**Legislative**

**Votes:**

* 5 NOV the House on passed a revised NDAA with IAVA-sought measures, and $5 billion less than the previous version. Previous NDAA was vetoed by the President, but since then, Congress and the White House forged a two-year budget deal which resolved Obama’s main objection that domestic spending increases should be more in line with Defense increases. The Senate is expected to pass the bill next week, and the President is likely to sign it despite his remaining concerns about GTMO provisions.

* 5 NOV Senate Democrats again blocked consideration of the FY16 Defense Appropriations bill. The past two Democratic filibusters of the bill were because of a dispute over government spending levels. Dems are now blocking the bill because it can be used as leverage to ensure Republicans take up other appropriations measures.

**Hearing Activity:**

* This week, SVAC invited IAVA to testify at a Nov. 18 hearing on pending legislation, including some supported by IAVA. Tom Porter will testify.
* 2 NOV HVAC subpoenaed witnesses for alleged misuse of relocation program funds. VA officials were questioned about the alleged misuse of relocation program funds for SES-level employees at various ROs.
* 3 NOV HVAC held a hearing on IT Systems focused on both the VA’s Long Term Solution for G.I. Bill claims and the functionality of Veteran Employment Center.
* 4 NOV HVAC held a hearing on the challenges with small businesses participating in the vets first verification process, which helps ensure veteran owned small businesses receive a certain amount of contracts from the VA.

**Additional Meetings and Events:**

* 4 NOV attended a Bookings Institute panel discussion featuring Chairman Miller and Rep. Walz on the challenges facing VHA. Tom and Chantell attended and presented both Miller and Walz with Policy Agendas. Miller agreed to do Clay Hunt Act oversight hearing in response to a question from Porter.
* 4 NOV Tom Porter and Jackie Maffucci attended a Senate veterans appreciation reception featuring Bob McDonald, SVAC leaders, and other senators, senior military, and Hill staff.
* 5 NOV Tom Porter attended the TMC meeting and made pitch for support of Zadroga bill and Nov. 18 press conference
* Legislative Team met with WWP House Fellowship Program staff to gain SA on the program.
* Legislative Team attended Nov. 6 National Press Club luncheon featuring Secretary McDonald.
* Legislative Team coordinating with 911 First Responders for Nov. 18 fly-in.

**Upcoming**

* 10-13 NOV New York City Veterans Day Activities

**Research**

**Meetings**

* 3 NOV - DOD meeting with Maura Sullivan. (Jackie) Summary: Brief conversation with Post-9/11 groups to introduce one another and see what each group is focusing on. Plans on holding these more regularly.
* 5 NOV - Meeting with Marcus Ruzek at DC Office. (Jackie) Summary: Meet and greet.
* 6 NOV - Meeting with ANSER to contribute to report they are conducting on Veteran Service Organizations' contributions to supporting veterans. (Jackie)

**Conferences/Symposia/Receptions**

* 4 NOV - Microsoft Panel on Transitioning Service Members to Careers (Chantell)
* 4 NOV - Brookings Institute Conversation with Reps. Miller and Waltz: Reforming VA Healthcare (Chantell)
* 5 NOV - Department of Labor Salute to Service Reception (Chantell)
* 6 NOV - Secretary Bob Luncheon at the National Press Club (Jackie)

**Additional Notes:**

* Sections 3-4 of the women vets report will be finished this week (Chantell).

**Week Ahead**

**Happy Vets Week!!!**

**Meetings**

* 10 NOV - Jackie attends VSO breakfast at the VA with the Undersecretary for Health

**Conferences/Symposia/Receptions**

* 9 Nov - CNAS hosts a Panel on the WWP 2015 survey
* 11 NOV - Jackie attends President's Breakfast at the White House

**Political Department**

**Meetings:**

* 2 NOV - Speaker Series at 1776 with Sr VA Leaders facilitated by Jason Dempsey (CNAS). Spoke with VA leaders from myVA and VA Center for Innovation about the role of VA in 21st Century communities. Also discussed the idea of service and earned benefits, guilt amongst non service-members and other broad themes that inform the larger narrative about military and veterans issues.
* 3-4 NOV - Travel to IAVA NY HQ
* 3 NOV - Meeting with ASD Maura Sullivan focused on Post 9/11 Veteran Orgs. Jackie from Research covered the meeting with the Political Dept in NYC.
* 4 NOV - Meeting with HRC staff in NYC to discuss policy agenda and IAVA priorities this Presidential cycle.
* 4 NOV - Congressional reception with SecVA, Former SECDEF Gates along with other VSO/MSO Partners -- MISSED due to being in NYC -- Jackie from Research covered down with the Pol Dept out of town.
* 5 NOV - Monthly TMC Meeting: Presented Policy Agenda to the team
* 5 NOV - Marcus Foundation Meeting: Particpated with the broader Policy Team in an update to the Marcus Foundation POC
* 6 NOV - NPC Luncheon with SecVA talking current state of VA

**Week Ahead**

* 9 NOV - HVWG Monthly Call
* 10 NOV - AFSP Congressional Panel: Will discuss Mental Health challenges within our community while promoting IAVAs updated Policy Agenda
* 10 NOV - Breakfast with USH -- Jackie will cover down
* 10-13 NOV - in NYC for Vets Week
* 11 NOV - CSPAN Media Hit
* 11 NOV - Parade
* 11 NOV - After Party -- BOOM
* 12 NOV - Gala vets roundtable with SecVA
* 12 NOV - Gala Event
* 13 NOV - DoD Meeting with Ben Carson re Force of the Future