



## Dispute Resolution Center OF THURSTON COUNTY

### Applicants Sought for Board of Directors

*Are you looking for an opportunity to make a real and lasting difference in your community?*

*You can play a key role in creating a more peaceful and civil community as a member of our Board of Directors.*

The Board of Directors of the Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County (DRC) is seeking new members who feel called to help us advance our vision of a South Sound community that has and uses healthy and respectful conflict resolution skills.

#### **About the DRC:**

The Dispute Resolution Center empowers people to resolve their disputes by providing direct conflict resolution services and training community members in those skills. We serve communities throughout Thurston and South Mason Counties. We envision a South Sound community that has and uses healthy and respectful conflict resolution skills. We value personal empowerment, integrity, respect, collaboration, civility, and trust.

Our story in Thurston County began in 1990 with the simple notion that residents can settle their own disputes and learn effective communications with the help of other residents who have learned practical, teachable and highly effective skills as neutral facilitators. The Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County is one of 22 DRCs serving communities across Washington.

#### **About the DRC Board:**

The DRC Board of Directors is comprised of up to 15 community volunteers who are strong advocates for conflict resolution, civility, and promoting respect and peace in the communities the DRC serves. It is a working board that requires a strong leadership commitment by each member (see Board Member Commitment below).

Board members must reside within the DRC's service area of Thurston and south Mason Counties.

As the governing body of the DRC - a 501(c)3 non-profit organization - the Board has fiscal and legal responsibility for the operations of the organization, and partners closely with the Executive Director and staff to plan and provide high quality services to the residents of Thurston and South Mason Counties. The Board meets monthly to conduct business. Board members contribute additional time to the organization as necessary.

The focus of the Board is to enhance and support the DRC's mission and key lines of service:

- **Affordable Mediation Services** to individuals, families, government agencies, businesses and organizations in our community so that they might peacefully attempt to resolve disputes;
- **High-quality Training Resources** in conflict resolution and communication skills, including certification programs for mediation, family mediation, and multi-party mediation, as well as restorative practices.
- **Youth Empowerment Services (YES!)**, which provides K-12 schools and youth service agencies with resource to train and support young people in effective communication and conflict resolution skills.

For more information on DRC and its services, visit [www.mediatethurston.org](http://www.mediatethurston.org).

#### **Board Needs and Opportunities:**

The DRC Board is seeking new members who will enhance the Board's and the organization's representation of and engagement with the many diverse communities we serve.

We welcome and encourage applicants with one or more of the following:

- Strong community connections,
- Skills in identifying and leveraging resources,
- Fundraising experience,
- K-12 education system experience,
- Governance, leadership or management experience.

The DRC is currently accepting applications from prospective Board members and will review as received.

Please provide the following:

- **Letter of Interest:** Short letter that describes why you are interested in joining the DRC Board and what assets you might contribute to the Board.
- **Current Resume:** Include your current place of residence\* and any prior board or other non-profit experience.

\*Board members must reside within the DRC's service area of Thurston and south Mason Counties.

Application materials may be e-mailed to: [board@mediatethurston.org](mailto:board@mediatethurston.org)

or mailed to:

Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County

Attn: Board of Directors

P.O. Box 6184

Olympia, WA 98507

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## Board Member Commitment

- Members serve for a Three-Year Term (up to two consecutive terms).
- Board Meetings are held once a month on a weekday evening. Attendance at Board meetings is expected. In addition, board members are expected to contribute additional time, as needed, to support the operations of the organization and its staff. The DRC Board is considered to be a "working board."
- Members are asked to serve on one or more committees, including: Policies, Strategic Planning, and Recruitment. Board members may also participate in a broad volunteer committee that supports community engagement.
- Members participate in an all-day board retreat that is held on a Saturday in the Fall.
- Board members support the Community Engagement Manager in tasks associated with fundraising to support DRC operations, including the signature fundraising event, "The Toast", which is held in the Spring. Board members are also expected to attend and support other DRC sponsored events throughout the year.
- Board members are encouraged to observe trainings offered by the board and the DRC conciliation service.
- Board members are encouraged to take the 40-hour Professional Mediation Training (provided at a reduced fee).
- Each Board member is expected to make a personally significant financial contribution to the DRC each year. (We acknowledge that what may be significant for one person may not be the same as for another person.)
- Board members contribute annually to an agreed upon, nominal amount to be put into a discretionary fund for the purpose of recognizing volunteers, staff and others as determined.