

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## JOINT BOARD FOR THE ENROLLMENT OF ACTUARIES

### Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations; Invitation for Membership on Advisory Committee

The Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries (Joint Board) established under the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), is responsible for the enrollment of individuals who wish to perform actuarial services under ERISA. The Joint Board has established an Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations (Advisory Committee) to assist in its examination duties mandated by ERISA. The term of the current Advisory Committee will expire on November 1, 1998. This notice describes the Advisory Committee and invites applications from those interested in service on it.

#### 1. General

To qualify for enrollment to perform actuarial services under ERISA, an applicant must have requisite pension actuarial experience and must satisfy knowledge requirements as provided in the Joint Board's regulations. The knowledge requirements may be satisfied by successful completion of Joint Board examinations in basic actuarial mathematics and methodology and in actuarial mathematics and methodology relating to pension plans qualifying under ERISA.

The Joint Board, the Society of Actuaries and the American Society of Pension Actuaries jointly offer examinations acceptable to the Joint Board for enrollment purposes and acceptable to those actuarial organizations as part of their respective examination programs.

#### 2. Purposes

The Advisory Committee plays an integral role in the examination program by assisting the Joint Board in offering

examinations which will enable examination candidates to demonstrate the knowledge necessary to qualify for enrollment. The purpose of the Advisory Committee, as renewed, will remain that of assisting the Joint Board in fulfilling this responsibility. The Advisory Committee will discuss the philosophy of such examinations, will review topics appropriately covered in them, and will make recommendations relative thereto. It also will recommend to the Joint Board proposed examination questions. The Joint Board will maintain liaison with the Advisory Committee in this process to ensure that its views on examination content are understood.

#### 3. Function

The manner in which the Advisory Committee functions in preparing examination questions is intertwined with the jointly administered examination program. Under that program, the participating actuarial organizations draft questions and submit them to the Advisory Committee for its consideration. After review of the draft questions, the Advisory Committee selects appropriate questions, modifies them as it deems desirable, and then prepares one or more drafts of actuarial examinations to be recommended to the Joint Board. (In addition to revisions of the draft questions, it may be necessary for the Advisory Committee to originate questions and include them in what is recommended.)

#### 4. Membership

The Joint Board will take steps to ensure maximum practicable representation on the Advisory Committee of points of view regarding the Joint Board's actuarial examination extant in the community at large and from nominees provided by the actuarial organizations. Since the members of the actuarial organizations comprise a large segment of the actuarial profession, this appointive process ensures expression of a broad spectrum of viewpoints. All members of the Advisory Committee will be expected to act in the public interest, that is, to produce examinations which will help ensure a level of competence among those who will be accorded enrollment to perform actuarial services under ERISA.

Membership normally will be limited to actuaries previously enrolled by the Joint Board. However, individuals

having academic or other special qualifications of particular value for the Advisory Committee's work also will be considered for membership. The Advisory Committee will meet about four times a year. Advisory Committee members should be prepared to devote from 125 to 175 hours, including meeting time, to the work of the Advisory Committee over the course of a year. Members will be reimbursed for Advisory Committee travel, meals and lodging expenses incurred in accordance with applicable government regulations.

Actuaries interested in serving on the Advisory Committee should express their interest and fully state their qualifications in a letter addressed to: Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries, c/o Office of Director of Practice, Internal Revenue Service (C:AP:P), 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20224.

Any questions may be directed to the Joint Board's Executive Director at 202-401-5845.

The deadline for accepting applications is September 3, 1998.

Dated: May 19, 1998.

**Robert I. Brauer,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,  
Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries.*

[FR Doc. 98-14308 Filed 5-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

## JOINT BOARD FOR THE ENROLLMENT OF ACTUARIES

### Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations; Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations will meet in Conference Room 118 of the Aerospace Building, L'Enfant Plaza, 901 D Street, SW, Washington, DC, on Monday and Tuesday, June 29 and 30, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss topics and questions which may be recommended for inclusion on future Joint Board examinations in actuarial mathematics and methodology referred to in Title 29 U.S. Code, section 1242(a)(1)(B) and to review the May 1998 Joint Board examinations in order to make recommendations relative thereto, including the minimum acceptable pass score. Topics for inclusion on the syllabus for the Joint

Board's examination program for the November 1998 pension actuarial examination and the May 1999 basic actuarial examinations will be discussed. In addition, establishing examination guidelines and credit for unanswered questions on the examinations will be addressed.

A determination has been made as required by section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) that the portions of the meeting dealing with the discussion of questions which may appear on the Joint Board's examinations and review of the May 1998 Joint Board examinations fall within the exceptions to the open meeting requirement set forth in Title 5 U.S. Code, section 552(c)(9)(B), and that the public interest requires that such portions be closed to public participation.

The portion of the meeting dealing with the discussion of the other topics will commence at 9:00 a.m. on June 30 and will continue for as long as necessary to complete the discussion, but not beyond 10:30 a.m. This portion of the meeting will be open to the public as space is available. Time permitting, after discussion of the program, interested persons may make statements germane to this subject. Persons wishing to make oral statements are requested to notify the Committee Management Officer in writing prior to the meeting in order to aid in scheduling the time available, and should submit the written text, or, at a minimum, an outline of comments they proposed to make orally. Such comments will be limited to ten minutes in length. Any interested person also may file a written statement for consideration by the Joint Board and Committee by sending it to the Committee Management Officer. Notifications and statements should be mailed no later than June 18, 1998, to Mr. Robert I. Brauer, Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries, c/o Office of Director of Practice, Internal Revenue Service (C:AP:P), 901 D Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024 or by facsimile transmission to 202-401-6657.

Dated: May 19, 1998.

**Robert I. Brauer,**  
Advisory Committee Management Officer,  
Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries.  
[FR Doc. 98-14306 Filed 5-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Notice of Solicitation for Membership to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Solicitation for Membership.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces solicitation for nominations to fill 11 vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

**DATES:** Deadline for Advisory Board member nominations is June 15, 1998.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 as amended by section 802 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 authorized the creation of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. The Board is composed of 30 members, each representing a specific category related to farming or ranching, food production and processing, forestry research, crop and animal science, land-grant institutions, food retailing and marketing, rural economic development, and natural resource and consumer interest groups, among many others. The Board was first appointed in September 1996 and one-third of the 30 members were appointed for a 1, 2, and 3 year term, respectively. As a result of the staggered appointments, the terms for 10 of the 30 members who represent 10 specific categories will expire September 30, 1998. Nominations for a 3-year appointment for all 10 of the vacant categories are sought. Nominees will be carefully reviewed for their broad expertise, leadership, and relevancy to a category. As a result of a resignation, another member's slot representing the category of "Scientific Community not closely associated with Agriculture" is also vacant. The replacement Board member for this category will serve the remainder of the term or 1 year, terminating September 30, 1999. The 11 vacancies are:

Category E: National Animal  
Commodity Organizations

Category H: National Food Animal  
Science Societies

Category I: National Crop, Soil,  
Agronomy, Horticulture or Weed  
Science Societies

Category N: 1890 Land-Grant Colleges  
and Universities

Category O: 1994 Equity in Education  
Land Grant Institutions

Category R: Scientific Community not  
closely associated with Agriculture (1-  
year term)

Category T: Food Retailing and  
Marketing Interests

Category V: Rural Economic  
Development

Category W: National Consumer Interest  
Groups

Category X: National Forestry Groups

Category Y: National Conservation or  
Natural Resource Groups

Nominations are being solicited from organizations, associations, societies, councils, federations, groups, and companies that represent a wide variety of food and agricultural interests.

Nominations for one individual who fits several of the categories listed above, or for more than one person who fits one category will be accepted. Please indicate the specific membership category for each nominee. Each nominee must fill out a form AD-755, "Advisory Committee Membership Background Information" and will be vetted before selection. Send nominations to the Office of the Advisory Board, Research, Education, and Economics, Room 3918 South Building, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-2255 no later than June 15, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director,  
National Agricultural Research,  
Extension, Education, and Economics  
Advisory Board, Research, Education,  
and Economics Advisory Board Office,  
Room 3918 South Building, U.S.  
Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255,  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW,  
Washington, DC 20250-2255.  
Telephone: 202-720-3684. Fax: 202-  
720-6199, or e-mail: lshea@reeusda.gov.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 26th day of  
May 1998.

**I. Miley Gonzalez.**

*Under Secretary, Research, Education, and  
Economics.*

[FR Doc. 98-14342 Filed 5-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Notice of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Western Regional Listening Session

**AGENCY:** Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of listening session.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5