

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



864 Leaving the Island? Set Up Your New Network Now.

If you're leaving Guam, this commentary is for you. I'm Jerry Roberts, and today, some advice on how to build up your network if you're leaving our fair island. That's next, on The Extra Point.

Someone in my family is moving soon, relocating to the mainland U.S. Anytime such a move is made, there are so many details involved.

First, it's the job of buttoning up their life in Guam, packing out, then getting settled in the new city. I've done it, and it's draining. You just want the process to be finished.

One facet of relocating to a new area is building up a new network. You knew hundreds of people here in Guam, and could get a lot done just with a phone call or text. Now, you have to start over and establish new relationships. I've got a few ideas that might help.

1. Who do you know who knows people in the new town? There's a good chance you have current contacts in Guam who know somebody where you're headed.

This is particularly true if you're relocating to California, Texas, Nevada, Washington, and other states where numerous Guam folks have congregated.

Let people in your local network know when you're leaving, where you're headed, and that you're looking to meet people socially and professionally. A good line is, "Who do you know that I should know?"

2. If you belong to the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Guam Contractors' Association, or other business and civic groups, you can ask members to introduce you to people they know in your new area. In addition, the admin staff will be able to make an introduction to a similar group there.

Don't underestimate the power of these first two options. If you give people ample notice and aggressively approach this task, you could literally have dozens of connections ready to be set up as soon as the move is over.

3. Contact alumni groups for schools you attended here. Ask the same question — who do you know?

4. If you served in the military, ask the same question.

5. Are you a member of LinkedIn and Facebook groups that discuss your profession? Some of these groups have tens of thousands of members. Be specific in your post, letting people know what you're looking to do.

6. Do you subscribe to a national organization? Do they have a local chapter where you're moving? Get connected.

7. Volunteer to help. Some non-profit organization needs your assistance. You can choose one with a good-sized membership, and meet a lot of new people that way.

Building a new network isn't likely to be a top priority for someone moving off-island. That's okay. However, if you put in some work on this before you leave, you may be amazed at what you'll develop — and in the short term. Happy networking.

That's The Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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