

BURNING BRIDGES

How many times have you just been so mad or fed up you've just wanted to speak your mind? Or had that dream that when I quit this job I'm going to tell them what I really think? Unfortunately, many of us may have thought that, but some actually act upon it. Not a good idea in today's world when networking is so much more important than any great resume out there. When we have these feelings it's usually a knee jerk reaction and if we just sit back and think about it, things really aren't that bad.

For those who know me this will be easy to understand, for those who don't this is a side of me you will learn today. I am a very loyal person. I am loyal to family, friends, and work. This month I decided to move to a new job and leave Lennox. This was a very difficult decision for me because the people I work with at Lennox are like family. They have done things for me that I will be forever grateful.

Even though I decided to move on to a new company and new adventure I still have an obligation to the job I have. I have known many of the people I work with at Lennox for a long time. One of the gentlemen I worked with would introduce me as someone he knew in a different life, which is actually another job.

As you move from one job to another remember when people think of you they will also think of your actions. How do you leave the job you're presently at? You need to make sure that you give the same 110% during your resignation time as you did during your employed years. Why is this so important? Does any one of you truly know the future? When you move from job to job there is a great chance if you remain in a similar field, similar town, or do a similar function you may run into people who worked with you in the past. How would they describe you if someone asked them to describe you and your work habits? The two most important impressions we make to people are the first and last impression. You start strong you must end strong.

I learned this lesson first hand. I had worked at Hoss's for ten years and left to work for Sears. During my days at Hoss's I worked in Meadville with one of the best management staffs. I was the General Manager, Mike (my husband) was my Associate Manager, Lee was the Assistant Manager, Paula was the Prep Manager, Jeff was the Meat Manager, Bill was the Kitchen Manager, and Robyn was my Dining Room Manager. Mike, Robin, and I all pretty much started within a few weeks of each other. I had known of Robin from another location I had worked at but this was the first time we actually worked on the same team. Robin was a hard worker but we had our differences. About ten years later while I was working for Sears I ran into an opportunity that interested me. While I was setting up the first interview the gentleman mentioned that Robin was one of his best managers and he saw that we worked together in the past. After setting that first appointment all I could think of was wow this should be quick because Robin may not have the best things to say about me. To my surprise at the interview the first thing out of the interviewer's mouth was, "Robin said that the team you worked together in was the

best team she ever worked with.” I did get offered the job but it wasn’t the right move at that time, but it taught me a very important lesson. As you work with people you must always think of the future and make sure you do the right thing. I still am in contact with many of the people I worked with at Hoss’s and the connections I made at Sears have been some of the most important contacts I have made.

As I left Lennox I finished the last two weeks training, traveling, working on committees, getting the classes I had scheduled in the future covered, and tying all loose ends. This was my job it was my responsibility to my company and my boss for all they have done for me. What surprised me was the reaction I got from others. I had three individuals comment on how surprised they were that on my last few days I was still so committed.

In this changing world we live in, we never know who will come around that corner that may hold the key to our future. Don’t burn bridges. You never know when you’ll meet these people again. You never know when you’ll need them or they’ll need you.

Good Luck

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