HOW DO YOU THINK 'OUT OF THE BANKING BOX'?

The Headache: Bankers frequently steep in their own business thinking. They talk to other bankers, read banking publications, and attend banking conferences. Banking, banking, banking.

Our Question: Where do you go to seek out fresh ideas, so you can think "out of the banking box"? Come see what other bankers think, and add your own views

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Where do you go for "out of the banking box" ideas?

Bankers go to an awful lot of banking conferences. They can read banking publications by the truckload, and spend weeks reviewing banking websites. They can talk to bankers under their own company roofs, or they can pick up a phone to talk to a banker about common problems, either one down the street or across the country.

But sometimes you need fresh perspective, fresh blood. In other words, something from outside of the banking sphere. Sometimes this just helps because you find confirmation that there are lots of problems out there in other industries just like your own. (People are people everywhere.) But sometimes you discover a solution that no one in banking ever thought of, but that's standard practice in some other industry.

Below is a sampling of what we've heard so far from community bankers who have found ways to refresh and reboot their thinking. Add your own ideas and suggestions.

And if you would like to join our regular list of "prescribers," to whom we send questions, please email Executive Editor Steve Cocheo today.

Let's hear your views and ideas below! (Editorial Note: Contributions to Pass the Aspirin may also appear in our print edition. While we will ask for your e-mail address, this is only as an aid to verifying identity and will not be used for any marketing or promotional purpose. The e-mail address will not be published.)