

## Holiday Job Search

*by Jan Cannon*

Often the time of year between Thanksgiving and January 1 is seen as a dead time for businesses. So why bother to look for a job? Here are several reasons why your efforts might be more effective now than at any other time of year.

Many people believe that this is a bad time to look for employment. They're at home thinking there are no jobs available while you're having information interviews with hiring managers who know what their budgets for the new year will be - and will be gearing up for January hiring.

Obviously your competition for any job opening will be reduced. Take advantage of it.

This is a great time for networking. Just think of all the people you'll meet at holiday parties. Family, relatives and friends all know people who work in different companies. This is your chance to find out if there are current openings or at least get names of people you can talk further with.

Many associations also have holiday events that attract large numbers of members. See if you can visit them and "work the room" Just remember to keep your alcohol consumption under strict control. One bad impression can ruin your reputation for a long time.

One other networking method would be to include your business card in holiday cards you send to well-connected friends. Don't omit sending holiday cards to anyone with whom you've interviewed. They may still have openings and your holiday card with its business card enclosed may get you another chance at the job.

Give yourself a gift and take the time to figure out the things in life that you want to accomplish: like climb Mt. Washington, own a BMW, be on television, find the cure for cancer, etc. Having a list of personal goals will inspire you to seek a more rewarding job. Maybe, while writing your list, you'll realize that the job you thought you wanted wouldn't be nearly as satisfying as one that would make one of your dreams come true.

This is also a great time for temping. Many companies have year-end pushes and hire extra help. This is a chance to show your abilities and get a leg up on the competition if a job opens in the New Year.

Also, there is much illness this time of year and more temp needs. Again, you may have a chance to get inside a company and look around, while making a good impression, of course.

Although the holiday season can be hectic, it can also be very revitalizing. Looking forward to a New Year, new goals, new accomplishments can raise anyone's spirits.

Take this time to take a deep breath, look back at all you've done and move forward into the future. Happy holidays!