DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS

Solicitation of Nominations for the
Appointment to the Advisory
Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs,
Indian Health Service, Billing Area
Representative

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans
Affairs (VA), Office of Public and
Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA), Office of
Tribal Government Relations (OTGR), is seeking nominations of qualified
candidates to be considered for
appointment as a member of the
Advisory Committee on Tribal and
Indian Affairs ("the Committee") to
represent the Indian Health Service,
Billings Area.

DATES: Nominations for membership on the
Committee must be received no later
than 5:00 p.m. EST on October 7, 2022.

ADDRESSES: All nomination packages
(Application, should be mailed to the
Office of Tribal Government Relations,
810 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 915H
(075), Washington, DC 20420 or email
us at tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms.
Stephanie Birdwell and David "Clay"
Ward, Office of Tribal Government Relations,
810 Vermont Ave. NW, Ste 915H (075), Washington, DC 20420,
Telephone (202) 461–7400. A copy of
the Committee charter can be obtained
by contacting Mr. David "Clay" Ward or
by accessing the website managed by
OTGR at https://www.va.gov/
TRIBALGOVERNMENT/index.asp.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In
carrying out the duties set forth, the
Committee responsibilities include, but
not limited to:

(1) Identify for the Department
evolving issues of relevance to Indian
tribes, tribal organizations and Native
American Veterans relating to programs
and services of the Department;
(2) Propose clarifications,
recommendations and solutions to
address issues raised at tribal, regional
and national levels, especially regarding
any tribal consultation reports;
(3) Provide a forum for Indian tribes,
tribal organizations, urban Indian
organizations, Native Hawaiian
organizations and the Department to
discuss issues and proposals for changes
to Department regulations, policies and
procedures;
(4) Identify priorities and provide
advice on appropriate strategies for
tribal consultation and urban Indian
organizations conferring on issues at the
tribal, regional, or national levels;
(5) Ensure that pertinent issues are
brought to the attention of Indian tribes,
tribal organizations, urban Indian
organizations and Native Hawaiian
organizations in a timely manner, so
that feedback can be obtained;
(6) Encourage the Secretary to work
with other Federal agencies and
Congress so that Native American
Veterans are not denied the full benefit
of their status as both Native Americans
and Veterans;
(7) Highlight contributions of Native
American Veterans in the Armed
Forces;
(8) Make recommendations on the
consultation policy of the Department
on tribal matters;
(9) Support a process to develop an
urban Indian organization confer policy
to ensure the Secretary confers, to the
maximum extent practicable, with
urban Indian organizations; and
(10) With the Secretary’s written
approval, conduct other duties as
recommended by the Committee.

Authority: The Committee was
established in accordance with section
7002 of Public Law 116–315
(H.R.7105—Johnny Isakson and David
P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and
Benefits Improvement Act of 2020). In
accordance with Public Law 116–315,
the Committee provides advice and
guidance to the Secretary of Veterans
Affairs on all matters relating to Indian
tribes, tribal organizations, Native
Hawaiian organizations and Native
American Veterans. The serves in an
advisory capacity and advises the
Secretary on ways the Department can
improve the programs and services of
the Department to better serve Native
American Veterans. Committee makes
recommendations to the Secretary
regarding such activities. Nominations
of qualified candidates are being sought
to fill the current vacancy on the
Committee.

Membership Criteria: OTGR is
requesting nominations for the current
vacancy on the Committee. The
Committee is composed of 15 members.
As required by statute, the members of
the Committee are appointed by the
Secretary from the general public,
including:

(1) At least one member of each of the
12 service areas of the Indian Health
Service is represented in the
membership of the Committee
nominated by Indian tribes or tribal
organization.
(2) At least one member of the
Committee represents the Native
Hawaiian and urban community
nominated by a Native Hawaiian
Organization.
(3) At least one member of the
Committee represents urban Indian
organizations nominated by a national
urban Indian organization.
(4) No fewer than half of the
members are Veterans, unless the
Secretary determines that an insufficient
number of qualified Veterans were
nominated.
(5) No member of the Committee may
be an employee of the Federal
Government.

In accordance with Public Law 116–315,
the Secretary determines the
number and terms of service for
members of the Committee, which are
appointed by the Secretary, except that
a term of service of any such member
may not exceed a term of two years.
Additionally, a member may be
reappointed for one additional term at
the Secretary’s discretion.

Professional Qualifications: In
addition to the criteria above, VA seeks—

(1) Diversity in professional and
personal qualifications;
(2) Experience in military service and
military deployments (please identify
your Branch of Service and Rank);
(3) Current work with Veterans;
(4) Committee subject matter
expertise; and
(5) Experience working in large and
complex organizations.

Requirements for Nomination
Submission:

Nominations should be type written
(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
indicating a willingness to serve as a
member of the Committee; (2) the
nominee’s contact information,
including name, mailing address,
telephone numbers, and email address;
(3) the nominee’s curriculum vitae or
resume, not to exceed five pages and (4)
a summary of the nominee’s experience
and qualification relative to the
professional qualifications criteria listed
above.

The individual selected for
appointment to the Committee shall be
invited to serve a two-year term. All
members will receive travel expenses
and a per diem allowance in accordance
with the Federal Travel Regulations for
any travel made in connection with
their duties as members of the
Committee.
The Department makes every effort to ensure that the membership of its Federal advisory committees is fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and the committee's function. Every effort is made to ensure that a broad representation of geographic areas, males & females, racial and ethnic minority groups, and Veterans with disabilities are given consideration for membership. Appointment to this Committee shall be made without discrimination because of a person's race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. Nominations must state that the nominee is willing to serve as a member of the Committee and appears to have no conflict of interest that would preclude membership. An ethics review is conducted for each selected nominee.

Dated: September 13, 2022.

Jelessa M. Burney,
Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2022–20136 Filed 9–15–22; 8:45 am]

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