

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0492]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed to deduct insurance premiums from policyholder's bank account.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before April 18, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0492" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the

collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: VA MATIC Authorization, VA Form 29-0532-1.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0492.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 29-0532-1 is completed by veteran policyholders to authorize deduction of Government Life Insurance premiums from their bank account.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,500 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,000.

Dated: February 3, 2005.

By direction of the Secretary.

Loise Russell,

Director, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 05-2917 Filed 2-14-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**Health Services Research and Development Service Merit Review Board; Notice of Meeting**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463, Federal Advisory Committee Act, that a meeting of the Health Services Research and Development Service Merit Review Board will be held March 15-17, 2005, at the Crowne Plaza River Walk Hotel, 111 Pecan Street East, San Antonio, TX 78205. On March 15, 2005, the Nursing Research Initiative (NRI), Chronic Diseases, and Equity review subcommittees will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the general orientation session for all reviewers will be conducted from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. On March 16 and 17, 2005, the Implementation and Management, Quality Measurement and Effectiveness, Research Methodology, and Special Populations subcommittees will convene from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

The purpose of the Board is to review research and development applications concerned with the measurement and evaluation of health care services and with testing new methods of health care delivery and management, and nursing research. Applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Recommendations regarding funding are

prepared for the Chief Research and Development Officer.

On March 15, the meeting will be open to the public for approximately one half-hour from 7 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. to cover administrative matters and to discuss the general status of the program. The remaining portion of the meeting on March 15-17 will be closed. The closed portion of the meeting involves discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of staff and consultant critiques of research protocols and similar documents.

During this portion of the meeting, discussion and recommendations will include qualifications of the 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 would be likely to compromise significantly the implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects). As provided by subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing portions of these meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Those who plant to attend the open session should contact the Assistant Director, Scientific Review (124S), Health Services Research and Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 1722 Eye Street, NW., Washington, DC, at least five days before the meeting. For further information, call (202) 254-0207.

Dated: January 25, 2005.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggins,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-2908 Filed 2-14-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans; Notice of Meeting**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans will be held from Monday, March 7, 2005, through Tuesday, March 8, 2005. The Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day in the Lafayette Room at the Hamilton Crowne Plaza, 14th and K Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20005. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the effectiveness of the policies,

organizational structures, and services of the Department in assisting homeless veterans. The Committee shall assemble and review information relating to the needs of homeless veterans and provide ongoing advice on the most appropriate means of providing assistance to homeless veterans. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary regarding such activities.

On March 7, 2005, the Committee will receive reports from program experts, assess the availability of health care and benefit services, review the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) program and other initiatives designed to assist veterans who are homeless. On March 8, 2005, the Committee will review legislative recommendations and work on its annual report.

Those wishing to attend the meeting should contact Mr. Pete Dougherty, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 273-5764. No time will be allocated for receiving oral presentations during the public meeting. However, the Committee will accept written comments from interested parties on issues affecting homeless veterans. Such comments should be referred to the Committee at the following address: Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans, Homeless Veterans Programs Office (075D), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

Dated: February 7, 2005.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Phillip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-2911 Filed 2-14-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans will be held from February 28 to March 4, 2005 in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands at various sites. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary on the administration of VA benefits and services to minority veterans, to assess the needs of minority veterans and to evaluate whether VA compensation, medical and rehabilitation services, outreach, and other programs are meeting those needs. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary regarding such activities.

The Committee will be conducting concurrent tours of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands February 28 to March 2, 2005. Town hall meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

February 28, 2005 from 7-9 p.m.

Puerto Rico: Utuado—Town Government Hall

U.S. Virgin Islands: Christiansted, St. Croix—American Legion Hall

March 1, 2005 from 7-9 p.m.

Puerto Rico: Juana Diaz, State Veterans Home

U.S. Virgin Islands: Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas—American Legion Hall

The Committee will conduct panel hearings at the San Juan Marriott Resort Hotel, 1309 Ashford Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 and Thursday, March 3, 2005. The hearings will begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday and 11 a.m. on Thursday. Presenters will include the Director, Puerto Rican Public Advocate for Veterans Affairs; the Director, VA Medical Center; Director, VA Regional Office and the Director, Puerto Rico National Cemetery.

The Committee will accept written comments from interested parties on issues outlined in the meeting agenda, as well as other issues affecting minority veterans. Such comments should be referred to the Committee at the following address: Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, Center for Minority Veterans (OOM), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

For additional information about the meeting, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Olmo at (202) 273-6708.

Dated: February 7, 2005.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Phillip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-2910 Filed 2-14-05; 8:45 am]

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