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**June 2008**

*Chairman's Corner*

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The Gladstone Area Chamber of Commerce provides numerous choices. Perhaps the most important business choice you can make today concerns your personal view of life. As a Chamber member you already know the value of positive choices such as volunteering or serving on a Committee. Here is a short story that may reinforce your views.



John is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, 'If I were any better, I would be twins!' He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, John was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up and asked him, 'I don't get it!' 'You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?' He replied, 'Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or...you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood.' Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or...I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or...I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life.

'Yeah, right, it's not that easy,' I protested.

'Yes, it is,' he said. 'Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live your life.'

I reflected on what he said. Soon hereafter, I left the Tower Industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that he was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, he was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back. I saw him about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, 'If I were any better, I'd be twins...Wanna see my scars?'

I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place. 'The first thing that went through my mind was the well-being of my soon-to-be born daughter,' he replied. 'Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or...I could choose to die. I chose to live.'

'Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?' I asked.

He continued, '...the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man'. I knew I needed to take action.'

'What did you do?' I asked.

'Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me,' said John. 'She asked if I was allergic to anything 'Yes, I replied.' The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Gravity' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.' He lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude...I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully.'

Attitude, after all, is everything.

## What's Inside

- June 2008 Events Calendar
- New Members Listing!
- Bluesfest Information

**2008 GACC Board of Directors**

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Larry Harris, Director of  
Membership Services

**The Gladstone Area Chamber of Commerce**

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Website: [Gladstonechamber.com](http://Gladstonechamber.com)  
Business Hours:  
Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**The June business focus is on Cripple Creek Rock Co.**

Robert Bledsoe founder and CEO of Cripple Creek Rock Co. and Cripple Creek Construction, and previous owner of Bledsoe Construction & Landscape has been in the landscape construction business for over 20 years. Balancing client preferences with extraordinary design and construction principles that are inspired by the existing environment comes naturally.

For Bledsoe, it has always been about creating a lifestyle, not just a swimming pool or landscape project. This philosophy remains the hallmark of the company's success today.

It is the norm, rather than the exception, for the company's projects to include everything for custom outdoor living areas such as; one-of-a-kind swimming pools, luxurious hot tubs and jacuzzis, waterfalls, breath taking water features, elaborate outdoor kitchens complete with state of the art appliances such as grills, refrigerators, wine coolers, and sinks with granite countertops, high tech outdoor audio and video, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, fire columns, and pool houses with master suite sized bath and changing rooms. By constant collaboration with the client, Cripple Creek Construction transforms ordinary outdoor spaces into extraordinary outdoor living retreats and functional pieces of living art.

Roberts's projects are never the same and all are custom built as one-of-a-kind. Leaving his artistic mark laid across the land for generations to come. Incorporating water into his designs has given Robert and his construction division the prestigious title; "Creators of Living Art"

Through his expert knowledge, and wealth of experience Robert Bledsoe continues to draw from a limitless palette and has found his niche in remaining the most sought after hardscape - landscape designer and builder of outdoor living areas in the Midwest.

"If you can dream it we can build it"

Continued Success,  
Scott Wingerson,  
Chairman of the Board



Always Remember ...  
Think Gladstone Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
for your business needs.

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**Gladstone Maid-Rite, LLC**

Welcome: Ryan Buer, Jeff & Wanda Buer  
7121 N. Prospect, Gladstone, MO 64119  
Phone: 816-453-2335  
Email: [rjbuer@aol.com](mailto:rjbuer@aol.com)

**PDQ Loans**

Welcome: Lisa Rodriguez  
7650 N. Oak Trfwy, Gladstone, MO 64118  
Phone: 816-436-4322  
Email: [PDQTLinc@aol.com](mailto:PDQTLinc@aol.com)

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**NEW MEMBER!**

**NEW MEMBER!**

**New Teacher Bags!**  
Make arrangements NOW to provide 150 items or coupons that will benefit new teachers and promote your business.  
Deadline: July 15th

**NO Luncheon in June!**  
**NO Business After Hours!**  
Get together with a few Chamber members and make plans to support one another in business.



# BLUESFEST 2008

## JUNE 6 & 7, 2008

Friday: Park Opens 5:00 PM, Music at 6:00 PM

Saturday: Park Opens 1:00 PM, Music begins at 2:00 PM

Members and Guests!

This is where you need to be!

Volunteer by calling the Chamber Office

816-436-4523

Volunteers Check in with Rhonda Dugan  
behind the Chamber food booth.

For more information, visit [www.gladstonechamber.com](http://www.gladstonechamber.com)

**12th Annual  
Music Festival**

### Golf on May 15th—the 20th Anniversary GACC Tournament

We were blessed with great weather and a great time!

Thank You!

#### Grand Slam Sponsors

City of Gladstone

Commerce Bank

First Bank of Missouri

Worth Harley-Davidson



Thank You!

#### Special Event Sponsors

Antioch Bible Baptist Church

Van Chevrolet Cadillac

#### Hole Sponsors

Accurso's Metropolitan Movers

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FASTSIGNS

First Federal Bank

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Legacy Land Title

Majestic Resources

Riverstone Adult Living Community

Schulz, Bender, Maher, Lee, Sexton, Hill & Steinman, PC

ServPro of Clay County

Tony Conforti, CPA

Tru-Cut Lawn & Landscape

#### Special Thanks for providing supplies :

Gladstone Hy-Vee

Jack Miller Subaru

Majestic Resources

North Kansas City Beverage

Northland National Bank

Outback Steakhouse (Chouteau)

#### Thanks to our Volunteers:

John Arns

Michelle Henke

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