

## Lunch and Learn Budget Talking Points

### Intro:

- Introduce yourself, union volunteers/staff and the local.
- Thank AFGE members in attendance for their membership.
- Discuss what the local does for members and why you joined the union.

### Talking Points:

#### The Problem:

- We're here today to talk about a serious threat to our livelihoods and how we plan to beat it.
- Congress recently passed a budget that would cut your take home pay by up to 12% - that's over six weeks' pay. Raise your hand if you can afford to lose one and a half months of pay.
- Take a look at the flyers in front of you.
  - They're coming after your pension through increasing the amount you pay out of each paycheck by a factor of eight times. You'll be paying eight times as much just to get the same retirement you get today. In year one, this will cost a GS-5 \$1,997 and a GS-12 \$4,387.
  - They're coming after your health care benefits by transforming FEHB from a cost-sharing program into a cost-shifting program, with employees paying more and more of the cost over time. This will cost you \$1,230 in year one.
- For a GS-7 making \$39,570 per year, this totals \$3,703 less in take-home pay in the first year alone. That's nearly a year's worth of car payments. (citation)
- For a GS-12 making \$70,192 per year, this totals \$5,617 less in take-home pay. That's over six months' of groceries for a family of four. (citation)
- This is money coming straight out of your pockets, and it hurts every one of us.

#### The Solution:

- The only way we can beat this is by joining together and telling our lawmakers not just no, but hell no to these ridiculous cuts. (if hell no is inappropriate, use "no way")
- There's strength in numbers, and we needed to get bigger to get stronger.
- We need you to become a member of Local \_\_\_\_\_ and make us strong enough to win this fight.
- AFGE is winning tough fights every day, but this one is the toughest of all, and we can't have anyone on the sidelines.
- In front of you is a flyer with an 1187 membership form on the back. This form is your ticket to a secure paycheck, and we need everyone here to punch it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ will come around and collect them after we're done.

#### Take Action:

- Being a member of AFGE means standing up when others are trying to put you down – and winning.
- These politicians are coming after our paychecks and we need to hold them accountable.
- That's why you have a letter in front of you today. Fill it out and (inset LP's name here) will bring it directly to our Congressperson's office.
- If you don't speak up today, who will? We've already collected \_\_\_\_ from Local \_\_\_\_\_ members, and we need you to do your part.

- When you're done, \_\_\_\_\_ will come around and collect them along with your membership form.
- If you want to do more to stop the pay cuts, visit our website at [www.afge.org/hellno](http://www.afge.org/hellno) (or [www.afge.org/noway](http://www.afge.org/noway)).

**Wrap Up:**

- Consider taking questions, time permitting
- Thank everyone for attending, let them know where to find the union office.
- Collect membership and action forms