

MEMORANDUM

To: FMA Regional Directors

From: Greg Stanford and Katie Maddocks

Re: FMA Government Affairs Update for April 2014

Date: May 14, 2014

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 April 2014 on behalf of FMA members. Please share this information with chapter presidents, legislative action team leaders and others in your region.

Continuing work on behalf of Working Capital Fund (WCF) employees

As you may recall, FMA was at the forefront on the fight to avert sequester-related furloughs for Working Capital Fund (WCF) employees in 2013. FMA sent letters to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and other officials at the Pentagon, Senators and Representatives in an effort to prevent furloughs.

FMA is continuing to work with Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA), on this issue. Rep. Kilmer is offering an amendment to the annual National Defense Authorization Act that would prevent future sequester-related furloughs at WCF installations.

FMA will remain in close contact with Rep. Kilmer's office as Congress works on the NDAA and considers this amendment.

National President Visit to Washington, D.C.

President Niehaus had a productive visit to Washington, D.C., April 14-18. 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:

- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Majority)** – Discussed the status of FEHB modernization legislation, as well as a variety of FMA's 2014 legislative priorities, including the disabled veteran federal leave initiative, succession planning, FECA reform, an extension to the probationary period, and a GPO/WEP means test.
- **Office of Representative Paul Cook (R-CA)** – Discussed the GPO/WEP means test, FECA reform, WCF issues and a potential round of BRAC in 2017.
- **Office of Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA)** – Discussed managerial training and FECA reform. Also offered FMA's thanks to Rep. Wolf for his many years of dedicated service to federal employees in the U.S. Congress. Rep. Wolf is retiring at the end of the current (113th) Congress.

- **Office of Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)** – Discussed several of FMA’s 2014 issue briefs, including managerial training, FECA reform, and extension of the probationary period. Also offered thanks for Rep. Wittman for cosponsoring legislation that would provide back pay for sequester-related furloughs.
- **Your Turn with Mike Causey** – Arranged an in-studio appearance for President Niehaus on Mike Causey’s show on Federal News Radio to discuss several of FMA’s legislative priorities and FMA’s position on a variety of current events.
- **In Depth with Francis Rose** – Arranged an appearance on Francis Rose’s show on Federal News Radio to discuss issues related to federal employee morale and employee engagement.

Congressional Meetings

Greg and Katie had meetings on Capitol Hill with targeted members of the House Armed Services Committee, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. They met with offices of Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), and Sen. Mark Pryor (D-AR).

The primary topics of discussion included managerial training, FECA reform, the disabled veteran federal leave initiative, and extension of the probationary period, as well as information on 2014’s Public Service Recognition Week.

Fundraisers

Katie attended a breakfast fundraiser to support of Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA). Rep. Connolly is a strong ally of the federal workforce, who recently introduced legislation calling for a 3.3% raise for all federal employees.

Paul Hollingsworth, Chapter 6 Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, attended events for his elected officials, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (N-NH) and Representative Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH). Both have long supported the federal workforce and both are facing tough re-elections.