

# CONSTRUCTIVELY SPEAKING

Fall 2008

## Check Out Our NEW Website

*Have You Visited Dicon Online Lately?*  
Now is the time to visit our NEW website at [www.dicon.com](http://www.dicon.com). Here is a sneak peak:



## NHA Conference

In mid-June, Jason Cerone and Jeff Arney attended the Nebraska Hospital Association mid-year meeting. The Dicon booth prominently displayed our newly-received LEED® accreditation. Jason and Jeff were successful in networking with the CEOs from a number of Nebraska healthcare providers, including Warren Memorial Hospital, Butler County Health Care Center, Avera St. Anthony's Hospital and Alegent Health.



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*A rendering of the new Staybridge Suites project in Wichita, Kansas.*

## Dicon Is Proud To Participate In Two New Hotel Developments

**D**icon has broken ground for the new Staybridge Suites project in Wichita, Kan. This 88-room, 60,650-square-foot hotel, located at the intersection of 21st and Greenwich, is scheduled to open next April. With guests expected to stay an average of eight nights, Staybridge will offer complimentary appetizers and drinks, and will feature a theater room for game nights.



The development team for this outstanding project includes J.T. Norville, John



Klimpel, Dan Marak and David Robert with Midas Hospitality, Darren Hicks with DKC Development, and Environs Architects.

Also on deck is the groundbreaking for the new Marriott TownePlace Suites in Omaha Northeast, at 10865 West Dodge Road, in the old Guitars & Cadillacs location. Marriott prides itself on providing comfort and convenience. This 108-room, 63,243-square-foot facility will open just in time for next year's College World Series.



Thanks to the owners Dave Holcomb and Mike Earl for this wonderful opportunity, and to the architects, Bruce T. Fallon, AIA, with WPA Architecture, and Dan Reinhardt, AIA, with Reinhardt & Associates Architects.

## Business Lessons We've Learned From Dogs

- 1) Always greet customers with excitement and enthusiasm, even when you just saw them three minutes ago. They never grow tired of thinking they're the most important thing in your life.
- 2) Don't confuse your tail with a goal worth chasing.
- 3) Sleep as many hours a day as possible, but always be ready to play when the chance arrives.
- 4) Don't be afraid to get dirty; in fact, relish it.
- 5) When the big folks are feasting, if you know how to work things, you'll be able to feast, too.
- 6) Barking a lot is annoying; don't do it often. That way, when you do bark, people spring to attention.
- 7) Don't bark at the mailman. He's been known to have a dog treat in his pocket.
- 8) The more you show that you don't need a leash, the less you'll have to wear it. Conversely, if you're always tugging on your leash, you'll always have to wear it.
- 9) The joy is in digging the hole, not in hiding the bone. But it's also reassuring to know there are a few bones hidden.
- 10) Biting someone never leads to anything good.
- 11) Continuously learning new tricks keeps you young.
- 12) Fool your masters into thinking they are in charge.



—from *MyBUSINESS* magazine

## Succeeding As A Leader

When you're a leader, you need a set of guiding principles. Here are some suggestions from Alan Gregerman in *Lessons from the Sandbox*:

- If you want magic, you have to remember that leaders create the context in which real magic happens.
- You, as a leader, are the person who gets everyone's attention.
- It's your responsibility to capture the imagination.
- You are the one who has to give everyone their part to play—and the guidance and encouragement to accomplish what needs to be done.
- While you're expected to be decisive, it's important not to take yourself too seriously.

## The Real Buzz About Honey

Next time you make a cup of tea and drizzle a little honey in it, take a moment to consider some near-miraculous facts about that "yellow gold," provided by the National Honey Board:



- Honeybees must tap two million flowers and fly more than 55,000 miles to produce one pound of honey.
- A bee will visit an average of 50 to 100 flowers during one collection trip.
- An average worker bee produces one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- Bees have been producing honey for 10-to-20 million years.
- Honey is the alchemical result of flower nectar and bee spit.

## Go Ahead, De-Stress Yourself

According to The Confidence Center ([www.confidencecenter.com](http://www.confidencecenter.com)), a website dedicated to improving employee success and happiness, there are many things you can do to reduce your daily stress level. Here are the top 20 suggestions on the center's list of "99 Ways to Relieve Stress."

- Get up 15 minutes earlier
- Prepare for your day the night before
- Avoid tight-fitting clothes
- Write things down—don't rely on memory alone
- Practice "preventive maintenance"
- Make duplicate keys to everything you can
- Say "no" more often
- Set priorities in your life
- Avoid negative people
- Use your time wisely
- Simplify your meal times
- Always make copies of important papers
- Anticipate your needs
- Repair things that aren't working properly
- Ask for help with jobs you dislike doing
- Break large jobs into bite-sized tasks
- Look at problems as challenges
- Smile
- De-clutter your life
- Be prepared for rain

### SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly





## Trivial Knowledge

- 1) Which oil company's logo features the mythical Pegasus?
  - a) Mobil
  - b) Shell
  - c) BP
  - d) Exxon
- 2) Matilda Trumbull was the babysitter for which classic sitcom family?
  - a) Sam & Darrin Stephens (*Bewitched*)
  - b) Lucy & Ricky Ricardo (*I Love Lucy*)
  - c) Carol & Mike Brady (*The Brady Bunch*)
  - d) Jill & Jim Taylor (*Home Improvement*)
- 3) People especially sensitive to poison ivy will likely also have an allergic reaction to what?
  - a) milk
  - b) lettuce
  - c) cashew
  - d) grapes
- 4) Dick Clark's *American Bandstand* was initially a local show in what U.S. city?
  - a) New York
  - b) St. Louis
  - c) Detroit
  - d) Philadelphia
- 5) A typical electric bass guitar is fitted with how many strings?
  - a) four
  - b) five
  - c) six
  - d) eight

—from *mental\_floss*

Answers: 1) a 2) b 3) c (The two plants are related.) 4) d (The city's name is mentioned in the show's theme song.) 5) c

## Gauging Training Success

The money you spend training employees is wasted if they're not putting their new skills to use right after completing the coursework. One way to ensure they do, says management consultant Jeff Colvin—and to check on whether the training was worthwhile—is to ask this simple question: "What are you going to do differently as a result of this training?"

This will remind employees that the point of training is to improve their performance. It's also a good question to ask before training, so you can decide whether it's a good investment in the first place.

## The Crying Game

If you've ever felt like crying in the office, it's probably better not to, says Stephanie Shields, Penn State professor of Psychology and Women's Studies. Men and women are both probably better off tearing up instead of engaging in full-fledged crying.

Why? Moist eyes signal that a person experiencing strong emotion has it under control, Shields explains. But if you cry and you're a woman, the consequences can be more severe. You'll likely be judged more negatively than a man, and possibly labeled emotionally unstable. Men, says Shields, are more often given the benefit of the doubt and are more likely to be seen as caring or sensitive when they cry.

## Boxing Gloves In The Office?

Before you present an idea or suggestion in a group setting, make sure you believe in what you're saying. Why? Because other people will argue against it. Some because they have their own point of view, others because they simply enjoy shooting down ideas. But good results can come from debates that take place when people go head to head over ideas they truly believe in or truly hate. Organizations usually benefit from meetings where there are strong arguments for different viewpoints.

In his book, *Leadership* (Miramax Books), Rudy Giuliani says that the "fur could fly" in the meetings of his top staff, and that he found debates extremely helpful in his decision-making process. "I always make a better decision if I hear three or four different views," he says. "If those advocating those viewpoints do so forcefully and with passion, all the better."



## Daffynitions

- Adult: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.
- Beauty parlor: A place where women curl up and dye.
- Cannibal: Someone who is fed up with people.
- Chickens: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.
- Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.
- Dust: Mud with the juice squeezed out.
- Egotist: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.
- Handkerchief: Cold storage.
- Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.
- Mosquito: An insect that makes you like flies better.
- Raisin: A grape with sunburn.

# Dicon Team News

Dicon is proud to announce that **Jason Cerone** received his certification as a LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professional in January, and before the end of the year it's anticipated that Rod Ritenour and John Farson will also earn the title.



Jason Cerone



Dan Witt

**Dan Witt** has joined Dicon as Director of Business Development. In his new role, he will plan, develop, coordinate and supervise business development and sales efforts.

Dan brings with him more than three decades of construction experience in business development, sales and high-end luxury residential construction, with an emphasis on design-build. He was formerly president of Dan Witt Builders, Witt Land Development and Witt Homes. Dan has already proven to be a valuable addition to both the business development team and the entire company.

Dan earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, with a minor in Construction Science, from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He also holds a Nebraska Real Estate Sales License.

Please join us in welcoming Dan to the Dicon team.



# Dicon Today

**Bellevue Elementary School**  
Bellevue, Nebraska  
*New construction*

**1415 Harney Street**  
Omaha, Nebraska  
*Renovation*

**Ultimate Baseball Academy**  
Omaha, Nebraska  
*New construction*

**Fat Brain Toys**  
Omaha, Nebraska  
*New construction*

**VA Microbiology Center**  
Omaha, Nebraska  
*Building renovation*

# Summer Help

**Ken Schaffart** has been helping out at our shop this summer. In the fall, he will be returning to University of Nebraska at Lincoln for his sophomore year. Prior to coming to Dicon, his construction experience didn't extend much further than some high school shop classes, but Ken believes the experience he's gained this summer will be invaluable given his future plans to pursue a Construction Management degree in college. In his free time, Ken enjoys working on cars and being outdoors.



Ken Schaffart



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