



Survey Stories

Every year our director "thanks" us by getting a party bus to go drinking together. This is mandatory and I am a recovering alcoholic. She knows this but I still need to drive around for 5+ hours and watch everyone get drunk. This is supposed to make me feel appreciated. It is horrible!

Dancing with an employee who didn't know he had the measles, and being quarantined for a week afterwards.

Having to stay until 8 p.m. to close and submit payroll on New Year's Eve, when guests were already arriving at my house for a party. And other than 'thanks', no further compensation, time off, or acknowledgement.

Our team participates in Chinese Christmas present exchange. My boss had a present that a team member was going to steal. She threatened her evaluation if she stole the present - she wasn't kidding. It was a very awkward silence and the team member ended up taking another present. Needless to say no other team member attempted to take it.

When my supervisor returned a gift because she did not want anything from me. She told me that I was not one of her favorite people and refused to take a Yankee Candle.

Christmas Staff lunch turned out to be a staff performance review for everyone present. Comments made openly that should have been kept for a private conversation.

Running a Secret Santa with of group of people who dislike each other

One year we had a project ending the first week of January which resulted in the layoff of 25 workers. We were required to keep the layoff confidential and it made it very difficult to get into a celebratory mood with a looming layoff.

I intensely dislike being forced to attend the holiday luncheon when I am up to my eyeballs in work to get done. I cannot be cheerful & happy when I know I have a desk full of work & a host of deadlines to make. It seems like my time would be better spent WORKING.

I was instructed to hand out to coworkers gift certificates redeemable only at our own retail stores. The amounts were based on number of years worked for the company: \$5 for 1-5 years, \$10 for 6-10 years and \$20 for 11+ years. All employees expressed disgust that the low dollar amounts were tantamount to a slap in the face.

Co-workers disagree on where to host staff events so we do a vote. After the vote, if some people didn't get what they wanted then they would refuse to come at all and then they gripe about it to everyone else and make the people who planned it feel bad.

Santa came to a employee luncheon and gave gifts to members based on inside jokes (i.e one person received plant food). Everyone laughed and I learned from others that she has near dead plants in her office. I feared going to this event each year knowing I could be one of the chosen ones to receive a gift in front of 200 people. Introvert nightmare.

The President of our company makes rounds through all of our offices (3 buildings) at Christmas which really annoys me because he never steps foot in our department the other 364 days of the year. I hate waiting in my cube knowing he is on his way- hoping I don't say anything stupid which of course I always do.

Watching fellow workers being fired just before the Holidays.

Holiday office party where the electric company arrived to shut off the electricity for non-payment.

For more information on resources for toxic workplaces, go to:

www.appreciationatwork.com/toxicworkplaces