

# ***The Neighborhood Leaders Guide To Conducting Tea Party Group Meetings***



The Tea Party is a grassroots movement to restore the freedoms we are losing day by day.

This guide is designed to be used by Tea Party organizers to help neighborhood leaders recruit their friends and neighbors into the tea party movement.

## How to Maximize the Tea Party Movement

The Tea Party movement has energized huge numbers of concerned citizens. There are hundreds of thousands of people all across the country showing up with their signs of protest. The media is there and the pictures and stories show up in newspapers and on TV all across the country. After that, everybody goes home and most of them wait until the next tea party.

We believe there is a way to get more people involved and therefore gain momentum in the tea party movement. We believe this movement can have a positive dramatic effect on upcoming elections.

The way to do this is to have small neighborhood groups form throughout each village, town and city all across the country. Of course each neighborhood group would be under the umbrella of the local or regional tea party organization or group.

**Remember this ...**

**A grass roots movement works from the bottom up, not the top down.**

Here are the reasons why the neighborhood tea party groups are important and ultimately very effective contributors to the large local tea party group.

The neighborhood group can:

- Be more intimate and friendly
- Have a stronger feeling of unity and purpose
- Meet more often by rotating meetings throughout participating neighbors homes.
- Be more focused on political issues of importance
- Build telephone and email trees
- Have different types of meetings such as educational, calling, emailing or brainstorming, for example
- Personally invite other neighbors to the next regional tea party
- Hand distribute flyers throughout the neighborhood
- Coordinate get-out-the-vote campaigns.

- Combine business with pleasure by having neighborhood parties
- Be cost effective. No rental expense
- Be a lot of fun

One of the most powerful tools we have for this grass roots movement is the internet. However, when we rely on it totally, we are missing the other half of an effective grass roots movement. The part that is missing is the one-on-one, face-to-face.

Going out in the neighborhood and handing out literature and talking to people is the way to get them involved.

There is a large segment of our population that votes one way or another because... "My parents voted this way, so this is the way I vote". Or some are one issue voters. They vote for a candidate because he or she is for or against gun control, abortion, gay marriage, voucher system, unions, and on and on. Or some don't vote at all.

Many people have not realized how much trouble we are in because they have not personally suffered or been personally affected. The total impact of the trillions of dollars in spending and the debt that has been created will affect every single citizen now and all future generations. Our country is changing in a way we never thought we'd see. The people that are unaware of this are the people we want to reach.

Armed with the facts of the overwhelming negative effect of the bailouts and the totally ineffective stimulus package, a neighborhood leader should be able to convince a number of these people to join the neighborhood group and ultimately the regional Tea Party movement.

The place to start is to recruit a neighborhood friend of like mind to join you. This is probably your most important step. A team effort is very effective and a lot more fun. Although a spouse would work as your team partner, a neighbor is better.

The ideal size of any neighborhood group is about twenty. Remember, you do not want to get the group to be too large. Once you get your core group of 24, and this group is well established, you want to spin two members off to start another group. Then you can add two more members to your group as replacements. The more of these neighborhood groups you have in any town or city the better.

**WARNING:** Do not wait until you have twenty members to get started. You can get started with 3 to 5 people. In fact this small core group might even help you draw in other neighbors to the group.

The door-to-door recruiting only has to be done at the start up of your neighborhood group. Once your group is established and you need to add or replace a member, your existing members will be able to find the needed replacement.

Before going door-to-door, I suggest you make up a form to keep track of your calls. I found the names and addresses of the owners in the property tax section of my county's web site. I copied 30 names from three streets in my neighborhood's .property tax information.

I pasted the table into word and modified it to suit my needs.

This is a sample of what it looked like. I had to darken the lines of the table so it would show up in this booklet.

This was the actual results of the first week of contacting my neighbors:

### **Report on the Wild Flower Subdivision Tea Party Group**

Three streets of thirty each = 90

Contacts made = 28

Total 4's = 4

Total 3's = 2 a "3" will forward emails from me

Total 2's = 14 a "2" will forward emails and are a possible "1"

Total 1's = 7 The "1's are ready, willing and able. They will join my neighborhood group

Only 3 had remotely heard of the tea parties

All except the 4's were very concerned and afraid of what's going on.

Right now I have 24 new people who will send out information on the tea party in July

If I don't get an email address I follow up with snail mail

All of this information goes into a data base.

River Mills Subdivision  
 South Water Street

Codes: 1 Will join 2 Will forward emails – might join  
 3 Will forward emails – Will not join 4 Will not do anything NH Not home

Code	Name	Address	Spouse Name	Results
3	Kampen, Chris	5855	Nancy	mail
	Horner, John	5858		NH
	Dexter, Tom	5863		NH
2	Schmidt, Dan	5866		mail
1	Weber, Sam	5869	Lisa	email
	1ba@weberandweber.com			
<del>4</del>	<del>Schutte, Dan</del>	5872		
3	Ryder, William	5875		mail
1	Hastings, Tom	5883	Dianne	email
	Tomh@realtor.com			
3	Shellton, David	5884		email
	dshell@aol.com			
2	Van Nuland, Wesley	5891		mail
2	Olson, Roger	5907	Mary	mail

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Do not have too many meetings. Once a month is usually sufficient. A special meeting could be called if there is something urgent to be addressed. Otherwise phone and email contact will keep members in touch. Too many meetings will cause meeting fatigue and people will eventually lose interest and burn out.

Conduct your meetings during the middle of the week. Mondays are not good because people are winding down from the weekend. Fridays are not good because people are getting ready for the weekend. 6:30 is a good meeting time. It's early enough for parents with small children. The parent(s) can be home by bedtime.

Be consistent

Allow members to come 20 minutes prior to meeting time for socializing.

Have snacks and drinks available. (coffee, water, soda)

Start meeting on time

Have an agenda outline

### **Agenda (suggested)**

Open with prayer (optional)

Pledge of allegiance

Introductions of guests (if necessary)

Introductions of new members (if necessary)

Minutes of last meeting

Current urgent political focus. (National Health Care, Energy, Education, etc.)

Discussion and plan of action regarding the above

Call assignments (phone, emails)

Members can then tally the numbers from previous week. The tally should include:

Calls made to local, state and national political leaders

Emails sent to local, state and national political leaders

Email invitations to next tea party event (when appropriate)

Training - (optional) Keep it simple. Some of the issues can be confusing if you read the newspapers or listen to what's reported on television. Reduce these topics to talking points.

Here's a Cap & Trade example:

### **This is what Cap & Trade will do to you.**

Cap and trade is a tax designed to make carbon-based fuels like oil and coal more expensive by limiting the amount of carbon dioxide that can be released into the atmosphere. It is supposed to be a tax on businesses that use these products. HOWEVER.

Cap and trade is being pushed under the guise of cleaning up the environment. This is based on the biggest hoax ever perpetuated on the American people. The hoax is carbon dioxide is causing man made global warming. This is just an excuse to tax energy.

Remember the summer of 2008 when gas prices \$5.25? That's coming back because of Cap & Trade

Do you remember the cost of goods, utilities and food increasing? That's coming back because of Cap & Trade.

Cap & Trade will mean at a MINIMUM \$7 a gallon for gas, \$7 a gallon for home heating oil, and 300% increases in the cost of electricity and natural gas.

Cap & Trade WILL affect the cost of EVERYTHING you buy.

When you flip the switch, you pay a tax. Everything you do from brewing that first cup of coffee or taking a shower in the morning to cooking dinner and watching the news in the evening will have a tax attached to it.

Although the tax will be placed on businesses, they will pass the cost on to consumers. They must do this to stay in business.

The energy companies are not going to absorb the cost of cap & trade. They HAVE to pass it on to their suppliers, their consumers. That means we the people WILL pay more

Reducing carbon dioxide emissions ONLY make sense if ALL countries participate, including China, Russia, India and Brazil. And there's no REAL evidence that carbon dioxide is bad in the first place.

Americans will loose more jobs and MORE businesses will leave the Country.

Businesses in countries that do not lower carbon emissions will grow compared to those that must pay carbon taxes.

Cap & Trade will do very little to clean the environment, it is meant to produce TAXES.

You can use this same talking points idea for every political issue you can think of.

Close with prayer (optional)

### **Activities between Tea Party events**

Between the National Tea Party events we could be recruiting and training neighborhood leaders.

We could be:

- Making sure we have a training plan
- Writing scripts
- Listing talking points
- Brainstorming
- Creating handout material
- Listing voting records of our legislators
- Painting signs

### **Suggested at-the-door script**

You will not have to go door-to-door very often. Primarily, this will only be necessary during your start up period.

Remember: Stay 100% focused on the out of control spending because this is the one universal concern of everyone. All other issues, regardless of importance, can lead to long discussions, disagreements and arguments.

All other political issues may be addressed at your group meetings once your group is formed.

I do not believe in learning a word-for-word script. I believe in talking points. If you don't know the neighbor, you introduce yourself as their neighbor.

After the introduction, open with this question:

“Are you as concerned as I am with the out of control spending at all levels of our government?”

Do you know that there is no way to pay for this. We can’t even afford to pay the interest on the debt.

The government is going to have to find the money somewhere, and there are only three places to get it.

1. Raise taxes (on everything)
2. Borrow it. China is the number 1 lender and they are beginning to worry.
3. Print more money

The real truth is they can’t raise enough money through taxes.

They can’t borrow enough.

The only alternative left is to print more money which they are already doing.

This leads to hyper-inflation. The effects of hyper-inflation will lead to the worst economic disaster this country has ever seen.

The dollar will lose most of its value. This means that if you paid \$10 today for something. You might have to pay \$50 or \$100 dollars in the future. If you are on a fixed income, the loss of your buying power will result in your family being reduced to a poverty level or worse.

Here’s the good news. We can do something about it. We can vote the spenders out of office. There have been tea party protests against this out-of-control spending all across the country. Have you heard about them? (You might be surprised how many people have not heard about them).

We’re having another one on \_\_\_\_\_(date). Here’s some information on it”.

After you hand them the information suggest you email them the same information so they can forward it to their friends and relatives. If they agree that this is a good idea, they will give you their email address. This is an excellent way to build up your email contact list.

“Also, there are groups of concerned citizens forming in neighborhoods all across the country.

I'm starting one and as soon as I have a date set, I'd like to invite you to attend our first meeting on \_\_\_\_\_

If you like what you see you can join. If not, that's OK".

I hope you can make it to our first meeting.

Regardless of their answer, leave them with some printed material. A brochure is best if you have one.

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Remember: In all prospecting, you are not there to change any opinions. Prospecting is a search. You are searching for interested, concerned citizens. Forget trying to sell them on the idea. I would go so far as to forget recruiting the lukewarm individual. You are trying to form a fired up group. With the way things are, you might find this to be easier than you thought.

If you meet someone that lives out of your neighborhood and they want to join a neighborhood group, they have several options.

1. You could have them join a group in their neighborhood
2. If their neighborhood group is full, they could go as a guest
3. They could go into training for starting their own group

### **Final Thought**

I must stress that neighborhood leaders must maintain the integrity of this neighborhood tea party group movement. This means to keep your group small and confined to your immediate neighborhood. If you can get couples to join, this would be great.

Our strength lies within a large number of small neighborhood groups. These large numbers of small neighborhood groups will add up to very large regional and national numbers.

## Who Are We?



We are your neighbors, friends, and people in your house of worship. We are retirees, small business owners, young parents and grandparents. We're people who day after day shake our heads in frustration about our government. We are people who have tried to play by all the rules.

We've worked hard, sacrificed, and then worked some more. Some of us are veterans who have fought to give to people in faraway lands, what our government is stealing from us: Our freedom and our liberty.

## Our Mission

To preserve the economic future for our children.

To work for a return to the principles of our governing constitution.

To demand limited government.

To promote the free market that made our country the leader of the world.

To give support for individual rights, and property rights.

To provide a platform for giving like-minded people a voice.

### For More Information:

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Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Is it even possible any more? Can one really pursue happiness when the government enslaves us with more and more debt, taxes and regulations? While Americans cut back and cut coupons, our government spends money it doesn't have and puts the burden on our shoulders and our children's shoulders.

Who are we? We have been the silent, the working, volunteering, carpooling and the contributing. In the past, we've been the ones without a voice. But there's a funny thing about a grassroots effort; it gives you a voice. Now it's time to use it. We can't afford not to.

This grassroots effort has and will continue to bring like-minded people together. People like you who are tired of working harder while the government takes a bigger piece of your pie.

The time has come to stand up and be counted. Join the movement by joining us at our tea party on Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM at Lions Park in Greenville.

Let's send a message to politicians at all levels. Enough is enough!

## Tea Party Event - "Regular Joe's, Powerful Voices" Sunday, July 19th!

We want to thank all of you who have been patiently waiting as we put together the details of the next Tea Party event. I have been so gratified by the number of people who are eager for the opportunity to get together once again in an effort to show our elected officials how we feel about the out of control spending, government bailouts, and unprecedented growth in the size and scope of government. We had a great turnout for our first event in April and we're counting on you to help make this event even bigger!

So on to the details. The next event, which we are calling **"Regular Joe's, Powerful Voices"**, is going to be truly special. It will be held on Sunday, July 19th at 3pm at the Greenville Lions Park on the corner of Hwy 96 and Hwy 76 in Greenville. A full slate of incredible speakers will be there. Our **keynote speaker will be, "Joe the Plumber", also known as Joe Wurzelbacher**. You may remember Joe as the guy that asked then candidate Obama how his tax policies were going to affect his ability to own a business. Since then, Joe has been on a whirlwind of speaking engagements and we are thrilled to have him in the Valley.

Please come join us as we work towards building our coalition of regular Joe's (and Jane's) into a group that carries a powerful voice and a lot of influence. Please help build our coalition by emailing this link to your friends and family.

<http://www.foxvalleyinitiative.com>

Thank you and we'll see you on July 19th!

Don Shaw  
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731-4338

PS Please contact me if you would like to be part of my small neighborhood group. (about 12 couples). Members will be concerned citizens from the Wildflower Subdivision, who recognize that State and Federal spending is out of control. My plan is to meet about once a month to identify and discuss prospective harmful legislation. Our goal will be to implement a "call to action" in the form of emails and possibly phone calls to our state and federal representatives if contact is urgent.

We can't afford to idly sit by and let our government bankrupt our children's and grandchildren's future.

Believe me. We can make a difference.

Don

(This page is what I printed on the back of the flyer shown on page 8)

