

Networking From Afar

You're coming up on your transition through separation or retirement. For a multitude of reasons, you've decided to relocate to a location other than your last duty station. How daunting is that! Any connections or networking you've done is all for naught since these connections may not be of any use to your new home.

STOP! You never know when a connection may lead to new ones. Local professional organizations are usually an affiliate of a parent organization. The San Antonio Human Resources Management Association (SAHRMA) is an affiliate of the Society for Human Resources (SHRM). The same goes with project management, accountants, engineers and so many other professions. Get involved with the local affiliate and develop those connections.

How many of you have taken your kid on a school scouting trip to check out which one might be a good fit for university or college? I bet quite a few. The same philosophy goes with job hunting. Visit the city and connect with the local chamber of commerce. They would love to meet you. Chambers provide a wealth of information about the city (no matter the size) that can help you learn about the opportunities.

Finally, use your LinkedIn. Search for new connections in that locale and ask for an informational interview. We've talked about these interviews before. What a great way to again – build those connections.

Have some fun exploring. You will be amazed at the opportunities that bubble up and the great folks you will meet. You are establishing yourself in this new home even before you arrive. Good luck!