

# EXECUTIVE *focus*

ISSUE 4  
WINTER 2015



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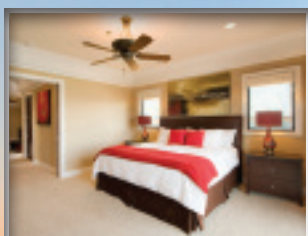
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## SUBMISSIONS

News items from our membership are welcome. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit and/or reject all materials received. Submissions may be condensed in order to fit the allotted space. Local photographs may be submitted by our members for consideration of cover placement. Please submit photo in high resolution and include a photo release. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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**Board Meeting**  
Jan. 8, MSAE Office

**Membership Meeting and Workshop**  
Feb. 26, Doubletree Hotel - Sponsor: Kansas City CVA

**Board Meeting**  
March 17, MSAE Office

**Membership Meeting and Workshop**  
April 22, Capitol Plaza Hotel - Sponsor needed

**Board Meeting**  
May 20, MSAE Office

**Trade Show**  
July 12, Capitol Plaza Hotel

**Board Meeting**  
July 22, MSAE office

**ASAE Annual Meeting**  
August 13-16, Salt Lake City, UT

**Board Meeting, and Funfest**  
Sept. 19, Meadow Lake Acres Country Club

**Annual Meeting Luncheon**  
Sept. 20, Capitol Plaza Hotel

**Board Retreat**  
Oct. 21-22, Location TBD

**Membership Meeting and Workshop**  
Nov. 4, Doubletree Hotel

**Board Meeting**  
Dec. 1, MSAE Office

**Christmas Party**  
Dec. 8, Location TBD

Go to [www.MSAE.net](http://www.MSAE.net) for  
current Calendar of Events

## Cover



### St. Charles, Missouri

Saint Charles Missouri is a charming community located on the banks of the Missouri River, just 10 minutes from Lambert-Saint Louis International Airport. Our Convention Center accommodates up to 3,000 people with the attached full service Embassy Suites with 296 spacious suites and 8,300 square feet of meeting space. The conference center at Ameristar Casino offers 19,200 square feet of high-end meeting space and 400 luxury suites. Meeting attendees can enjoy shopping and dining in the largest historic district in Missouri, tour the State's First Capitol, hike and bike along the Katy Trail or visit the Missouri Wine Country.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY JAN NEIZERT

### Are you Working to Get Ahead, but Actually Falling Behind?

As hard as we all work, you'd think that we'd want to come out ahead, right? As it turns out, for many of us, working is a losing proposition.

A 2014 study estimated the costs of work-related stress in the U.S. at \$300 billion/year. Based on medical costs, sick leave, loss of productivity and premature death, that includes such conditions as high blood pressure, heart attacks, ulcers, diabetes, depression, among others - all of which are exacerbated by stress.

Imagine how much better your organization's bottom line would look if you could prevent even a small percentage of these costs!

So, what are you doing to save your association/company the pain and expenses of workplace stress? Here are some suggestions for you as a supervisor, some changes that could start with the New Year:

- » Encourage opportunities for employees to really take a break. Don't make them believe they MUST finish every job without stopping.
- » Provide resources to diminish the level of stress in the office. For example, this time of year, allow for a festive atmosphere in the midst of important work. Enhance the environment through décor, music, even aromas - studies show all of these truly make a difference about how workers feel while they work.
- » If you know of an employee who is having a hard time with stress, validate the need for talking through tough times with qualified professionals or trusted friends.
- » In team "meetings," acknowledge the reality of workplace pressures, but honestly discuss a healthy perspective to identify true priorities and working through potential worst-case scenarios to encourage preparation and discourage panic.
- » Do your team members have permission to share their challenges without fear of judgement? Are they also able to celebrate successes throughout the work day/week, offering positive reinforcement to each other?

For those of you who might be resistant to taking any of these steps formally, afraid that your employees will either take unfair advantage or decrease overall productivity, think about it this way: Wouldn't you rather be the catalyst for these initiatives, planning for the change in office culture than all of a sudden finding out that critical tasks will not be done because of built-up stress that was not addressed until it was too late?

P.S. *AND don't make the mistake of thinking you are exempt from these stressors - take care of yourself, too, starting in 2016!*

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# What Makes You Happy?

How are you doing with your HQ — Happiness Quotient? Do you know what really makes you happy? “Happiness seems less a matter of getting what you want than of how you feel about what you have,” says David G. Myers PhD, Professor of Psychology at Hope College in Holland Michigan. David Lykken, a psychologist and Professor Emeritus at University of Minnesota says his research shows that each of us has a happiness set point determined by our genes. You can’t change the set point much but you can do some things that allow you to bounce above that happiness level. What is really amazing is that the research shows that the things that we think would make us happier like money, physical beauty, and social prominence do not matter. It’s other things that cause that little bounce! So what gives you that bounce and why is it important?

Shortly after my marriage ended about 20 years ago my children went to spend the weekend with their father. It had been a long time since I was totally alone for a weekend. To cheer myself up I thought I would go to the supermarket and buy the kinds of food that I liked. The problem was that I was so used to shopping for everyone else in the family that I had no clue as to what I liked! For a lot of reasons I was not very happy at that moment but what was really tragic is that I did not know what might make me happy. Needless to say over the years I’ve learned many ways to cheer myself.

So what are some strategies that make you happy? For some of it might be just the smell of an apple pie in the oven — or the taste of it in your mouth! Others might look to an accomplishment to make them happy. For an author perhaps it is finally finishing a book, for a mountain climber it may be reaching the peak, and for a bird watcher see that special bird he/she has been watching for. Still others may find happiness in the world of nature - a spectacular sunset, a beautiful bird, the calming effect of the ocean or a lake.

When my clients determine their own life’s priorities, I am amazed at how many forget to make themselves a priority. If we do not take responsibility for our own happiness no one else will. If we are not happy, our relationships will not be satisfying and our other priorities will suffer. So really knowing what makes you happy is a critical issue. It affects your whole life.

Cheryl Richardson in her book, “Take Time for Your Life”, says her basic coaching philosophy is “extreme self-care.” She says, “This means putting your self-care above anything else—saying no unless it’s an absolute yes, choosing to spend your time and energy on things that bring you joy, and making decisions based on what you want instead of what others want.” Knowing yourself and what you want is really key here.

What are some ways to get to really know yourself? One way that has worked for me is journaling. Each morning I get up and write 3 pages in my journal. The idea comes from the book, “The Artists Way” by Julia Cameron. She suggests you write whatever in stream of consciousness every morning. Another idea is to just spend time by yourself for quiet reflection. For others it may be by being with friends. Sometimes a good friend can help us to see the joyful aspects of our own lives better than we can ourselves.

Putting yourself first can help you to identify ways that make you feel happy. The next step is to be open to really appreciating the opportunities to feel good during the day. Laughter is a great way to release tension. Finding the humor in a situation can in fact add more happiness to our own lives and that of those around us. If you focus on the present and really appreciate what is going on around you, you may in fact find some things that will make you happy that you might have missed in the past. Appreciating the small pleasures in life can go a long way in increasing your happiness quotient.

## Take Action:

Sometimes you need to remember what happiness feels like. Try some of these ideas for a reminder:

1. Put on a happy face and walk confidently with long strides and arms swinging and eyes straight ahead.
2. Spend time with happy people.
3. Daydream about a time and place that you felt completely happy.
4. Close the door and the windows, put on your favorite music and sing as loud as you can. (Often this works best if you have a toy microphone or a real one!)
5. Create your own idea here and let me know what it is.



## Opioids: Strategy to Reduce Misuse and Abuse

On Dec. 1, six organizations representing Missouri health care providers issued recommendations to their collective memberships on an initial step to reduce opioid painkiller misuse and abuse. The Missouri Academy of Family Physicians, Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, Missouri College of Emergency Physicians, Missouri Dental Association, Missouri Hospital Association and Missouri State Medical Association jointly recommended that health care providers adopt a core set of actions to reduce variation in opioid-prescribing practices.

State-specific research released earlier this year found that hospital treatment for commonly-prescribed opioid painkillers — where overuse is a primary or contributing factor for inpatient or emergency care — increased 137 percent in Missouri between 2005 and 2015. Additionally, separate research suggests a strong link in opioid abuse and heroin addiction, and submits as many as three out of four prescription opioid abusers will eventually use heroin as a less expensive source of opioids. This inappropriate use of controlled substances is having a major negative impact on the lives of many Missourians and the communities where they live.

For more information and resources on opioid misuse and abuse, visit <http://bit.ly/1QfGf3t>.

## Oral Health Policy Conference



The Coalition is planning for the 2016 Oral Health Policy Conference, the state's only conference dedicated to oral health policy issues. The conference will be held March 10 and 11, 2016, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Featured speakers include; Dr. Katherine Weno, Director of the Division of Oral Health at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Amy Blouin, Executive Director of the Missouri Budget Project; Joe Parks, MO HealthNet Director; Kathryn Phillips, Director of Practice Transformation, Qualis Health; Dr. Amid Ismail, Temple University; Dr. Marko Vujicic, Chief Economist, Health Policy Institute; and a panel on Oral Health in the Schools.

Conference attendees include oral health advocates from throughout the state and region, concerned community members and health care professionals.

The Coalition is a nonprofit advocacy agency dedicated to improving the oral health of all Missourians through sound public policy and public awareness.

Learn more at [www.oralhealthmissouri.org](http://www.oralhealthmissouri.org), [facebook.com/TheMissouriCoalitionForOralHealth](https://facebook.com/TheMissouriCoalitionForOralHealth) and [twitter.com/#!/oralhealthmo](https://twitter.com/#!/oralhealthmo)

## Sebree Receives RCE Designation from National Association of Realtors®

(Columbia, Missouri) -- John M. Sebree, CEO of Missouri REALTORS® is being honored by the National Association of REALTORS® with the Realtor association Certified Executive (RCE) designation, which recognizes exceptional efforts made by the REALTOR® association executives.

Sebree is one of over 450 REALTOR® association executives who have achieved this mark of excellence. Local and state association executives who hold the RCE designation represent Realtors in 50 states/territories.

"This is truly an honor and I am very proud to be receiving this designation. It is a high point in my career as an association executive," Sebree said.





## Missouri Chamber joins national effort to promote manufacturing

*Missouri manufacturers take active role to engage the next generation of workers in opportunities in manufacturing*

In conjunction with the celebration of Manufacturing Day 2015, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry announces a new partnership with the Manufacturing Institute to facilitate the Dream It. Do It. program in Missouri.

Established in 2005, Dream It. Do It. is a national, grassroots effort aimed at raising the perception of manufacturing jobs and recruiting the next generation manufacturing workforce. The program is provided by the Manufacturing Institute, an affiliate of National Association of Manufacturing. Through this partnership, the Missouri Chamber will promote and facilitate activities that increase awareness of the abundant opportunities in manufacturing and technology fields.

"In Missouri, there is a serious shortage of workers to fill the high tech, good paying jobs that manufacturing provides," said Dan Mehan, president and CEO of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "Our state's manufacturers have the job openings, but can't find the workers qualified to fill these positions. Through our partnership with the Manufacturing Institute, the Missouri Chamber is committing to our manufacturers to help narrow the skills gap and keep our manufacturing operations going strong."

According to a Gallup survey of more than 1,000 Missouri employers conducted by the Missouri Chamber Foundation earlier this year, only 15 percent of Missouri business owners believe that high schools are preparing students for the workforce.



This skills deficit is especially acute in the manufacturing sector. According to a Deloitte Skills Gap study conducted by the Manufacturing Institute, 84 percent of executives agree there is a talent shortage in U.S. manufacturing and six out of ten open skilled production positions are unfilled due to talent shortage. Despite the fact that 80 percent of manufacturers are willing to pay more than the market rates, these jobs are going unfilled, the survey cited.

Workforce development is a key driver in the Missouri Chamber's strategic plan, Missouri 2030: An Agenda to Lead. The addition of the proven Dream It. Do It. program to the Missouri Chamber's education outreach programs is an integral part of the organization's strategic plan.

"It will take a coordinated effort to make students more aware of manufacturing careers, and the Missouri Chamber is anxious to get to work to match up qualified workers with fulfilling, good-paying jobs," Mehan said.

In addition to Manufacturing Day events, the Missouri Chamber is partnering with Troy manufacturing facility, Toyota-Bodine Manufacturing, to launch a video contest for students at local schools: Elsberry R-2, Lincoln County, R-3, Winfield R-4, and Silex R-1. Students will create videos of local manufacturing facilities. The students will highlight "What's cool about manufacturing" and will compete for the most "likes" on YouTube. Participating schools are receiving GoPro cameras, software and coaching through funding from Toyota USA funds.

Prior to becoming a candidate for the RCE designation, applicants must document their association management and academic experiences. Once they have completed this first step, eligible candidates must successfully complete a multiple choice exam, which is based on a comprehensive understanding of association operations and management practices. Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of areas critical to Realtor association management, including association law, governance and issues related to member services. To retain the designation, RCEs must be recertified every four years.

Sebree will receive an award and plaque from representatives of the Missouri Realtors during an upcoming event. Sebree has been CEO of Missouri REALTORS® since October 2014. He previously served as Senior Vice President of Public Policy for Florida REALTORS® for eleven years and prior to that as Senior Legislative Representative in Washington, DC, for the National Association of REALTORS® for thirteen years.





# How to Gracefully Quit Your Job

By Karell Roxas

So you've done it. After what may have been weeks or months of sneaking out for job interviews and sending follow-up emails to the hiring manager, you've gone and gotten yourself a new job. But after the excitement of negotiations and the high of saying "I accept" dies down, a feeling of dread might sink in. Now you have to inform your current employer in a way that keeps all your professional relationships intact and leaves both YOU and the association in a good place. How do you do it without feeling awkward or guilty? Here's how to make your exit the right way.

## Telling Your Boss and HR

Once you confirm the details of your offer letter and set a start date (and not a minute sooner), it's time to tell your manager. Make sure you do this before you tell anyone else in the association, including your direct reports or close co-workers. "Your boss, should be the first to know you're leaving, and he should be told face to face," says Nicole Williams, CEO and founder of career consultancy WORKS.

Depending on your association's policy, you may also have to write an official resignation letter. "Simply state that you're resigning without listing any reasons and include your end date. Finish with a positive statement about the association or your experience there," Williams advises.

## Give at Least Two Weeks

In most cases, the standard two weeks is more than enough notice, but be aware that some employers may ask you to leave your position sooner. It's their prerogative, says Ryan Naylor, CEO and founder of localwork.com, but most will probably want you to complete your last two weeks to wrap up projects and train your replacement, if possible.

If you're in the middle of a particularly important project, you may want to consider giving more time (say, an extra week), assuming your new employer is amenable, to ensure a smooth transition.

Remember, "You never want to leave your boss in a bind. You may need to rely on her for a reference in the future," says career counselor and executive coach Roy Cohen. The same is true for your team members. Dumping a project on them at the final hour isn't going to help in sustaining future friendships once you're no longer in the same office.

## Telling Your Team

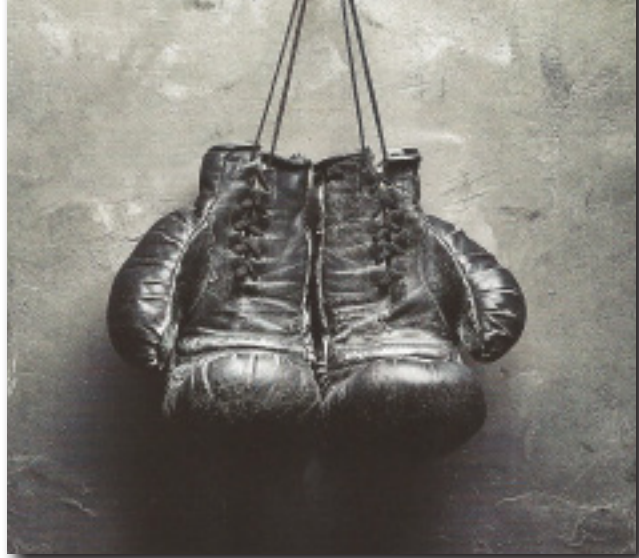
Whether you manage a large group or one person, once your manager has been informed, it's time to fill in your team. But before you do, make sure you've ironed out the details of a transition plan with your supervisor, including who may become their interim boss while the association searches for a replacement. "The first thing employees will want to know is who they will report to now that you're leaving," says Naylor.

"Depending on the size of your team and your relationships with each member, talking one-on-one with your reports might be helpful," Naylor adds. "It can be a very difficult, sad and confusing time for employees when their manager leaves, so addressing them personally and answering any questions they have can be helpful."

## Your Transition Plan

This is a crucial component to making sure you leave your team and association in the best possible place after your departure. The details of this plan may be covered in the meeting with your boss when you give notice, or in a follow-up meeting. Naylor recommends doing the following to help formulate your plan:

- ▶ Catalog all your current responsibilities.
- ▶ Work with your manager to assign those duties to others and perform training as needed.



- ▶ Determine with your manager how to notify any customers, clients or outside vendors with whom you interact, and introduce them to their new point of contact within your association.
- ▶ Organize your digital and physical files and ensure your team understands your filing system.
- ▶ Wrap up any lingering projects.
- ▶ Help write an accurate job description for your role so your replacement knows exactly what to do.
- ▶ Help recruit, hire and train your replacement if asked by your manager.

Remember, those last two weeks aren't a time to coast. "As you begin the final countdown to your last day on the job, you may be tempted to cut corners," says Pamela Eyring, owner of The Protocol School of Washington. "However, adopting this type of attitude can alienate your co-workers. By remaining an active member of the team, you will ensure your reputation remains intact long after you clock out for the final time."

**Karell Roxas is executive editor at [daillyworth.com](http://daillyworth.com). She has spent her career writing about important topics for women and lives in Brooklyn, New York. Contact her at [karell@daillyworth.com](mailto:karell@daillyworth.com).**

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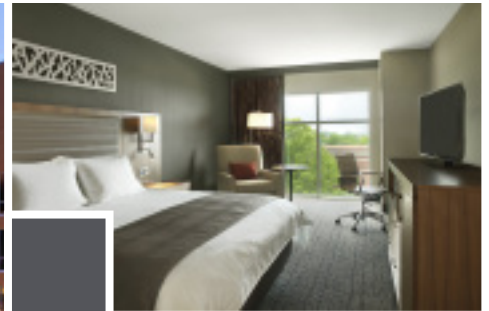
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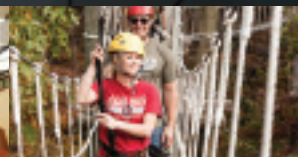


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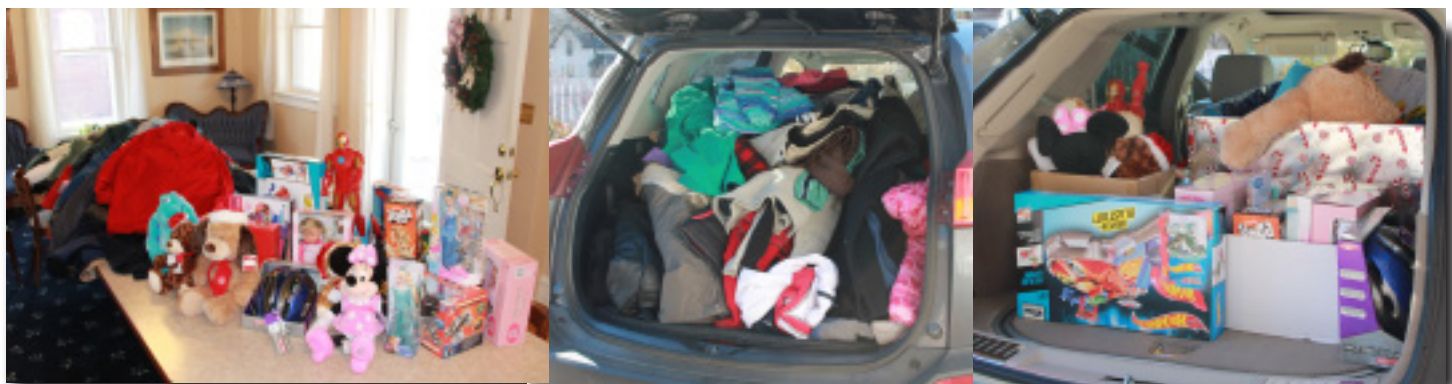
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## Toy and Coat Drive

The MSAE held a Toy and Coat Drive in December to aid the local Samaritan Center in their Christmas efforts. The toy drive was intended for children ages one to 12 and MSAE members donated new, unwrapped toys with a value of at least \$10. The coat drive challenge was to donate 100 new or gently used coats in all sizes from infants to adults. MSAE collected 96 coats before and during the annual Christmas Party and our goal was complete when members contributed four more coats the day of delivery to the Samaritan Center. Workers at the Center said when we arrived that they had just received calls from local schools that they were in need of several coats for students at the middle school in larger sizes. So they were thrilled to see all the different size coats that were collected.



*Many thanks to MSAE members for making this Coat and Toy drive a tremendous success.*

## Jefferson City Convention & Visitors Bureau to Relocate Offices in 2016

JEFFERSON CITY, MO, October 30, 2015 - The Jefferson City Convention and Visitors Bureau will move its offices from 100 E. High Street to the Col. Darwin W. Marmaduke House at 700 E. Capitol Avenue.

With the current lease set to expire July 31, 2016, the JCCVB Board of Directors felt it would be in the best interest of the Bureau to move to the Marmaduke House, owned by Jeff and Jane Schaeperkoetter of Oakbrook Properties LLC who purchased the building in late 2013.

"Jeff and Jane share our mission to promote Jefferson City, and we are looking forward to this partnership and being able to showcase the work they've done to preserve such a unique piece of history," said Andy Neidert, Chairman of the Jefferson City Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors.

Aside from the long term financial benefits, the new location will offer visitors an exclusive glimpse into a notable part of Jefferson City's past. The building will also house the Missouri State Penitentiary Museum, which the Board feels will enhance its appeal and add value to the Missouri State Penitentiary tours.

"As the Board discussed potential options for relocation, the Marmaduke House just seemed like the right fit for us. We want to be able to take the entire visitor experience to the next level," said Diane Gillespie, Executive Director for the Jefferson City Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Schaeperkoetters felt the former Warden's residence would be an ideal site for the Bureau's offices and the Museum. "The Penitentiary and its history are real treasures for Jefferson City and the State of Missouri," said Jeff. "We hope this agreement will enable many visitors to discover and appreciate the historic connections, both past and present." The Bureau's tentative plan is to move in early summer of 2016. More information will be released as details are finalized.



# BRING YOUR MEETING TO ST. JOSEPH

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## STRESS FREE LIVING — A MYTH

Stress — something we want to eliminate from our lives! Or do we? What in your life produces stress? What drains you of the energy you need to thrive and grow? Maybe it is a boss who is looking for a report that you have not finished. It could be the pile of files on your desk that you did not have time to put back. How about the leaky faucet that keeps drip, drip, dripping. All these things are frustrating and wear us down. Stress never feels good but in some instances it may be worth meeting head on.

Good self-care starts with eliminating energy drains in your life. Now it's a funny thing about energy drains we often put them off because they take too much time and energy. In fact they take even more energy NOT doing them. Think about that pile of files on your desk. Every time you look at them you get the uncomfortable feeling (stress) that really is wearing on you. The files trigger a loss of energy. Sometimes just remembering the work you need to do brings on the energy drain. It takes less effort to get it out of the way!

Pam was single and took pride in her home and its landscaping. Last fall she was preoccupied with several projects at work and neglected raking the leaves for two months. She noticed that it had to be done but put it off because she was too busy with other things. Every time she drove up to the house she felt a pang of anxiety. During the day at work she thought about the leaves and how awful the house looked. It continued to bother her. Suddenly she was aware of being unbelievably weary as soon as she arrived home. It was only when she hired a couple of teenagers to rake the lawn for her did she realize how much the leaf covered lawn had been bothering her.

Paul noticed that others in his division were being recognized for volunteering to present the results of their work at a senior managers meeting. He wanted to be able to do that too but he was terrified of speaking in front of a group especially when it was a group of high-level executives. He thought about it for months but put it off because of his concern. One day his manager approached him about doing a presentation. Paul could have refused but knew this was an opportunity to stretch. Although Paul was nervous and feeling very stressed when he made the presentation, he learned a great deal about himself.

These were two different examples of stress. Pam could see that having a well-manicured house made her feel good and actually gave her energy. At times when she was not available to do it herself she benefited by hiring someone to do it for her. There was no additional benefit from doing it herself. (except perhaps some additional exercise.) Paul on the other hand could see that he would be under some pressure doing the presentation but he knew he would benefit from

it. Peter Senge in his book "The Fifth Discipline" calls the latter stress — Creative Tension. When there is a gap between your current reality and your vision of your future, that gap is a source of creative energy (Creative Tension). That creative energy is often confused with stress because we feel the same emotional tension that we feel when we have an emotional drain. It is important to recognize the difference in tension types and eliminate the drains leaving more energy to sustain the creative energy needed to move to the next level.

### Action Steps:

1. Make a list of 10 energy drains in your life. Learn to differentiate between the ones that will drain you of energy and those that will produce creative tension.
2. Eliminate 4 of the nonproductive drains.
3. Find an area of your life where you would like to grow. Develop a plan that stretches you enough to feel "Creative Tension."
4. Ask yourself if you tend to eliminate some things that produce "creative tension" by lowering your sights instead of moving forward. Is your answer in line with your goals and aspirations?





# Welcome Members



*Chris Baker, Feeding Missouri*  
*Sebrina Barrett, The Missouri Bar*  
*Matt Barton, Missouri Association of Insurance Agents*  
*Stephanie Bell, Blitz, Bardgett & Deutsch, LC*  
*Brian Bowles, Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons*  
*Nicole Brink, Missouri Hospital Association*  
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## Lake of the Ozarks Named Best Recreational Lake in the Country

Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. - It was announced this summer that Central Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks was voted the "Best Recreational Lake in the US," according to a USA Today readers poll.

The Lake of the Ozarks, which covers 54,000 acres with 64 billion gallons of water and features over 1,150 miles of meandering shoreline (more than the entire Pacific Coast of California!), beat out Lake Tahoe in California and Nevada, Big Bear Lake in California, West Okoboji Lake in Iowa, Lake Cumberland in Kentucky, among many others for the coveted top spot.

"We're just thrilled to receive this recognition," says Jim Divincen, administrator for the Tri-County Lodging Association. "We are blessed that the Lake of the Ozarks has such a variety of recreational activities, both on and off the lake, that appeal to people of all ages." Divincen continues, "There are so many ways to enjoy the cool waters of the Lake of the Ozarks and its tributaries, be it on-the-water activities like swimming, fishing, boating, tubing, wake boarding, paddle boarding and kayaking, or by taking in fun water-focused events like AquaPalooza, the Canine Cannonball and the Lake of the Ozarks Shootout powerboat races."

The Lake of the Ozarks was among 20 lake destinations across the US selected by a panel of travel experts and journalists from USA Today, 10Best.com and other media outlets. Online voting took place over the course of four weeks, and although it was a close race, the Lake of the Ozarks received more readers' votes and ultimately won the contest.

"We simply could not be more excited," added Divincen. "This is a testament to what a great family-friendly destination the Lake is and why we have nearly 5 million visitors to the area each year. We're so very grateful and we would like to thank everyone that voted for the Lake of the Ozarks as the 'Best Recreational Lake' in the country."

For more information about all the on-the-water fun and activities, and Lake-area events, attractions, dining and lodging options, call the Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitor Bureau (CVB) at 1-800-FUN-LAKE, or visit the CVB's award-winning website, [www.FunLake.com](http://www.FunLake.com).







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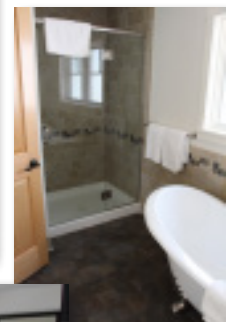
## Cedar Creek Unveils Three New Custom-Built Houses

*Gate Houses 1, 2, & 3 Added to Numerous Overnight Options On-Property*

New Haven, MO. – Cedar Creek is pleased to announce the addition of two new custom-built guest houses on property available for rent, with a 3rd under construction. Known as the Gate Houses, the three cottage-style houses were built in response to the growing need for more overnight accommodations.

“Thanks to the support of our new and continuing clients, as well as the addition of several new onsite amenities, we have increased the number of bookings for getaways, retreats, reunions, and weddings,” said Patrick Vatterott, General Manager of Cedar Creek.

With the addition of the three houses, Cedar Creek is now able to accommodate more than 130 overnight guests. Other lodging options include the hotel-style Cedar Lodge, the Thistle bungalows, and several private homes, including Little Lodge, Rock House and the property’s iconic Manor House.



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Located on 200 acres in the heart of Missouri’s Rhine region, Cedar Creek features a breathtaking view of the countryside and boasts several tourist attractions, including the Western Town, 2nd Shift Brewing, nine-hole executive par-three golf course, and hiking trails. The property also houses a fully-stocked lake; a low-ropes confidence course; onsite dining and catering; the “Barn,” a 4,500 sq. ft. wedding and events banquet facility, and numerous sleeping and conference rooms.

“We have a little bit of everything on property, but our most valuable asset is our highly-trained, hospitality staff,” said Vatterott.

Purchased in 1978, Cedar Creek slowly began the transformation from a family-owned haven into a private conference center, primarily serving as a private venue for groups, small and large, looking to provide professional development training, team building exercises, spiritual growth retreats, and more. Clients include large corporations, school districts, not-for-profits, state agencies, and churches. The transformation continued on until 2005, when Cedar Creek expanded operations and opened its doors to the general public.

*For more information regarding this release, please contact Julie Linder, Public Relations for Cedar Creek, by calling (573) 268-0639.*



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