The Name Game – Kathi Guiney SPHR, GPHR, SCP, President *YES*! Your Human Resources Solution

How many times have you been in that awkward situation of trying to entice a person to say their own name so you can introduce them to someone else? You could try the classic, "Hey there! I would like you to meet our new engineer: Bob," hoping that social convention will take over and the *nameless* person will say, "Hi Bob, I'm Kyle." But let's face it, that is not a solid strategy. And news flash—it's a direct giveaway that you have forgotten a name.

But fear not! You can avoid the awkwardness by learning to remember people's names when you first meet them. And with these tricks, you'll soon be at the top of the 2017 Name Game.

- When you are introduced to someone, use their name in the conversation at least once, including the good-bye. Repetition leads to remembering.
- If you are given a business card, jot notes on the back about where you met the person, and any distinguishing reminders like "tall Texan" or "U of Oregon grad."
- If the person reminds you of someone, make a mental note: "Ryan in Marketing looks like Ryan Gosling." (sigh!)
- Use word play: Tina plays tennis or Fred likes french fries.
- If you realize shortly after an introduction that you have forgotten someone's name, just say so with a smile and an apology. A moment of awkwardness beats calling Ted "Todd" or "Hey you" for the rest of your career.

The best advice for remembering names? Choose to care and make an effort at each introduction. Take a moment to focus on the person's face and name beyond a perfunctory handshake and "hello." Your attention makes all the difference! And you never know when meeting (and remembering) the right person can influence your future. When all else fails, Google the 1960s hit "The Name Game"—*Name-Game-bo-bame-game*—and thank me later for getting that song and people's names stuck in your head, forever!