

issues,<sup>2</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>3</sup> and interim trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by November 9, 2015. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by November 17, 2015, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: William A. Mullins, Baker & Miller PLLC, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20037.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

CSR has filed a combined environmental and historic report that addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by November 2, 2015. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface

Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at (800) 877-8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), CSR shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the Line. If consummation has not been effected by filing of a notice of consummation by October 28, 2016, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.  
**Kenyatta Clay,**  
*Clearance Clerk.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Clinical Science Research and Development Services Scientific Merit Review Board Notice of Meetings—December 2015 and January 2016**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, that the subcommittees of the Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Clinical Science Research and Development Services Scientific Merit Review Board (JBL/CS SMRB) will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the dates indicated below (unless otherwise listed):

Subcommittee	Date	Location
Epidemiology	December 2, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Immunology-A	December 2, 2015	Hilton Garden Inn—DC/US Capitol.
Neurobiology-C	December 2, 2015	American College of Surgeons.
Oncology-A	December 2, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences-A	December 3, 2015	Corporation for Enterprise Development.
Cardiovascular Studies-A	December 3, 2015	Hilton Garden Inn—DC/US Capitol.
Endocrinology-B	December 3, 2015	VA Central Office.
Pulmonary Medicine	December 3, 2015	National Postal Museum, Blount Center.
Oncology-B	December 3, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Clinical Trials-A	December 4, 2015	Corporation for Enterprise Development.
Neurobiology-A	December 4, 2015	VA Central Office.
Neurobiology-E	December 4, 2015	US Access Board.
Oncology-D	December 4, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Oncology-C	December 4, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Special Emphasis on Genomics	December 4, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Aging and Clinical Geriatrics	December 7, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Endocrinology-A	December 7, 2015	US Access Board.
Neurobiology-R	December 7, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Oncology-E	December 7, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Clinical Trials-B	December 8, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Neurobiology-B	December 8, 2015	US Access Board.
Neurobiology-F	December 9, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Cardiovascular Studies-B	December 10, 2015	Corporation for Enterprise Development.
Gastroenterology	December 10, 2015	American College of Surgeons .
Special Emphasis on Million Veteran Program Projects	December 10, 2015	VA Central Office.
Neurobiology-D	December 11, 2015	Corporation for Enterprise Development.
Gulf War Research	December 11, 2015	* VA Central Office.
Eligibility	January 15, 2015	Corporation for Enterprise Development.
JBL/CS SMRB	January 28, 2016	* VA Central Office (3:00 p.m. ET).

The addresses of the meeting sites are:

- American College of Surgeons, 20 F Street NW., Washington, DC;
- Corporation for Enterprise Development, 1200 G Street NW., Suite 400, Washington, DC;
- Hilton Garden Inn Washington, DC/US Capitol, 1225 First Street NE., Washington, DC;
- US Access Board, 1331 F Street NW., Suite 1000, Washington, DC;
- National Postal Museum, Blount Center, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE., Washington, DC;
- VA Central Office, 1100 First Street NE., Suite 600, Washington, DC.

\* Teleconference.

<sup>2</sup> The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective

date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

<sup>3</sup> Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

The purpose of the subcommittees is to provide advice on the scientific quality, budget, safety and mission relevance of investigator-initiated research proposals submitted for VA merit review evaluation. Proposals submitted for review include diverse medical specialties within the general areas of biomedical, behavioral and clinical science research.

The subcommittee meetings will be closed to the public for the review, discussion, and evaluation of initial and renewal research proposals. However, the JBL/CS SMRB teleconference meeting will be open to the public. Members of the public who wish to attend the open JBL/CS SMRB teleconference may dial 1-800-767-1750, participant code 95562. Members of the public who wish to make a statement at the JBL/CS SMRB meeting must notify Dr. Alex Chiu via email at [alex.chiu@va.gov](mailto:alex.chiu@va.gov) by January 21, 2016.

The closed subcommittee meetings involve discussion, examination, and reference to staff and consultant critiques of research proposals. Discussions will deal with scientific merit of each proposal and qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of research information could significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals. As provided by subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing the subcommittee meetings is in accordance with Title 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (6) and (9)(B).

Those who would like to obtain a copy of the minutes from the closed subcommittee meetings and rosters of the subcommittee members should contact Alex Chiu, Ph.D., Manager, Merit Review Program (10P9B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, at (202) 443-5672 or email at [alex.chiu@va.gov](mailto:alex.chiu@va.gov).

Dated: October 22, 2015.

**Rebecca Schiller,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Solicitation of Nominations for Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA), is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials (herein-after in this section referred to as "the Committee"). The Committee was established pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2401 to advise the Secretary of VA with respect to the administration of VA national cemeteries, soldiers' lots and plots, which are the responsibility of the Secretary, the erection of appropriate memorials and the adequacy of Federal burial benefits. Nominations of qualified candidates are being sought to fill upcoming vacancies on the Committee.

**DATES:** Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on November 30, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** All nominations should be mailed to National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW. (43A2), Washington, DC 20420, or faxed to (202) 632-7910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Michael Nacincik, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW. (43A2), Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 632-8013. A copy of Committee charter and list of the current membership can be obtained by contacting Mr. Nacincik or by accessing the Web site managed by NCA at: [http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/about/advisory\\_committee.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/about/advisory_committee.asp).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials (ACCM) was established pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2401 to advise the Secretary of VA with respect to the administration of VA national cemeteries, soldiers' lots and plots, which are the responsibility of the Secretary, the erection of appropriate memorials and the adequacy of Federal burial benefits. The Committee responsibilities include:

- (1) Advising the Secretary on VA's administration of burial benefits and the selection of cemetery sites, the erection of appropriate memorials, and the adequacy of Federal burial benefits;
- (2) Providing to the Secretary and Congress periodic reports outlining

recommendations, concerns, and observations on VA's delivery of these benefits and services to Veterans;

(3) Meeting with VA officials, Veteran Service Organizations, and other stakeholders to assess the Department's efforts in providing burial benefits and outreach on these benefits to Veterans and their dependents;

(4) Undertaking assignments to conduct research and assess existing burial and memorial programs; to examine potential revisions or expansion of burial and memorial programs and services; and to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary based on this research.

NCA is requesting nominations for upcoming vacancies on the Committee. The Committee is currently composed of nine members, in addition to ex-officio members.

The members of the Committee are appointed by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs from the general public, including but not limited to:

(1) Veterans or other individuals who are recognized authorities in fields pertinent to the needs of Veterans;

(2) Veterans who have experience in a military theater of operations;

(3) Recently separated veterans; and

(4) Officials from Government, non-Government organizations (NGOs) and industry partners in the provision of memorial benefits and services, and outreach information to VA beneficiaries.

The Secretary shall determine the number, terms of service, and pay and allowances of members of the Committee appointed by the Secretary, except that a term of service of any such member may not exceed four years. The Secretary may reappoint any such member for additional terms of service.

To the extent possible, the Secretary seeks members who have diverse professional and personal qualifications, including but not limited to prior military experience and military deployments, experience working with Veterans and in large and complex organizations, and subject matter expertise in the subject areas described above. We ask that nominations include information of this type so that VA can ensure a balanced Committee membership.

**Requirements for Nomination Submission:** Nominations should be typed (one nomination per nominator). Nomination package should include:

- (1) A letter of nomination that clearly states the name and affiliation of the nominee, the basis for the nomination (*i.e.* specific attributes which qualify the nominee for service in this capacity), and a statement from the nominee