

## MEMORANDUM

**To: FMA Regional Directors**

**From: Greg Stanford and Katie Maddocks**

**Re: FMA Government Affairs Update for November 2013**

**Date: Friday, December 6, 2013**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a brief narrative and status of ongoing government relations and public affairs activities the FMA government relations department worked on in November 2013 on behalf of FMA members. Please share this information with chapter presidents, legislative action team leaders and others in your region.

### **Issue Brief Timeline**

As a reminder, in preparation for FMA's 76<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention, we have outlined the following schedule for development and consideration of the 2014 Issue Briefs:

- **Friday, December 6, 2013:** Draft Issue Brief Executive Summary to Executive Board for review
- **Monday, December 16, 2013:** Memo to Executive Board, Conference Chairs and Co-Chairs, Chapter Presidents, LAT leaders and MALs providing draft 2014 Issue Brief Executive Summary for review
- **January 1 – 10, 2014:** Schedule conference calls with Regions to get feedback on outline (upon request from the regions)
- **Monday, January 13, 2014:** Draft Issue Briefs are sent to Executive Board, Conference Chairs and Co-Chairs, Chapter Presidents, LAT leaders and MALs for review
- **Friday, January 31, 2014:** End comment period for 2014 draft issue briefs
- **March 9-12, 2014:** Final presentation on FMA Issue Briefs at National Convention. All Issue Brief items, including FMA National President Patricia Niehaus' cover letter to Members of Congress and executive summary, will be available for delegates to distribute during the Association's Day on the Hill, on **Wednesday, March 12, 2014**

### **Budget Conference**

FMA continued outreach to the budget conference, which met only once this month, on November 13.

1. FMA joined the other members of the Government Managers Coalition (GMC) in drafting and sending a letter to members of the budget conference committee to detail the contributions federal employees made toward deficit reduction and urged lawmakers to avoid any further cuts to federal pay and benefits.
2. The government affairs department sent an action letter to all FMA members, asking them to contact their Senators and Representatives and share their perspective on ongoing budget issues.
3. The government affairs department conducted additional meetings on Capitol Hill with staff of Senators and Representatives on the budget conference committee to advocate FMA's priorities. As noted in our last update, it appears the committee is primarily working to develop a topline budget number to which both the House and Senate can agree. However, it seems primary responsibility lies with Chairs Rep. Ryan and Sen. Murray.

### **President Niehaus Visit to Washington, D.C.**

President Niehaus had a productive visit to Washington, D.C., November 18-22. The government affairs department assisted FMA Executive Director Todd Wells in preparing her itinerary, which included a variety of meetings with both the legislative and administrative branches:

- **USDA MOU** – Signed an extension of the Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- **Employee Thrift Advisory Council (ETAC)** – Met on Monday, November 18, to discuss best practices to improve retirement savings, getting the most for Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) enrollees. FMA President Niehaus was quoted in a *Washington Post* article regarding the significant escalation of hardship withdrawals during the government shutdown in October.
- **Carol Waller Pope, Chair of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA)** – Met to welcome Pope back to the FLRA and discuss ways to further enrich FMA's strong partnership with the agency.
- **National Council on Federal Labor-Management Relations** – The council met for the last time in 2013 to discuss the impact of the year's events on the federal workforce and the direction for the next year. The next Council meeting will be held in January 2014.
- **Office of Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH)** – Discussed legislation Fudge introduced (H.RES.388) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting Federal employees.
- **Office of Representative Matt Cartwright (D-PA)** – Discussed the Annuity Safety and Security Under Reasonable Enforcement Act of 2013 (ASSURE Act of 2013, H.R. 3310). The legislation aims to protect federal and military retirees by expanding 'Truth in Lending Act' disclosure provisions to any situation where a federal or military pension is used as consideration for an "advance."

### **Sequestration**

FMA will continue to compile information on sequestration and how it will affect feds throughout the country. A link is available on the front page of the FMA website. Agency leaders continue to warn congressional members on the financial consequences of sequestration. The Center of American Progress released a report on how 2014 sequester cuts will devastate the federal workforce, more so than in 2013: <http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/sequestration-gets-worse-rev.pdf>

### **New OPM Director**

On Monday, November 4, Katherine Archuleta was sworn in as the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). She is OPM's first Hispanic director, and takes over after John Berry left the position when his term expired in April 2013. FMA enjoys a strong relationship with OPM, which includes a seat on the National Council on Federal Labor-Management Relations, which is overseen by OPM and the Office of Management and Budget. OPM is responsible for ensuring the federal workforce is fully manned and those who work in the public sector are the best and brightest. FMA National President Patricia Niehaus congratulated Archuleta in a November 5 letter.

### **CHCO Council**

Shortly after Katherine Archuleta was sworn in as the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), she chaired the annual public meeting of the Chief Human Capital Officers (CHCO) Council on Tuesday, November 12. Federal Managers Association (FMA) Director of Government Affairs Greg Stanford attended the Council meeting, which advises and coordinates the activities of CHCOs, the top policy advisors on all human resources management issues, across the federal government.

### **Coalition for Effective Change**

FMA Government Affairs Representative Katie Maddocks attended the Coalition for Effective Change (CEC) meeting, discussing the future of the CEC. The CEC brings together associations representing current and retired federal managers, executives, professionals, and related groups to work on reforming the government and good government initiatives. Due to loss of leadership within the CEC, including the death of Bill Bransford and the illness of Rosslyn Kleeman, it is possible the CEC will dissolve or the coalition could become a non-fiduciary organization, meeting only as necessary.