

NCSSMA Washington Representative's Report

2015

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It was both an honor and a pleasure to serve as the Washington Representative for the National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA) again this past year. I worked closely with the Executive Committee to advance NCSSMA's objectives on a number of fronts and it was a busy and productive year. The following report provides a brief summary of major accomplishments and my contributions to those efforts and initiatives. I am looking forward to additional achievements in the coming year and appreciate the opportunity to represent NCSSMA again in 2016.

As NCSSMA's Washington Representative, I was actively involved in regular communications and consultations with the Executive Committee. I communicated on an almost daily basis with the NCSSMA President, participated in all monthly Executive Committee conference calls, served as an active advisor to the Legislative Initiatives and Grassroots Committee, and provided timely Washington updates and reports as appropriate. I also contributed on an ongoing basis to review and editing of NCSSMA communications both for distribution to the membership and outside the association.

I prepared the NCSSMA Weekly News Flashes and updated the NCSSMA SharePoint site accordingly. I also served as a member of the FrontLine Editorial Board and participated in conference calls and reviewed and edited content for the publication.

I communicated information to the NCSSMA membership on important issues such as the budget and appropriations process, NCSSMA legislative proposals, and initiatives advanced by both the Government Managers Coalition (GMC) and the Federal-Postal Coalition (FPC). I provided counsel to the NCSSMA President and Executive Committee regarding the legislative process and the ever-changing, and often challenging, political environment.

I had the pleasure of attending six Regional Management Association Annual Meetings and the NCSSMA Annual Meeting. I enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to interact directly with the membership. I attended the following meetings and spent time with the delegations:

- New England Social Security Management Association (NESSMA) – Boston, MA
- New York Region Management Society (NYRMS) – Kenilworth, NJ
- Kansas City Management Association (KCMA) – Kansas City, MO
- Philadelphia Region Management Association (PRMA) – Ocean City, MD
- Atlanta Region Management Association (ARMA) – Charleston, SC
- San Francisco Region Management Association (SFRMA) – Oakland, CA
- National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA) 46th Annual Meeting – Oakland, CA

I continued efforts to ensure NCSSMA's strong presence on Capitol Hill by working with both the Executive Committee and the Legislative Initiatives and Grassroots Committee. The Legislative Initiatives and Grassroots Committee was responsible for action on two resolutions related to funding for SSA, and I played an active and engaged role in the Committee's activities and initiatives.

As NCSSMA's Washington Representative I cultivated and maintained relationships with Members of Congress and staff of key Congressional Committees and Subcommittees including, but not limited to: House and Senate Budget Committees; House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees; Senate Finance Committee; House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittees on Social Security and Human Resources; Senate Special Committee on Aging; House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

I coordinated and participated in numerous meetings on Capitol Hill with Members of Congress and staff; participated in meetings with agency leadership; prepared communications and coordinated and participated in meetings with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB); and prepared communications, drafted correspondence and participated in meetings with members of the SSA advocacy community.

I attended numerous Congressional hearings on topics of interest to our membership and provided written summaries of those proceedings. I was also actively involved in preparation and submission of Congressional Statements for the Record and Outside Witness Testimony related to SSA's funding needs.

Key meetings, documents, and initiatives I contributed to included:

- ORDP Conference Call on Legislative Initiatives, February 2015
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Budget Analysis, March 2015
- Letter to House and Senate Budget Committees regarding FY 2016 administrative funding for SSA, March 2015
- NCSSMA Capitol Hill Day, March 2015 – requested and scheduled over 60 meetings and assisted in preparation of all documents related to meetings.
- Concerns about Third Party Representatives, March 2015
- Outside Witness Testimony regarding FY 2016 administrative funding for SSA, April 2015
- Statement for the Record regarding FY 2016 administrative funding for SSA, April 2015
- Grassroots Campaign for FY 2016 administrative funding for SSA, April – June 2015
- Capitol Hill Visits, June 2015
- SSA Funding Challenges, July 2015
- Proposal on Increasing Probationary Period, August 2015

- Meeting with ACOSS Colvin, August 2015
- Meeting with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), September 2015
- Capitol Hill Visits, September 2015
- Letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding FY 2016 administrative funding for SSA, October 2015
- Letter to OMB regarding FY 2017 administrative funding for SSA, November 2015

I represented NCSSMA with key groups in Washington to advance and achieve NCSSMA's mission and goals:

- Social Security Advisory Board (SSAB) - February and June 2015 meetings and regular communications
- Government Managers Coalition (GMC) – quarterly meetings and regular communications
- SSA Advocacy Group – regular communications and correspondence
- Federal-Postal Coalition (FPC) – monthly meetings/conference calls
- Office of Personnel Management (OPM) – June and October 2015 meetings

I sincerely appreciate the confidence placed in me by the Executive Committee on behalf of NCSSMA and our members nationwide. It truly takes the support and assistance of the entire NCSSMA organization to advance our initiatives and achieve success on the legislative front. Because of the support and assistance of the entire NCSSMA organization and our efforts this past year I believe we played an important role in the favorable budget received for FY 2016 for SSA. Considering the funding levels recommended early in the appropriations process by the House (\$12 million increase over FY 2015 enacted) and the Senate (\$185 million reduction from FY 2015 enacted) I believe the increase of \$356 million over the FY 2015 enacted funding level is evidence of the value of NCSSMA's efforts to ensure and improve funding for SSA. I appreciate all of the time and effort expended on our legislative and grassroots campaigns and look forward to working on behalf of NCSSMA again this coming year.

As always I'm anticipating the year ahead will be challenging, especially on the budget and appropriations front. I plan to work closely with the Executive Committee, Members of Congress and staff, the SSA advocacy community, and agency leadership to secure adequate funding for SSA. I also plan to work closely with our colleagues in the Government Managers Coalition to advance our probationary period legislation and other good government initiatives. And finally, I'm looking forward to working closely with NCSSMA leaders to advance the resolutions passed at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

I would like to close this report with my sincere thanks for the opportunity to represent NCSSMA and its membership this past year. I am looking forward to our continued successes in 2016 and beyond.

December 31, 2015