

**BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
76<sup>th</sup> VIRTUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION  
ALEXANDRIA, VA  
AUGUST 18, 2021**

**REPORT OF THE CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE**

**The Convention Rules Committee appointed by National President Dr. Thomas Zampieri and consisting of Joseph McNeil Chairperson, and Daniel Wallace, Co-Chairperson.**

**The Committee unanimously recommends to the members assembled the adoption of the following rules as a means of effecting a fair, orderly, and democratic submission, and consideration of all questions before this National Convention.**

- 1. These rules may be adopted by a simple majority vote of Members and Associate Members present and voting.**
- 2. In accordance with BVA National Bylaws Every Member and Associate Member of the Blinded Veterans Association in good standing shall be eligible to attend and participate in all meetings of the Convention and shall be entitled to one (1) vote when present at meetings or by proxy when absent. Except as further provided in these rules, only those Members, Associate Members (in good standing), Delegates and Alternates who have registered can participate.**
- 3. Members were informed in a teleconference policy, they would need to register at least seven (7) days prior to the start of the convention in order to vote. The deadline being Monday, August 9. Any registration received and postmarked after August 9 will be accepted as a 'guest' without voice and vote during the Annual Convention's business sessions.**
- 4. Due to the current circumstances, the normal procedures for conducting nominations on the floor for national officers have been**

**suspended. This year, nominations and elections for national officers will be held at the first business meeting on Wednesday, August 18 by way of a virtual meeting. The election process will be done in the same manner as done on the floor.**

**5. A Member or Associate Member may not speak more than once nor for more than three minutes on any single issue before the assembly. The maker of a motion may speak an additional four minutes in rebuttal at the close of debate on his/her motion. The sponsor of a bylaw amendment may speak an additional four minutes in rebuttal following the close of debate on his/her bylaw amendment.**

**6. There will be no more than two seconding speeches for any nomination for National Office. The persons making the seconding speeches may be designated by the person being nominated. The nominating speech shall be limited to five minutes, and seconding speeches limited to three minutes each.**

**7. The Presiding Officer shall not permit debate during the reading of each Committee Report.**

**8. There shall be no recess during the nomination and election of officers, on the day elections are held.**

**9. In the event of an election with more than two candidates for the office involved, which on the first ballot results in no candidate receiving a majority, the second ballot will be for the two candidates receiving the most votes on the first ballot.**

**10. Any Member or Associate Member recognized by the Convention shall have the right to demand a roll-call vote on any question provided his/her motion is seconded by four other duly recognized Members and/or Associate Members. The seconds must be made by persons from three different Regional Groups or States other than that of the person making the motion.**

**11. When a roll-call vote is taken, names of States or Groups with no Members, Associate Members or Delegates registered at the Convention will not be called.**

**12. Members, Associate Members, Delegates or Alternates must vote in the order called when a roll-call vote is taken or lose their right to vote on that question.**

**13. The Delegate shall have the right to vote for all members of his/her Group except those present and voting or those voting by proxy. In the absence or abstention of the delegate, the alternate delegates, in the order designated in the credentials, shall assume the delegate's duties.**

**14. When a roll-call vote is taken a Member or Associate Member possessing more than one proxy may cast his/her proxy by total as each State is called.**

**15. Single votes may not be expressed as fractions.**

**16. Any rule interfering with a proposed course of action may be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the votes cast, a quorum being present.**

**17. Subject to the Charter, Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, these Rules shall govern the conduct of this Convention upon approval and adoption by the assembled Membership.**

**18. The Necrology Report will consist of:**

- a. Announcement of the number of members who died since the last convention.**
- b. A prayer by the National Chaplain.**

**c. The playing of Taps on the public-address system.**

**19. With respect to the Bylaws Committee, in addition to the designated Chairman and the representative of the BVA National Board of Directors, only those individuals who were designated in writing by their respective regional groups on the official BVA Credentials Form will be recognized as members of the Bylaws Committee and will be allowed to vote on issues lawfully brought before the Committee. In the absence of a regional group representative to the Committee, the official regional group Delegate, or a duly elected Alternate Delegate, may serve as the regional group's representative.**

**A member of the Bylaws Committee may not speak more than once nor for more than three minutes on any single issue before the Committee. A member of the Committee making a motion may speak an additional four minutes in rebuttal at the close of debate on his/her motion. The sponsor of a bylaw amendment may speak an additional four minutes in rebuttal following close of debate on his/her bylaw amendment.**

**Other BVA members in good standing are welcome to attend the Bylaws Committee meeting. During the Bylaws Committee discussion on issues, those listed on the credentials form as designated Bylaws Committee members may be allowed to speak for no more than three minutes on any one issue, but only at the discretion of the Committee Chairman.**

**With the consent of the sponsor of a proposed Bylaw Amendment, the Bylaws Committee may make germane changes to the language of a proposed Bylaw Amendment consistent with the application of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.**

**20. The Administrative Director or his/her designee shall read the proposed Bylaw, which shall be deemed to have been moved by its sponsor. The Chairman of the Bylaws Committee shall then state the recommendation of the Committee. Discussion shall then ensue with the proposed Bylaw Amendment as a main motion subject to debate by a two-thirds vote of the Members, Associate Members, Delegates or Alternates present and voting on amendment.**

**21. For the purpose of roll call votes during the 76<sup>th</sup> BVA National Convention, during the initial roll call vote, all pertinent information**

**concerning proxy votes will be read by the Administrative Director. However, during any subsequent roll call votes, only the number of proxy votes plus the name and regional group of the individual assigned to vote the proxies will be read. Example: "Ten proxy votes to Charlie Pride, Emerald Coast R.G."**

**22. When any delegate, alternate delegate, or member desires to speak during the Convention or in a Committee meeting, he/she shall raise their hand, address the President/Chairperson as Mr./Madam President/Chairman/Chairperson", state his/her name and the name of the regional group he/she represents, and shall be first recognized by the President/Chairperson before proceeding to speak.**

**23. The National President of the BVA shall be the Presiding Officer of the Convention.**

**24. These rules are adopted solely for use by the 76<sup>th</sup> National Convention.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph McNeil  
Chairperson**