Socializing in the Workplace

Kerry Sutton, PE
Dir. Of Engineering
Michigan Concrete Association

September 21, 2017
Socializing with your coworkers is essential for your career.*

The modern workplace has become a community center, a ‘home away from home’ where people get many of their social needs met.*

To What Level Should We Socialize…
A lot will depend on the size of the company, the corporate culture, and the department.

- In small companies, there may be a lot less formality and interaction level among co-workers may be greater.

- At larger companies, the atmosphere may often be more conservative, and there may be an unspoken culture of less social engagement...but, there may also be more opportunity for company sponsored functions that provide opportunities to bring co-workers together.

- Telecommuting may involve more scheduled or planned socializing with co-workers.
Key Reasons to Socialize with Co-workers

- Increase feeling of togetherness, TEAMWORK!
- Expand your network
- Build your presence and likeability
- Gain insight into personalities
- Gather more knowledge about the company and its activities
- Form genuine friendships
Some potential pitfalls

- Avoid cliques…get to know those above and below you in authority.
- Discussing controversial topics…religion, politics.
- Disclosing private conversations, ‘maintain confidences’.
- Talking negatively about others…don’t be the office “gossip”.
- Use humor wisely.
- Consume alcohol in moderation at work events and outside of work with coworkers…
“Socializing with co-workers can be useful or damaging. The most important thing is that your socializing should serve to build – not damage – your reputation and relationships.”

Ed Muzio, CEO of Group Harmonics, author.
“Employees who have positive workplace relationships are happier at work and people who are happy at work are more productive, more creative, and more successful.”

Dr. Maynard Brusman, psychologist and executive coach.
Thank you!