

MEMORANDUM**To: FMA Regional Directors****From: Greg Stanford and Katie Maddocks****Re: FMA Government Affairs Update for December 2015****Date: January 8, 2016**

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 December 2015 on behalf of FMA members. Please share this information with chapter presidents, legislative action team leaders and others in your region.

2016 FMA Issue Brief Executive Summary

In December, members of the FMA Executive Board, along with chapter presidents, conference chairs and co-chairs, legislative action team leaders, retirees, and Members-At-Large, received the executive summary of the 2016 Issue Brief. While there are issue brief items that were featured in previous years, this year includes a call for life time protections for those affected by the Office of Personnel Management data breaches; and, a call for returning Department of Defense temporary duty assignment per diem allowance rates to pre-November 2014 levels. FMA will host two conference calls during the week of January 18th for an open discussion of the 2016 Issue Briefs. On Tuesday, January 19th, we will hold a call at 6 PM Eastern. On Wednesday, January 20th, the call will be at 9 PM Eastern. Please see the e-mail sent out by Greg Stanford on January 6, 2016, for call-in details.

Fundraiser for Senator James Lankford

On December 10, FMA, along with other members of the Government Managers Coalition, attended a fundraiser for Senator James Lankford, R-Oklahoma. Senator Lankford currently chairs the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, which FMA testified before in May 2015. Topics during the fundraiser included: managerial training, extension of the probationary period, barriers to recruitment, and creating a dual track personnel system.

Hear it From FMA

On December 20, fedmanager.com published an article from FMA regarding the need for better employee engagement between labor and management in order to improve productivity within the federal workforce. Under the umbrella of improving employee engagement is the need for supervisory training. Training is critical, particularly for new managers, on subjects such as

mentorship, career development, improving productivity, aligning personal goals to the agency's mission, and managing poor performance. The article can be found at:

<http://www.fedmanager.com/23-e-report/hear-it-from-fma/2349-engagement-and-management>.

Omnibus

Before Congress adjourned for the year, an omnibus spending plan passed the House and Senate, providing a spending plan for the remainder of fiscal year 2016. While the plan ensures the federal government will avoid another shutdown, it also provides a 1.3 percent raise for those on the General Schedule, and a 1.37 percent raise for wage grade employees. It also provides ten years of identity protection for those affected by the OPM data breaches. FMA's press release on the spending plan can be found here:

<http://www.fedmanagers.org/index.php?bid=23&issuepage=488>.