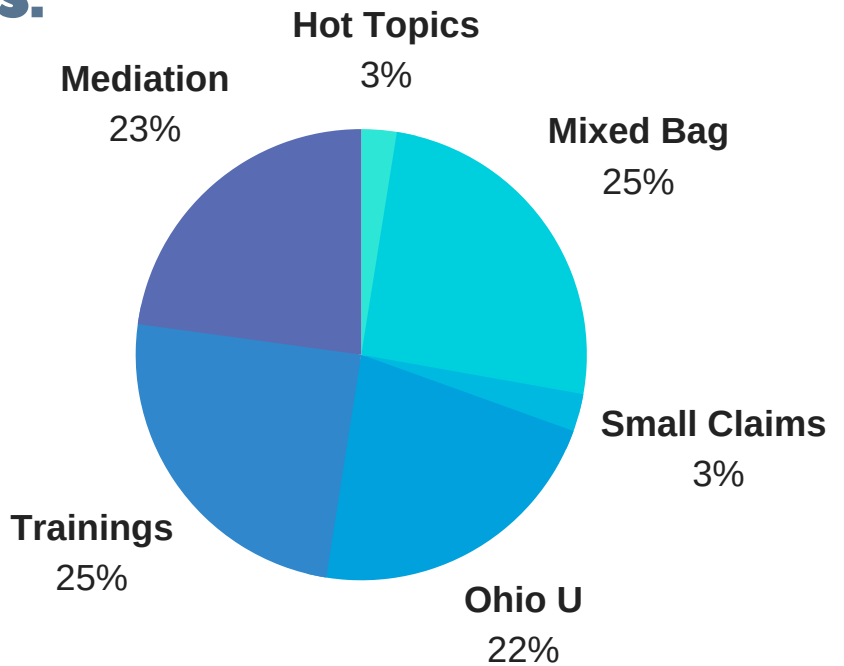
261 served

Trainings: 18 conducted

293 served

Mediation and Facilitation:

35 sessions, 271 served



GIVE

Your tax-deductible donation helps us fulfill our mission!

- \$25 subsidizes a mediation for a low-income party
- \$50 funds a Hot Topics roundtable
- \$100 provides one week of youth programming
- \$200 funds mediator training for one individual

CONTACT US:

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HOW TO DONATE:

- Cash, check, or money order mailed to 396 Richland Avenue, Athens, OH 45701
- In-person at our Annual Potluck on December 10 at the Dairy Barn
- Via Paypal, using friends and family option (for donations only, not goods or services), to: athensmediation@gmail.com

YES! I WILL COMMIT TO:

A donation in the amount of \$ _____

Name, _____

Address, _____

Email: _____

Attend an Event

Assist with Summer Program

Host a Training or Program

Assist with Marketing/Fundraising