

## Happy Holidays

One of our members sent her holiday greetings last week via Email and closed with the following comment, “Two of the many pluses of this economy are the extended network of friendships we're developing and an energized sense of goodwill in helping others.” I sat bolt upright as I read her words, especially her choice of the word ‘energized.’ As I recall, she has been in transition for well over a year, yet she sent me a very uplifting message and whenever I have met her, without fail, she has been very positive and upbeat. I once asked her if she ever has a down moment and she replied, “I’m too busy with my networking...I don’t have time.”

We’re all different and none of us will meet life’s challenges in quite the same way. I know that many of you have been in transition far longer than you ever imagined and the prospect of facing another holiday season and New Year without landing must be challenging, both intellectually and emotionally. While much of this may be due to circumstances beyond your control, it can be beneficial to reflect on the positive effects of an extended career search and I know that for me our fellow member’s comments hit the nail on the head.

We can neither re-write history nor can we change the global and business situations that surround us. We can however examine what we have learned and how we have grown from our experiences. For many of us, the events of our present era may be a significant defining moment of our lives. Our character, mettle and resolve are being tested. When all this passes by, we will never again view the world the same way we did in the late nineteen nineties, yet I would imagine that most of us will emerge stronger and better from our experiences.

Life confronts us with new challenges at every turn. Either we meet them or we fold. The member’s comments in the above paragraph are especially meaningful for me because the primary reward in my recent business life has been from growing and managing the TENG over the past two plus years. Had the recruiting business not declined as it did, I may never have created TENG, or if I had, it would not be what it is today. My network has broadened to include some very special and exceptional people in our member ranks and I am so much richer than I have ever been in my life thanks to them and what they have given me. A strong steady income such as I enjoyed a few years ago would be nice and is sorely missed, but my enrichment through relationships formed with TENG members is priceless, as the ad would say. I thank each of you for being a member and for your gifts of friendship.

What better time than during the holiday season and the dawn of a new year to take stock of all the good that has happened to us. It may not be what we had in mind, but it may carry a far greater value than we now realize. Please try to appreciate as our above fellow member has your enhanced network with all the friends you have made. Imagine how many others, unknown to you, have felt enriched because you reached out to them.

To enjoy the holiday season and spend some time with my family, I will not publish a newsletter next week. I wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

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