

***WELCOME TO FMA's
84th NATIONAL CONVENTION!
March 27, 2022***

Welcome to FMA's 84th Annual National Convention and Management Training Seminar! It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your National President these past two years. Of course, I have been frustrated that I was unable to actually see most of you due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On the other hand, thanks to virtual meetings, I got to meet many FMA members I may not have met if not for Zoom and Microsoft Meetings. I'm happy to report the Executive Board and National Staff never stopped meeting with decision makers in Washington, DC, and representing your interests before Congress and the administration.

FMA's National Convention provides a unique opportunity to hear from distinguished speakers, learn from talented trainers, and reconnect with fellow FMA members from across the country and across government. Our management training seminar on Tuesday focuses on empowering managers to make the right decisions the first time around. This means using the resources and talents we have on staff, and ensuring our employees understand our expectations for their work.

As a federal manager, supervisor, aspiring manager or retiree, you are no doubt aware of the myriad challenges facing our nation, the federal government, and the men and women of the civil service. FMA must continue to educate our lawmakers on the challenges we are facing and the impacts they have on our agencies being successful in meeting our mission and responsibilities. The American people count on us every day, and we do not want to let them down. FMA continues to work with department and agency leaders across government to instill the message that success is dependent upon adequately providing the needed resources and tools to fulfill our missions. FMA is determined to find solutions to our many challenges!

The keynote presentation on Monday by Kiran Ahuja, Director of the Office of Personnel Management, provides us a chance to hear the message she wants managers to hear in a private setting. I urge you to respectfully ask questions or expressing concerns when she takes questions. I met with Director Ahuja for her first in-person meeting with community leaders. We are honored to also be the first community organization she will address in-person since becoming OPM director. Please show her a warm FMA welcome.

The Association's annual *Day on the Hill* could not come at a better time and I sincerely hope you take advantage of the opportunity on Wednesday to discuss your interests with your elected Representative and Senators. This year, that may be in-person or virtually. Our grassroots mobilization efforts are vital to continuing to establish and maintain sound relationships with leaders in our capital. FMA is only as strong as its members and it is imperative lawmakers hear straight from the men and women who carry out the policies they forge. We are the people *turning policy into action* and we must remind representatives of the real world consequences of their legislation. We will do so respectfully and always remain conversational, not confrontational, as this approach has allowed FMA superior access to leaders over the years.

Be assured we are working to protect your right to due process and your hard-earned pay and benefits. And we are working on a positive message, fulfilling our motto of *advocating excellence in public service*, pushing for reforms to make our government more efficient and effective. The national office and I welcome your feedback on FMA's legislative priorities and will always listen and work with you to address your concerns.

As you gather with your fellow members over the next few days, I know our convention will foster meaningful discussions and provide guidance for FMA's work going forward. Though we have enjoyed much success over the years, we cannot afford to rest. Please use this opportunity to listen to other members and share your thoughts and experiences so we may grow as an Association and reaffirm our dedication to the welfare of this nation.

I am very proud of FMA and each and every one of our members who work so hard to raise the bar. Please carry that pride forward and encourage your colleagues to help us in our mission to make government the best it can be. Enjoy the convention!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Craig Carter
National President