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Your Line ONLINE

This week's unscientific poll: How often do you socialize with your co-workers?

OK, so Midlands workers might be just a tad antisocial.

Poll responders were offered a range of possible answers, from the enthusiastic "all the time, even on weekends" to the rather tepid "sometimes, but just for coffee breaks."

But those weren't even in the running.

By a wide margin, this was the top response on socializing with co-workers: "Only when I have to; I don't like to mix work with my private life."

Sadly, those workers might be missing out on chances to build strong, lifelong relationships, says Ann Kelleher, owner and president of Integrity Staffing in Omaha.

"The people you work with remain in your network even after you leave an organization," she says. "Consistently showing others in the workplace respect and kindness in daily interactions will pave the way for them to help you along in life, and vice versa."

Kelleher notes that there is a difference between socializing and networking.

"Networking is the intentional activity of making contacts and exchanging helpful information with a specific purpose in mind," she says. "Socializing is about experiencing mutual fun and enjoyment outside of the context of work."

So, it's good to have fun with your co-workers – but not TOO much fun.

"An important rule of thumb when socializing with co-workers outside of work hours or at company events is to conduct oneself appropriately," Kelleher says. "Avoid situations and behaviors in which your personal integrity and reputation could be compromised."

First on her list of no-nos?

"Becoming inebriated."

Others include **"flirtatious behavior, wearing revealing clothing, using foul language or disparaging others."**

-Jan DeKnock