

15-minute meeting: Opposition Groups

Background information for leaders

Yet again, opposition groups are mailing members, urging them to drop their union membership. We expect more letters, email, phone calls and home visits to follow. Your members may have questions and you can talk with them using this 15-minute meeting format. Be sure to have a way to write down questions because people will have many. Bottom line is that a wealthy few who rig the rules want us to be divided, but we know that when we join together as we have done in the past, we help create strong public schools.

Our Challenges: Five (5) minutes

Show the video on union opposition groups: <https://youtu.be/vL4hpJBRcww>.

- Talk with your members using the points below:
 - *As Minnesotans and members of <INSERT LOCAL>, our strength comes from our ability to be there for each other -- to knit together people from different places and of different races into a community. For this to be a place of freedom for all, we cannot let the greedy few and the politicians they pay for divide us against each other.*
 - *As we have said before, we knew these types of attacks were going to come. The strategy of the Center of the American Experiment and similar groups is no different that it has been in other states where these groups have targeted members to try to convince them to drop their membership.*
 - *Being a member of our union allows us to work together to tackle large-scale issues at the district, state and national levels that individual members would not be able to address on their own. Our union membership has allowed <Insert Local> to advocate for <INSERT LOCAL IDEAS - all-day kindergarten, pension benefits, Q-comp and staff development funds, school safety measures, etc.>*

Questions: Three (3) minutes

Take a few questions and if there are more than the time allows, have members write them down or talk with you after the meeting. (Have half-page feedback forms available for questions or have them text them to their building reps.)

The Ask: Five (5) minutes

This is when we ask our members to be union strong. This is what (local name) would like to do: (some ideas listed)

- Post on Instagram you holding a sign like "My union is my squad." or "I'm sticking with my union." (See next page)
- Do a quick 15-second video on your mobile phone and post it to your local Facebook page.
- Talk with two people in the building on why you believe in our local.
- Post a pro-union meme.
- Use the hashtag #chooseunion.



Celebration: One (2) minute

Share an example from your local of how coming together or ask for commitments from people on what they will do next.

“Thank you. Please leave your questions at the door.” Answer questions promptly in person or at future 15-minute meetings.