

POLISHING OUR MEDIATOR MOVES

through community,
dialogue, & education

NOVEMBER 4 & 5, 2022

OMA 2022 annual conference

Welcome to our 36th Annual Conference.
We hope you walk away with new
knowledge, new friends and
new polished moves.

[REGISTER](#)

Founded in 1986, OMA's mission is to help Oregonians transform the way they confront and resolve conflict in their personal lives and in their communities.

Schedule | Day 1

virtual conference

Friday, November 4

9:30 am	Coffee and Networking
10:15 am	OMA Board President Message
10:30 am	Clarification Please? Mediation Marketing that Resonates Chris Sheesley, MA • President, In-Accord, Inc.
11:30 am	Becoming a Court-Connected Mediator AJ Wahl • Court-Connected and Private Mediator, Attorney, Judge Pro Tem
12:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm	Creative Diversity: A Different Take on Equity and Inclusion Louise Neilson, MS
3:00 pm	Panel Discussion: Collaborative Mediation Angela Russo • Collaborative Attorney and Mediator Patrick Ward • Collaborative Law Attorney and Mediator Janet Tighe • Financial Specialist/Neutral
4:00 pm	Panel Q&A
4:30 pm	OMA "Spirit of Mediation" Award Raffle Drawing
5:30 pm	Conclude

It is a highlight for OMA to recognize distinguished service through OMA's *Awards of Excellence* program.

In 2019, *The Spirit of Mediation* award was created to highlight not just contributions to the field, but also individuals who reflect the inspirational spirit of one or more of our highly-regarded past luminaries.

Past *Spirit of Mediation* Award Recipients

Bryan Egan, Rene Bove, Stuart Watson, Jack Bevilaqua (2019)
Jim Melamed (2020) • Brian Graunke (2021)

Schedule | Day 2

virtual + in-person socials

Saturday, November 5

9:00 am	Annual OMA Membership Meeting
10:15 am	Welcome Day 2
10:30 am	Getting Past "It's a Matter of Principle" Brian B. Egan • MSOD, APFM Certified Mediator, Certified Professional Facilitator
11:30 am	Public Policy Mediation in an Age of Performance Politics Stephen Greenwood • Faculty lead, PSU Graduate Certificate in Collaborative Governance
12:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm	Hardcore Depolarization: Using Mediation Skills to Build Rapport Across Lines Ryan Nakade
2:30 pm	OMA Credentialing Presentation
3:00 pm	Conclude
4:00 pm	Portland & Salem Socials learn more



Thank you to our Conference Committee who offered their time, input & dedication.

★ Volunteer Spotlight ★

Miles Brady (Board Chair),
Sam Imperati & Kandi Rosenbalm

Stephanie Leffler

Our sincere gratitude for the time and generosity of our supporters, speakers, volunteers and members who helped shaped this year's program.



Workshops

Clarification Please? Mediation Marketing that Resonates

Chris Sheesley, MA • President, In-Accord, Inc.

Among our top contributions to society is when we serve as "translators" between fractious parties. However, when it comes to marketing conflict resolution services, we don't always speak a comprehensible language. Instead, we may describe our services in ways that confuse the target audience and obviates the message. This interactive presentation will help mediators explain our services in ways that can be heard, and embraced, by prospects.

Educational Focus: Building a Mediation Practice; Marketing, Advertising, Social Media and/or Website Building

OMA Core Standards: Advertising and Solicitation; Mediation Practice

Becoming a Court-Connected Mediator

AJ Wahl • Court-Connected and Private Mediator, Attorney, Judge Pro Tem

This workshop will provide an overview of court-connected mediation in Oregon and provide an informational guide for those individuals interested in becoming court-connected mediators. Whether you are interested or simply would like more information, this workshop will review the different court-connected mediation programs across the state, and speak to the different challenges and opportunities facing potential court-connected mediators.

Educational Focus: Building a Mediation Practice; Skill Building; Emerging Trends in Alternative Dispute Resolution

OMA Core Standards: Process and Substantive Competence; Fees; Mediation Practice

Creative Diversity: A Different Take on Equity and Inclusion

Louise Neilson, MS

In this thought provoking and interactive workshop, participants will be encouraged to expand their definition of equity and inclusion to include the diversity represented by their interpersonal creative attributes and style of creativity. They'll learn how to identify their creative attributes, evaluate the diversity of those attributes and how they influence their preference for mediation practice areas. Through this self-assessment, participants will learn how their style affects their definitions of equity and inclusion. Then examine the connections between the causes of diversity-related conflicts and barriers to creative thinking.

Educational Focus: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Skill Building

OMA Core Standards: Process and Substantive Competence

Panel Discussion: Collaborative Mediation

Facilitator: Angela Russo • Collaborative Attorney and Mediator

Sometimes the support of a neutral, impartial mediator is not enough. But that doesn't mean mediation and peacemaking has to go out the window! This panel discussion will explore how other professionals such as mental health specialists, financial advisors, and attorneys can be incorporated into the mediation process. The panel will also include a discussion on Collaborative divorce.

Educational Focus: Building a Mediation Practice; Panel Presentations; Emerging Trends in Alternative Dispute Resolution

OMA Core Standards: Informed Consent; Confidentiality; Process and Substantive Competence; Dual roles and Hybrid Processes; Mediation Practice

Workshops

Getting Past "It's a Matter of Principle"

Brian B. Egan • MSOD, APFM Certified Mediator, Certified Professional Facilitator

The five deadliest words in mediation: "It's a matter of principle." That phrase is usually the kiss of death for all hope of getting a mediated agreement. But does it really have to be that way? In this participatory workshop, share your ideas on how to resolve a disagreement deadlocked by this very subjective rationale. Participants will take away a toolkit to assist practitioners in making progress despite overwhelming odds. The presenter has no pat answers! He's been struggling with this for decades, and now turns to the "hive mind" for a lively discussion full of great ideas. All participants will be emailed a write-up of the group's conclusions.

Educational Focus: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Skill Building; Ethics in Mediation

OMA Core Standards: Self-Determination; Impartial Regard Process and Substantive Competence; Good Faith Participation; Mediation Practice

Public Policy Mediation in an Age of Performance Politics

Stephen Greenwood • Faculty lead, PSU Graduate Certificate in Collaborative Governance

One of the emerging challenges of public policy mediation in an age of what some call "performance politics" is the trend toward stakeholder representatives being less and less interested in actual solutions, and more interested in demonstrating which "political tribe" they belong to. This workshop/seminar will examine these challenges and involve participants in developing strategies for overcoming them.

Educational Focus: Emerging Trends in Alternative Dispute Resolution

OMA Core Standards: Good Faith Participation; Mediation Practice

Hardcore Depolarization: Using Mediation Skills to Build Rapport Across Lines

Ryan Nakade • Mediator, Facilitator, Depolarization Ambassador

What does a mediator do when conflicting political or social positions do not want a seat at the mediation table? In this workshop, participants will learn practical strategies, tactics and methods that have been used successfully to address issues of hyper-polarization. The presenter will offer novel ways for how mediation skills can be used outside of traditional fields and, as a person of color who interacts with rural communities, will connect this work with social justice and equity-based values.

Participants will walk away with:

- An ambassador's method for building bridges using mediation skills to work with isolated communities or individuals who would not voluntarily talk to someone they viewed were from the other side.
- An increase in ideological competency around group values, ideals and beliefs.
- How to recognize intra-group polarization and skillfully move past wedge issues.
- Exploring internal paradoxes in order to facilitate breaking-up extreme groupthink.
- How to introduce your perspective and when to use humble versus expert personas.
- Recognizing implicit ideological biases and building relationships through 1:1 dialogue.
- The society-wide impacts of inter-group interaction and diverse community connection.

Educational Focus: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Skill Building; Using Mediation Skills in Non-Mediation Professions

OMA Core Standards: Self-Determination; Confidentiality; Good Faith Participation

Speaker Bios



Chris Sheesley, MA • inaccordnw.com

Chris Sheesley and his team at In-Accord put derailed workplace relationships back on track. Senior managers and HR professionals hire In-Accord when they recognize the need for experienced, objective facilitators to transform high-stakes or seemingly impossible internal disputes into cooperation and employee efficiency. With 32 years of full-time experience, a client roster of hundreds of notable organizations and a track record of over 2,000 cases, Chris is among the most seasoned conflict management professionals on the West Coast. He has also amassed over 5,000 hours of experience teaching dispute resolution and related skills grounded in his real-world experience. He earned a Bachelor's in Conflict Resolution from American University, and a Master's in Organizational Communications.

Chris lives in Oregon on seven Clackamas County acres with his wife, two sons and other critters. He's been spotted sailing on the Columbia River aboard *Escapade*, gazing at space through a telescope and gawking at local birds.



AJ Wahl • ajwahl.com

AJ Wahl practices family law and mediation on the Oregon coast. Before becoming an attorney and mediator, AJ worked for the Governor of Wisconsin, as a Research Aide in the Wisconsin State Legislature, and on various political campaigns. She felt the pull west during a camping trip at Cape Lookout and soon-after moved to Oregon to attend Willamette College of Law where she obtained her Juris Doctorate. While at law school, she met her husband, and upon graduation, they decided to make the Pacific Northwest home. AJ likes to garden, clam, hike through the woods and on the beach, and create jewelry and pottery.

She holds a Bachelor Degree in Molecular Biology, Classics, and Legal Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. AJ lives in Gearhart with her husband, two daughters, dog, and chickens.



Louise Neilson, MS • standpointmediation.com • beingincahoots.com

Louise is a mediator with an MS in Creativity and Innovation. For 25 years, she was an Adjunct Instructor at Marylhurst University, where she taught Conflict Management, Negotiation, Mediation Process, and Conflict and Creativity. Concurrently, she trained, coached, mediated with, and/or mentored new mediators for federal, state, county, city, business, community, and victim-offender programs. Louise currently mediates between Portland police officers and irate citizens. She mediates interpersonal disputes with Standpoint Mediation and Consulting. She is the author of *Mediating with Picasso: Relying on Your Inherent Creativity When You need It Most* and *In Cahoots: A Playbook for Creative Collaboration*.



Angela Russo • collaborativepracticeoregon.org

Angie brings her caring, calm, and direct style to her Collaborative Law and Family Law Mediation practice. Her award-winning style is a product of her unique training and background. As a former public school teacher, she utilizes her years of teaching experience and as a former District Attorney specializing in Domestic Violence cases, she understands how to diffuse high conflict dynamics and volatile relationship situations. Angie is also a Court-Connected Mediator in Multnomah and Columbia Counties.

Angie and her husband, Aaron, have two young daughters and spend most of their spare time chasing their toddlers around. When Angie gets a chance, she loves hiking, snow-skiing, kayaking, cycling, running and yoga or simply sitting on her deck with a cup of coffee and a good book.

Speaker Bios



Brian B. Egan • MediationClarity.com

In 1999, Brian founded Clarity Mediation and Facilitation LLC, a consulting practice specializing in conflict resolution and facilitation of organizational change events and processes. Brian has mediated over 2000 cases since 2001, including international disputes. He has been a securities Arbitrator for FINRA (the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority) since 2008. In addition to his professional practice, he is a volunteer mediator with Neighbor-to-Neighbor Mediation Service and is a former member of their board.

Brian currently serves on the Board of the Academy of Professional Family Mediators, and is a non-executive director of Direct Mediation Services in the UK. He is a former president of OMA and is a member of the World Mediation Association and the International Association of Facilitators.



Stephen Greenwood • pdx.edu/policy-consensus-center/

Stephen Greenwood is the Director for Training for the National Policy Consensus Center at Portland State University, and the faculty lead for PSU's Graduate Certificate in Collaborative Governance. He has an MPA in public administration from Harvard University, held leadership positions in the public sector for over 30 years, and is co-author of an internationally used textbook on collaborative governance. Greenwood has designed and conducted numerous workshops and sessions for public officials, public agencies, and collaborative groups in the Pacific Northwest and internationally.



Ryan Nakade • ruminantresolutions.com

Ryan works with governments, non-profits, and civic leaders to bridge divides and make communities more resilient to conflict. He received his mediation and facilitation training from East County Resolutions (Gresham, OR) and currently works as a facilitator for the Department of Human Services family decision cases. He is Board Vice President of the Oregon Mediation Association and is an active member on the Beaverton Center for Mediation and Dialogue advisory committee.

Ryan actively supports the CURE-PDX project, which seeks to combat extremism and political violence in the Pacific Northwest. He is a regular facilitator for Civic Synergy, which brings college students of diverging political beliefs together to formulate bipartisan policy solutions that are proposed to members of congress. He lives in Toledo, WA, with his wife and nine goats.

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