

The Value of Association Membership

Professional organization memberships have value for your entire career. When starting off in a new career, you have the opportunity to network with newbies as well as experienced professionals in your field. I have been a member of both the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) and the San Antonio Human Resources Management Association (SAHRMA) for decades. The connections that I've met have turned into life-long partners in the dynamic HR arena but are also some of the best of friends.

Attending the various educational forums exposes you to the latest information needed for optimum performance. The national and regional conferences provide a wealth of classes and seminars. Besides the information, you also build your network as you meet folks from all over the world. Even regional events become global. The local chapters have regular meetings with dynamic speakers on topics pertinent to membership. SAHRMA also has an annual conference focusing on industry topics as well as the annual legislative law session. Talk about powerhouse opportunities to stay abreast with the latest information.

These are examples of the HR association links. There are links for just about every profession – engineering, manufacturing, IT, and cyber security, for starters. The list is extensive and can be explored through the internet and through LinkedIn. Just google.

Another advantage is the networking available when you are relocating. I continually stress the need to connect to your new community before you've packed a box to start building that network. And yes, you know that I continually harp on the need to continually nurture that network. You'll be surprised at the value that it brings throughout your career.

Best wishes,

Kitty

Kathryn "Kitty" Meyers, LtCol, USAF (Retired)
Transition Liaison Officer
HR Professional, SPHR, SHRM-SCP (Retired)