

HUMOR IN THE BOARDROOM

by Stacy Feiner, PsyD
Case Study



Last week while facilitating a family board meeting something bubbled up...

About 45 minutes into the agenda, the three emerging leaders of the "next generation" began presenting a well-developed idea for creating a new revenue channel.

Without warning, the senior leaders from the "now generation" abruptly shut down the conversation stating they'd already tried that idea, and it didn't work.

Silence.

The "now generation" stared at the "next generation." And the "next generation" stared at me.

The tension was thick when I pointed out ironically that the technology needed for their idea actually didn't exist "back then."

Everyone looked around waiting for a reaction.

And then the dad smiled and everyone burst out laughing...so much energy pent up...they kept laughing.

We settled down. Regrouped. Nestled in again. And began giving fair consideration to the idea posed.

How do you move the conversation forward when your family is experiencing emotionally charged reactions?