



Greater Victoria Acting Together

www.gvat.ca

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Holding a House Meeting

Overview

Organizing a house meeting with members of your organisation is an effective and proven way to expand the network of acted people within your organisation.

Steps to Organize a House Meeting

1. **Publicize the meeting using existing networks:** Speak to people individually, ask leaders within your organisation to spread the word, and use platforms such as newsletters or community events to announce the house meeting.
2. **Identify the home (or zoom host) to hold the meeting.** House meetings should be held in a personal setting such as a home or backyard (due to COVID-19). The idea is to build relationships through sharing both personal and professional aspects of your lives. Note GVAT is able to provide space or zoom capacity to have house meetings if need be.



How to Run a House Meeting

1. Organize a tight agenda before hand

Fred Ross, a famous community organizer, recommends meeting in a circle of chairs, running a tight agenda, and including the following components in the agenda:

- sharing of deeply felt concerns; value or faith reflection;
- recognition of individuals and their contributions;
- Identifying issues that particularly motivate people
- sharing stories of success

2. Tell the story of you, the story of we, and the story of now

An effective method of activating people is to tell your own story for why you are involved with GVAT, the story behind why the group is or should be involved, and the story behind the current campaigns and why they demand collective action now.

3. Identify leaders and well-connected individuals

Leaders may or may not hold a formal position within your organisation. The focus should be their willingness to develop relationships and purposefully convene people.

4. Gather contact information and ask individuals to take initial action steps

One of the largest resources available to organisations is untapped volunteer time and energy. Often previously unactivated people can be activated simply by asking them.

5. Ask someone else at the house meeting to organize another house meeting with new people

A key component of this strategy is to grow the network through branching out meeting after meeting from an initial meeting, with new people from different peoples' networks each time.