



Shepherd Care®

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To Care for People Where They Live and Work

COMMUNITY Care TOPIC

Humor in Meetings

We have to spend a significant portion of our lives at work....we may as well try and enjoy it! It's been reported that 85% of people in meetings don't want to be there. Most meetings are tolerable at best. So, what can you do to liven up the meetings in your organization? If a meeting is necessary, then let us consider the following as ways to create an atmosphere in which people actually *want* to be there.

Ideas to Improve Meeting Morale

- Assign one member of the team or committee the role of VP for Humor. His/her job is to bring something fun to each meeting like a joke, a story, a cartoon or a fun activity.
- Have fun with agenda items. Rather than listing Board Members, list them as Bored Members. Or include the "Approval of the Hours" instead of the "minutes." A lively agenda will keep the group interested.
- Make the minutes of meetings fun to read. Hide quotes, jokes, or funny phrases to encourage people to read them.
- Include an "Enforcer" in the group to make sure the ground rules or the time schedule is followed. This person, armed with a Nerf gun, can shoot violators as a way to humorously move the meeting along.
- Jazz up your reports and presentations with humorous illustrations. Consider turning a report into a game or song rather than simply reading it. The group will remember an "experience" far longer than a report.

- Change the location of your meeting. Many restaurants will let you use a private room for the price of a pot of coffee. Changing locations can change the mood of the meeting.
- Improve the rooms in which you meet. Decorate your meeting rooms with fun and lively art, posters, cartoons, etc. If you change the environment, you change the atmosphere.
- Switch roles. When problem solving or brainstorming, have members change roles to help them see things from another perspective. It also makes for a lively discussion!
- Instead of just asking for "ideas", create fun games to generate ideas. Research shows that humor and creativity are closely linked. Charades, debates, and skits can produce a creative atmosphere in which ideas will flourish.
- Create fun awards for your team or group when they achieve their goals. Offer to bake cookies, wash a car or provide other low-cost rewards for your team.

Whatever you do in your meetings, it is important to realize that it is up to *you* to make the meeting more successful. Remember that "laughter is the best medicine." *Proverbs 17:22*

Introducing your Community Chaplain

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"It's been reported that 85% of people in meetings don't want to be there. How can we make our meetings more productive?"

"A merry heart doeth good \ a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." **Proverbs 17:22**

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