

7. Provide staff to assist in case of medical emergencies.

8. Incorporate a program component which is designed to facilitate students' transition from the DC program to their host communities.

9. Provide a mechanism for evaluation of the program in terms of its impact on the students and its success in fulfilling the objectives.

#### Proposed Budget

Organizations must bid on arranging a program for a minimum of 150 students but may increase the number of participants through cost sharing the additional expenses incurred. One grant will be awarded for this activity. It is anticipated that the total costs of the Washington, DC Enhancement program will average \$800 per NIS participant for a five day program, including domestic travel. The organization must submit a comprehensive line item budget. Details are available in the Solicitation Packet.

#### Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the USIA East European NIS area office, and the budget and contract offices. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for grant awards resides with the USIA's Office of Contracts.

#### Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

**1. Quality of the Program Idea:** Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to Agency mission and adherence to the conditions above.

**2. Program Planning:** Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should adhere to the program objectives, timing, and guidelines described above.

**3. Ability to Achieve Program Objectives:** Proposals should clearly demonstrate an understanding of the program's objectives stated above and how the organization will achieve them.

**4. Support of Diversity:** Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (selection of participants, program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).

**5. Institutional Capacity:** Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve and program or project's goals.

**6. Institution's Track Record/Ability:** Proposals should demonstrate a record of successful programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts (M/KG). The Agency will consider the past performance of prior grantees and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

**7. Project Evaluation:** The proposal should include a plan to evaluate the success of the grantee organization in achieving the stated objectives. The grantee will also be expected to cooperate with USIA in evaluating the program under the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). Proposals should reflect an understanding and grasp of these responsibilities.

**8. Cost Effectiveness:** The overhead and administrative components of grants, as well as salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

**9. Cost Sharing:** Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions. Organizations that choose to enhance the program by using private funds to increase the number of participants will be viewed more favorably than those without cost sharing.

#### Notice

Organizations with less than four years of experience conducting similar programs for foreign visitors in Washington, DC, will be eligible for a grant of less than \$60,000.

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase

proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. The award made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

#### Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or after December 6, 1996. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: September 13, 1996.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-23985 Filed 9-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### VA Innovations in Nursing Advisory Committee, Notice of Establishment

As required by Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, U.S.C. (App. 1), the VA hereby gives notice of the establishment of the VA Innovations in Nursing Advisory Committee. VA has determined that this action is in the public interest.

The objectives of this Committee are to advise the Under Secretary for Health about nursing innovations and specify changes necessary for VA to foster this progress. The Committee will review current innovations in nursing, current organizational incentives that foster innovation, current disincentives for innovations and suggested opportunities for enhanced innovation. The Committee will examine such issues as: clinical care, education, management, research, information management, non-traditional roles and creative alternatives to current practice.

The Committee membership will be selected on the basis of professional expertise in current and future health care and nursing innovations. To ensure a balance, the Committee will be composed of a broad array of interdisciplinary individuals with expertise in current health care practices, business practices and entrepreneurial ventures. Some members will be selected from within VA to assure current policies and procedures are incorporated in the context of new recommendations developed by the Committee. Appointments will be for the duration of the Committee unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. This is a mission-specific committee which will be terminated as soon as the stated mission is complete.

The Designated Federal Official for the Committee is Charlotte Beason, Ed.D., RN, Nursing Service Program Coordinator, Veterans Health Administration, at (202) 273-8422.

Dated: September 11, 1996.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Eugene A. Brickhouse,

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-23992 Filed 9-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

### **Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials; Notice of Meeting**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials, authorized by 38 U.S.C. 2401, will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602. This will be the committee's first meeting of fiscal year 1997 and will primarily address issues concerning the manufacturing of VA headstones and markers.

The meeting will convene at 8:00 a.m. (EST) on October 16, 1996 and will adjourn at 5:00 p.m. (EST) October 17, 1996. On October 16, 1996, the Advisory Committee will visit granite quarries in Barre, Vermont, in the morning and will visit the monument manufacturers in the afternoon. The purpose of these site visits is to allow the Advisory Committee to view start-to-finish processing of VA's applications for headstone and markers and to observe the process from a contractor's perspective.

The following day at 8:00 a.m. the Committee will reconvene to discuss old business and to travel to Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery, the state's only State Veterans Cemetery. The meeting will adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will be open to the public. Those wishing to attend should contact Ms. Dina Wood, Special Assistant to the Director, National Cemetery System [phone (202) 273-5235] not later than 12 noon, EST, October 10, 1996.

Any interested person may attend, appear before, or file a statement with

the Committee. Individuals wishing to appear before the Committee should indicate this in a letter to the Director, National Cemetery System (40) at 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. In any such letters, the writers must fully identify themselves and state the organization, association or person they represent. Also, to the extent practicable, letters should indicate the subject matter they want to discuss. Oral presentations should be limited to 10 minutes in duration. Those wishing to file written statements to be submitted to the Committee must also mail, or otherwise deliver, them to the Director, National Cemetery System.

Letters and written statements as discussed above must be mailed or delivered in time to reach the Director, National Cemetery System, by 12 noon EST, October 10, 1996. Oral statements will be heard only between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST, October 17, 1996 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier, Vermont.

Dated: September 10, 1996.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Eugene A. Brickhouse,

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-23991 Filed 9-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

### **Medical Research Service Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee; Notice of Meeting**

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Pub. L. 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) as amended, by section 5 (c) of Pub. L. 94-409 that a meeting of the Medical Research Service Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee will be held at the Madison Hotel, 15th and M Streets, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005, October 28-29, 1996. The session on October 28 is scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. and on October 29 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The meeting will be for the purpose of reviewing two new protocols for multi-hospital clinical trial: one on comparison of three procedures for bleeding esophageal varices and one on specialized

medication and revascularization therapy and progress of four on-going cooperative studies, one on genetic study on schizophrénia; one on secondary prevention of heart attack; one on treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and one on prostate cancer.

The Committee advises the Director, Medical Research Service, through the Chief of the Cooperative Studies Program on the relevance and feasibility of the studies, the adequacy of the protocols, and the scientific validity and propriety of technical details, including protection of human subjects.

The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on both days to discuss the general status of the program. To assure adequate accommodations, those who plan to attend should contact Dr. Ping Huang, Coordinator, Medical Research Service, Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC, (202.273.8295), prior to October 21, 1996.

The meeting will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 1996 and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on October 29, 1996 for consideration of specific proposal in accordance with provisions set forth in section 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by section 5(c) of Pub. L. 94-409, and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6). During this portion of the meeting, discussions and recommendations will deal with qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, staff and consultant critiques of research protocols, and similar documents, and the medical records of patients who are study subjects, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: September 11, 1996.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Eugene A. Brickhouse,

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-23990 Filed 9-18-96; 8:45 am]

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