<u>Virtual</u> "Gold Elephant Book Exchange" *-- Network/Social Meeting*

Meeting Goals:

- *Connect* – get to know one another better - personally & professionally

- *Learn* – share knowledge informally via book exchange and conversation

- *Enjoy* – fellowship + creative responses (and humor) of the game

Since this meeting is virtual we can't bring gift-wrapped books. So instead please send an email to the facilitator (Jim Jameson) with an Amazon link to a favorite book that you would have brought. This info will be kept 'under wraps' and we will only reveal your book at the meeting (in a new way)!

Unlike the traditional white elephant gift exchange there is no opportunity to 'steal' a book from someone else. This removes one fun element, but the good news is that everyone will have a list of all books and can 'steal' any book after the meeting by either buying it, checking it out of a library, or through finding book summaries.   In many cases the golden nugget will be meeting someone, learning that a book exists, or hearing a recommendation!

The Game:

The list of books is in random order. Each 'recipient' will be selected by the "**Wheel of Names**".

1. The next recipient is selected by the wheel. On the shared screen the first book cover will be shown.

2. The 'recipient' will talk about the book for about 30-45 seconds, perhaps 'judging the book by its cover'. This offers the recipient an opportunity to be spontaneous and creative – to inject a bit of humor or personal insight as they speculate on what this book might contain. This little talk can be funny or serious – offering the opportunity to entertain or *to share something about yourself.* (Brevity is key!)

3. After the recipient's talk the person who *brought* the book introduces themselves and gives a 1 minute talk about why they chose this book -- what it means to them, and/or why others should consider reading the book (i.e. *selling* the 'potential gold nuggets' it may have for others).

4. Spin the wheel again (after removing the recipient from this round). Repeat the above steps until all books have been selected.

5. If desired, after all books have been chosen, the group can vote on best response and favorite book.

Timing: This should requite about 3 minutes per person/book, since everyone should talk twice during the rotation (plus laughs, comments, etc). So this would be about 1 hour if 20 people are present. Timing of the responses can be adjusted for group size and to accommodate other meeting activities.

Notes: If someone drops in or forgets to submit a book we will have a couple of extra ones so everyone can participate.   However, those who take advantage of this gift will have an extra challenge – they will have to *improvise* a clever reason why they 'brought' it!

Texas Summary: *Have fun!   Get to know folks!   Learn stuff!*

<u>Virtual</u> Gold Elephant Book Exchange – <mark>Zoom Host/Facilitator Notes</mark>

Preparation:

Send email asking each registered participant to select a book to "bring" and to email the facilitator a bookstore link (e.g. Amazon) by Thursday at Noon.

Facilitator creates a document with a table that contains participant name and bookstore link for each book. (This is kept private before the meeting and shared after.)

Add a few spare books to the list to be used only if someone drops in without having submitted a book.

Add a column to this document containing a random number. (This will be sorted to randomize the order of the books to be "opened".)

At the Meeting – As People Arrive:

Find out if anyone came without a book. If so, update the document to add their name to one of the spare books.   (Optionally send them a private chat to let them know which book, or just let it be a surprise.)

Remove from the document (or hide) books submitted by people who did not show up and spare books not used by drop-ins. Ensure the number of books matches the number of participants present.

Prepare the "**Wheel of Names**" -- copy/paste names of all the participants present.   (WheelofNames.com)

Randomize the Wheel names and sort the document by the random number column.

Open the meeting: Welcome everyone, make announcements, and give an overview of the process.

Begin the Book Exchange by sharing the browser window with the Wheel of Names.

1. Spin the Wheel of Names to select the next book "recipient".

2. Click the bookstore link in the document for the next book – it will open in a new browser tab (which is still shared).   Enlarge the view and/or window size to show mostly the book cover.

3. Ask the recipient to respond to this book (see notes for participants). Time 30 seconds.

4. As the person who submitted the book to respond (Intro and book description, per participant notes). Time 1-2 minutes.

5. Spin the wheel again (after removing the recipient from this round). Repeat the previous 4 steps until all books are taken and everyone introduced.

6. Optionally, after all books have been chosen, the group can vote on best response and favorite book. (Probably a Google Form would work well for this purpose.)

Closing: Make final announcements to end the game!   (List of books will be shared with all, so anyone can "steal" any or all books they wish by buying, renting, or finding summaries.)