

Subcommittee for	Date(s)	Location
Oncology-B .....	June 5–6, 2006 .....	Hilton Embassy Row
Neurobiology-C .....	June 7–8, 2006 .....	Wyndham Hotel
Gastroenterology .....	June 8, 2006 .....	Courtyard Rockville
Infectious Diseases-A .....	June 9, 2006 .....	Marriott Bethesda North
Neurobiology-D .....	June 12, 2006 .....	Hilton Embassy Row
Surgery .....	June 12, 2006 .....	Hilton Embassy Row
Respiration .....	June 12, 2006 .....	Hilton Embassy Row
Endocrinology-A .....	June 14–15, 2006 .....	Wyndham Hotel
Clinical Research Program .....	June 16, 2006 .....	The Churchill Hotel
Neurobiology-E .....	June 16, 2006 .....	Doubletree Washington

The addresses of the hotels are:

Courtyard Rockville, 2500 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD.  
 Crowne Plaza Silver Spring, 8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD.  
 Doubletree Washington, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.  
 Doubletree Rockville (The Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center), 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.  
 Hilton Embassy Row, 2015 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.  
 Holiday Inn Central, 1501 Rhode Island Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.  
 Hotel Madera, 1310 New Hampshire Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.  
 Hotel Rouge, 1315—16th Street, NW., Washington, DC.  
 Marriott Bethesda North Hotel & Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda, MD.  
 One Washington Circle Hotel, One Washington Circle, NW., Washington, DC.  
 St. Gregory Hotel, 2033 M Street, NW., Washington, DC.  
 The Churchill Hotel, 1914 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.  
 Topaz Hotel, 1733 N Street, NW., Washington, DC.  
 Wyndham Hotel, 1400 M Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The purpose of the Merit Review Board is to provide advice on the scientific quality, budget, safety and mission relevance of investigator-initiated research proposals submitted for VA merit review consideration. Proposals submitted for review by the Board involve a wide range of medical specialties within the general areas of biomedical, behavioral and clinic science research.

The subcommittee meetings will be open to the public for approximately one hour at the start of each meeting to discuss the general status of the program. The remaining portion of each subcommittee meeting will be closed to the public for the review, discussion, and evaluation of initial and renewal projects.

The closed portion of the meetings involves discussion, examination, reference to staff and consultant critiques of research protocols. During this portion of the subcommittee meetings, discussion and recommendations will deal with qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, as well as research information, the premature disclosure of which could significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects.

As provided by subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92–463, as amended, closing portions of these subcommittee meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C., 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B). Those who plan to attend or would like to obtain a copy of minutes of the subcommittee meetings and rosters of the members of the subcommittees should contact LeRoy G. Frey, PhD, Chief, Program Review (121F), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 at (202) 254–0288.

Dated: April 10, 2006.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**E. Philip Riggan,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 06–3650 Filed 4–17–06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Voluntary Services National Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92–463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the annual meeting of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC) will be held on May 3–6, 2006, at the John Ascuaga's Nugget, 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks,

Nevada. The meeting sessions are scheduled from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. on May 3; from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on May 4, 5 and 6, with a closing program at 6 p.m. on May 6. The meeting is open to the public.

The Committee advises the Secretary, through the Under Secretary for Health, on the coordination and promotion of volunteer activities within VA health care facilities.

The purposes of this meeting are to provide for Committee review of volunteer policies and procedures; to accommodate full and open communications between the participating organizations, representatives and the VA Voluntary Service Office; to provide educational opportunities for improving volunteer programs, with special emphasis on recruitment, retention and recognition of volunteers; and to approve Committee recommendations. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the creation of the VA Voluntary Service.

The May 3 session will feature award presentations involving the member organizations. Remarks will be presented by several VA and local officials.

The May 4 session will feature remarks by the Under Secretary for Health who will also present an updated Voluntary Service report. The Director of the Voluntary Service Office will officially recognize recipients of the VAVS American Spirit Award, VAVS Award for Excellence, and NAC Volunteers of the Year. After the session, there will be educational workshops entitled Fisher House, Mentoring Youth Volunteers, Recruitment Tips for Baby Boomers, and Family Volunteering.

On May 5, the business session will include subcommittee reports and presentations on the Veterans Canteen Service and National Cemetery Administration. The James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship Luncheon will be held to honor an outstanding youth volunteer. This session will be followed

by educational workshops entitled VAVS History, VAVS Recommendations, Cemetery Service, and Partnering with DoD/Family Support.

The May 6 session will include a presentation on Echo Taps, planning for next year's meeting and closing remarks by the Chairman. The evening will conclude with a Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

No time will be allocated at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. However, interested persons may either attend or file statements with the Committee. Written statements may be filed either before the meeting or within 10 days after the meeting and addressed to: Ms. Laura Balun, Director, Voluntary Service Office (10C2), Department of Veterans

Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Individuals interested in attending are encouraged to contact Ms. Balun at (202) 273-8952.

Dated: April 7, 2006.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**E. Philip Riggin,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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