



Instructions for Regional Group Meetings Spring 2020

BVA Regional Groups and Chapters: Due to the national emergency relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the BVA Board of Directors has voted to allow regional groups the flexibility of holding teleconference business meetings this spring. The President of the United States and Governors of several states have declared a national emergency and strongly discourage public gatherings of groups of people, especially those at high risk of this virus.

Section 1.

a. The Association shall have the power to organize affiliate groups to be known as regional groups; to issue, revoke, and amend their charters, to discipline their officers and members, to regulate their elections, to fix their dues, and generally, to regulate their activities and the conduct of their affairs.

b. It shall be the policy of the Blinded Veterans Association that regional groups shall be allowed the greatest amount of freedom of action and liberty consistent with reasonable control by the National Authority.

Section 9. The National Board of Directors may establish and adopt rules and regulations governing regional groups, and otherwise have supervision and authority over all affiliate or regional groups.

Therefore, the BVA Board of Directors is implementing an emergency BVA policy for Regional Groups as of March 18, 2020 regarding RG elections of officers and delegates in conducting teleconferences for business meetings.

1. Regional Group officers are authorized to conduct, during this national emergency in the spring of 2020, any Regional Group business with teleconferences.
2. All Regional Group members shall be notified by mail of the time, date, and the conference call number for the meeting with no fewer than 15 days of advanced notice prior to the Regional Group business meeting.
3. BVA National Headquarters and the District Director shall be notified of the Regional Group teleconference meeting and the National Board strongly encourages that the District Director be invited to attend the conference calls for the business meeting.
4. The Regional Group President and Secretary shall do a roll call of all members participating in any teleconference business meeting to ensure that only members of that Regional Group are voting.
5. Regional Group officers can decide to mail out the ballots with clear instructions on voting and instructions with the deadlines for returning all ballots to the Regional Group Secretary as an option to conference call voting. Those nominated for all officer positions will have their names on the ballots.
6. The minutes and all elections shall be provided to BVA 40 days prior to the BVA National Convention by No Later Than July 8, 2020.
7. District Directors shall be notified of all business meeting minutes as required in the bylaws and the election results.

The BVA National Board encourages regional groups to continue to engage all their members during this time to prevent further social isolation.

Questions have been sent to the Board and National Headquarters regarding the status of the annual BVA convention. The Bylaws read as follows:

Article IX - National Convention

Section 8. The National Board of Directors will select the time and place of the next succeeding Convention, and the National Board of Directors shall not change the time and place of holding the Convention except for good cause shown. Good cause is hereby

defined as a catastrophe making it impractical to hold the Convention in the recommended city; the inability of the city to provide adequate housing at reasonable rates; or such other emergencies as the National Board of Directors may deem adequate.

Therefore, by Friday, May 29, the BVA National Board, based on recommendations from the federal government, VA health officials, and state government agencies, will make the decision on the plan for the annual BVA convention and we will notify the membership accordingly. In the meantime, we recommend that you not make travel reservation plans to Washington, DC until this national emergency is declared over.

We are all hoping that this situation improves and that during the summer, normal BVA meetings and events will be able to be held. We encourage all regional group officers to frequently monitor the national BVA website www.bva.org for updates in the next 90 days.

Respectfully,

**Thomas Zampieri
National President, Blinded Veterans Association**