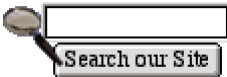




Fond du Lac Weather



Temp: 6 °F
Hi: 13 °F
Lo: -8 °F



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BUSINESS

Posted Jan. 19, 2004

Workers of all types dread long meetings

ADV

By John Eckberg
gannett news service

Nobody keeps track of how many useless business meetings the average person is going to suffer through in 2004.

Here's a one-word answer, and it's just a guess: Plenty.

A longer answer to the same question: more than enough to go around.

A survey of 1,216 American workers by Santa Rosa, Calif.-based Interactive Meeting Solutions suggests a little more insight into the common trauma felt by workers at companies large and small.

The firm found by randomly calling workers that about one-third of the country's work force attends three or more meetings each week that are (multiple-choice):

- A. Pointless.
- B. Annoying.
- C. Soporific.
- D. All the above.

A surprise finding of the survey, which is accurate to plus or minus 3 percentage points, was that half the workers at large companies have attended meetings where somebody actually drifted off to sleep.

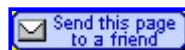
At meetings at small companies, only one in four workers have seen somebody doze off to the dulcet voice of a supervisor reading from an agenda, or because a co-worker just droned on and on and on about customer imperatives

and market initiatives.

Most meetings are exercises in effusive mendacity; that is, don't expect any truthful opinions.

Two of three respondents from big companies said meetings could use more honesty, though nobody expects that to happen.

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