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Lunch and Learn Pay/Retirement Cuts Script

Introduction:

- 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 18% - that's over two months' pay. Raise your hand if you can afford to lose 2 months of pay.
- Take a look at the flyers in front of you.
 - They're coming after your pension by raising the amount you pay out of each paycheck by eight times as much. You heard me right - eight times as much for an even smaller pension.
 - If you're making \$50,000 now, you're paying \$15 out of each check for your pension. This deal would give you a smaller pension and cost you \$125 each paycheck.
 - They want to get rid of cost of living increases for your pension when you retire.
 - They want to base your pension on your highest five years of salary instead of the highest three.
 - They want to take away the FERS supplement for law enforcement and firefighters facing mandatory early retirement.
- Together these changes would shortchange you tens of thousands of dollars you're already entitled to receive.
- 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 making our collective voice heard.
- There's strength in numbers, and we needed to get bigger to get stronger. One phone call is ignored – thousands get their attention!
- 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 be successful if everyone doesn't do their part.

Closing the Deal:

- Before we start wrapping up I want to ask all the AFGE members in the room to raise their hand. Everybody please give them a round of applause for doing their part to save our pay!
- In front of you is a flyer with an 1187 membership form on the back.

- _____ will come around and collect them after we're done.
- Then, I need you to take out your phones, pick up the post card in front of you, and dial that phone number (on your personal phone) to call your member of congress.
- If you didn't bring your phone, use your coworkers phone beside you when they're done.
- These politicians are coming after our paychecks and they need to hear from you!
- Remember, they work for YOU – the people who live in their district. If you don't speak up for yourself, no one will.
- When you're done with the call, click the text message icon on your phone and text AFGE to the number 225568. Again that's AFGE to 225568. This will help us get in touch with you when we need to fight back against bad cuts.
- If you want to do more to stop the pay cuts, visit our website at www.afge.org/win.

Benefits/Rebate Rap:

- AFGE's dental, mortgage and other benefits will save you so much it will cover the cost of your dues in a year.
- If you sign up right now, AFGE is offering a \$100 dollar cash rebate on the spot. That's your first few months of dues free of charge.
- If you go talk to your friends and get them to sign up for AFGE, both you AND your friend will get a \$100 cash rebate – it's that easy.

Wrap Up:

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