



**BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION
GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP
CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS
(REVISED: APRIL 6, 2013)**



PREAMBLE

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP OF THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION, IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE BLINDED VETERANS OF THIS NATION, TO ASSIST IN THE REHABILITATION OF ALL BLINDED VETERANS, TO HASTEN THEIR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE COMMUNITY OF THEIR FELLOWS, AND TO PROMOTE PEACE WITH LIBERTY, DO ADOPT AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS.

**ARTICLE I
(NAME)**

SECTION 1.

THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION, BY WHICH IT SHALL BE KNOWN, IS AND SHALL BE THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP OF THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION, AND ITS DURATION SHALL BE PERPETUAL, UNLESS ITS CHARTER BE WITHDRAWN BY THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN.

**ARTICLE II
(AFFILIATION)**

SECTION 1.

THE REGIONAL GROUP IS AND SHALL BE A SUBORDINATE GROUP OF A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION KNOWN AS THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION, AS ATTESTED TO BY A CHARTER ISSUED BY SAID ASSOCIATION. THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP SHALL AT ALL TIMES BE SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND TO THE PROVISIONS OF THAT CORPORATION'S CHARTER AND BYLAWS. ANY PROVISION IN THIS INSTITUTION/BYLAWS INCONSISTENT WITH THE CHARTER OR BYLAWS OF THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION SHALL BE NULL AND VOID.

SECTION 2.

THE REGIONAL GROUP SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY IN THE PROMOTION OF PARTISAN POLITICS OR OF CANDIDATES FOR POLITICAL OFFICE. ITS NAME, INSIGNIA, AND MEMBERSHIP LISTS SHALL BE RESTRICTED TO USE BY THE REGIONAL GROUP AND BY ITS PARENT BODY, THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION. THE GROUP SHALL NOT JOIN OR FEDERATE WITH ANY OTHER VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS OR AGENCY FOR THE BLIND.

**ARTICLE III
(SUPREME AUTHORITY)**

SECTION 1.

THE SUPREME AUTHORITY OF THE REGIONAL GROUP SHALL BE VESTED IN ITS MEMBERS, WHETHER EXPRESSED IN CONVENTION, IN A REGULARLY- CALLED MEETING, OR BY A DULY AUTHORIZED MAIL BALLOT.

SECTION 2.

AT ALL TIMES WHEN THE MEMBERSHIP IS NOT ASSEMBLED, THE SUPREME AUTHORITY OF THE REGIONAL GROUP SHALL BE VESTED IN AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SEE ARTICLE VIII BELOW).

**ARTICLE IV
(MEMBERSHIP)**

SECTION 1.

MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE LIMITED TO MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION IN GOOD STANDING RESIDING WITHIN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

SECTION 2.

THE DEFINITIONS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP AND THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESTRICTIONS OF EACH CATEGORY SHALL BE AS OUTLINED IN THE

CURRENT EDITION OF THE BVA NATIONAL BYLAWS, AS AMENDED.

SECTION 3.

ALL OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, PROVIDED THEY REMAIN IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND WITH THIS REGIONAL GROUP, SHALL HAVE AND RETAIN RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP IN SAID REGIONAL GROUP, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND HOLD OFFICE.

**ARTICLE V
(MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS)**

SECTION 1.

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE CALLED AND SUCH MEETINGS SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE LAWS AND BYLAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND GENERALLY TO CONDUCT ALL BUSINESS WHICH MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE GROUP.

SECTION 2.

EVERY MEMBER AND ASSOCIATE MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND AND ASSIST IN ALL MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP, AND SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ONE (1) VOTE WHEN PRESENT.

SECTION 3.

A QUORUM AT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS SHALL CONSIST OF FIVE (5) MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING, TWO (2) OF WHICH MUST BE ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL GROUP.

SECTION 4.

ALL MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING, AS WELL AS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS (ATTN: ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR), SHALL BE NOTIFIED, IN WRITING, OF EACH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL GROUP AT LEAST TEN (10) DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF SUCH MEETING. THE NOTIFICATION LETTER WILL INCLUDE THE DATE, TIME,

LOCATION AND PURPOSE(S) OF THE MEETING. ADDRESS LABELS FROM BVA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS MUST BE USED FOR ALL SUCH NOTIFICATION LETTER MAILINGS.

ARTICLE VI (OFFICERS)

SECTION 1.

THE REGIONAL GROUP SHALL ELECT OFFICERS EVERY 2 YEARS FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AT A MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP, AND ALL MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING SHALL BE NOTIFIED, IN WRITING, IN ADVANCE OF THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE MEETING IS CALLED (SEE SECTION 4 OF ARTICLE V ABOVE).

SECTION 2.

THE OFFICERS ELECTED SHALL BE A PRESIDENT, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER. THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS EACH: CHAPLAIN, SERGEANT – AT – ARMS, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN AND HISTORIAN.

SECTION 3.

OFFICERS WILL SERVE 2 YEARS BEFORE REELECTION AND NO MORE THAN 6 YEARS. IF THERE IS NO OTHER CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION THEN HE/SHE CAN BE VOTED IN FOR AN ADDITIONAL 2 YEARS.

ARTICLE VII (DELEGATES)

SECTION A:

ALL DELEGATES WILL BE ELECTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP DURING A REGIONAL GROUP MEETING BY A 2/3 VOTE. THE FIRST VOTE IS FOR THE PRIMARY DELEGATE WHO WILL VOTE ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE BEST INTEREST OF THE REGIONAL. THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE WILL ACCOMPANY THE PRIMARY TO ALL FUNCTIONS AND BE PREPARED TO STAND IN AS PRIMARY IF CALLED UPON.

SECTION B:

A STIPEND VOTED ON BY THE MEMBERSHIP WILL BE GIVEN TO THE DELEGATES TO HELP OFF SET COST FOR ATTENDING THE CONVENTION. THE STIPEND WILL BE ISSUED AT THE LAST EVENT OF THE CONVENTION (THE BANQUET).

**ARTICLES VIII
(DUTIES OF OFFICERS)**

SECTION 1.

THE PRESIDENT SHALL BE THE EXECUTIVE HEAD OF THE REGIONAL GROUP WITH FULL POWER TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS AND THE POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP. HE/SHE SHALL PRESIDE AT MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

HE/SHE SHALL HAVE AND EXERCISE ALL OF THE FUNCTIONS ESPECIALLY ENTRUSTED TO HIM/HER BY THE MEMBERSHIP AND SHALL PERFORM ALL OF THE DUTIES USUALLY PERFORMED BY SUCH EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INCLUDING APPOINTMENT OF SUCH COMMITTEES AS HE/SHE MAY FEEL ARE NECESSARY TO THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE GROUP, WITH FULL AUTHORITY TO DISSOLVE SUCH COMMITTEES.

SECTION 2.

THE VICE PRESIDENT SHALL PERFORM SUCH DUTIES AS ARE ASSIGNED TO HIM/HER BY THE PRESIDENT AND SHALL SERVE AS ACTING PRESIDENT DURING THE ABSENCE OR DISABILITY OF THE PRESIDENT.

SECTION 3.

THE SECRETARY SHALL KEEP WRITTEN MINUTES OF ALL MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND SHALL FURNISH A COPY OF ALL SUCH WRITTEN MINUTES TO THE NATIONAL SECRETARY AT THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS (ATTN: ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR) WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF SUCH MEETINGS. HE/SHE SHALL NOTIFY ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AND

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS (ATTN: ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR), IN WRITING, OF ALL REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE PURPOSE(S) FOR WHICH THEY ARE CALLED. HE/SHE SHALL PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AS ARE ASSIGNED TO HIM/HER.

SECTION 4.

THE TREASURER SHALL MAINTAIN TRUE AND COMPLETE BOOKS OF ACCOUNT REFLECTING ALL OF THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURES OF THE REGIONAL GROUP. HE/SHE SHALL REPORT REGULARLY TO THE MEMBERSHIP ON THE FINANCES OF THE GROUP AND SHALL FILE BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS REQUESTED AND/OR AS REQUIRED BY THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE BVA NATIONAL BYLAWS, AS AMENDED.

SECTION 5.

THE CHAPLAIN SHALL PRESENT THE INVOCATION AND BENEDICTION FOR EACH MEETING, KEEP RECORDS OF HOSPITALIZED AND SHUT – IN MEMBERS, SEND GET-WELL CARDS, AND ASSIST IN MEMORIAL ACTIVITIES.

SECTION 6.

THE SERGEANT – AT – ARMS SHALL MAINTAIN ORDER AT MEETINGS AND OTHER FUNCTIONS, ESCORT VISITORS AND VIP'S AT REGIONAL GROUP FUNCTIONS, AND ENSURE MEETINGS ARE NOT INTERRUPTED UNNECESSARILY.

SECTION 7.

THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN SHALL OVERSEE MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING, MAINTAIN RECORDS OF RECRUITING ACTIVITIES AND KEEP MEMBERSHIP INFORMED OF PROGRESS.

SECTION 8.

THE HISTORIAN SHALL KEEP RECORDS OF ALL EVENTS WITHIN THE REGIONAL GROUP, MAINTAIN THE REGIONAL GROUP LINEAGE, AND PRESERVE PHOTOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTARY MATERIALS.

**ARTICLE IX
(EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**

SECTION 1.

BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, SUPREME AUTHORITY OF THE REGIONAL GROUP WILL BE VESTED IN AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER AND PRESIDENTS OF EACH CHAPTER (IF AVAILABLE).

SECTION 2.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE FULL POWER TO ACT FOR THE GROUP BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, PROVIDED THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL TAKE NO ACTION CONTRARY TO POLICIES ESTABLISHED BY THE MEMBERSHIP, AND ALL OF ITS ACTIONS SHALL BE REPORTED TO THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR APPROVAL, REJECTION OR MODIFICATION.

SECTION 3.

THREE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ONE OF WHICH WILL BE EITHER THE PRESIDENT OR THE VICE PRESIDENT, SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM AT ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

SECTION 4.

VACANCIES OCCURRING AMONG THE OFFICER PERSONNEL OF THE REGIONAL GROUP SHALL BE FILLED TEMPORARILY BY MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

**ARTICLE X
(DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS)**

SECTION 1.

DISCIPLINE OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XV (DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS) AND ARTICLE XVI (TRIAL PROCEDURE) OF THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE BVA NATIONAL BYLAWS, AS AMENDED.

**ARTICLE XI
(FINANCE)**

SECTION 1.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP, AND THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING PAYMENT OF SUCH DUES, ARE AS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE X (DUES) OF THE EDITION OF THE BVA NATIONAL BYLAWS, AS AMENDED.

SECTION 2.

ALL SUMS RECEIVED BY THE TREASURER SHALL BE PLACED BY HIM/HER IN A BANK ACCOUNT DESIGNATED BY THE MEMBERS OR BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE BANK ACCOUNT SHALL BE IN THE NAME OF THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP.

SECTION 3.

FUNDS OF THE REGIONAL GROUP SHALL BE DISPENSED ONLY BY CHECKS DRAWN BY THE TREASURER IN CONFORMITY WITH A BUDGET ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP. ALL CHECKS WILL HAVE TWO SIGNATURES.

SECTION 4.

NO FUND – RAISING ENDEAVOR INVOLVING AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION BY A REGIONAL GROUP MEETING AND PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS (REFER TO SECTION 13E OF ARTICLE XIV (REGIONAL GROUPS) OF THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE BVA NATIONAL BYLAWS, AS AMENDED).

**ARTICLE XII
(PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING)**

SECTION 1.

THIS CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS MAY BE AMENDED BY A TWO-THIRDS (2/3) VOTE OF THOSE VOTING AT ANY MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP, A QUORUM BEING PRESENT, PROVIDED THAT

THIRTY (30) DAYS' WRITTEN NOTICE OF SUCH PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S) SHALL HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING.

SECTION 2.

ANY AMENDMENT OF THIS CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS, INCONSISTENT WITH THE NATIONAL CHARTER OR BYLAWS OF THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION, SHALL BE NULL AND VOID.

ARTICLE XIII (RULES OF ORDER)

SECTION 1.

ALL POINTS OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE NOT COVERED BY THIS CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS SHALL BE GOVERNED BY ROBERT'S "RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED".

ARTICLE XIV (DISSOLUTION)

SECTION 1.

IN THE EVENT OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP, ALL ASSETS, REAL OR PERSONAL, SHALL BECOME SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 8 OF ARTICLE XIV (REGIONAL GROUPS) OF THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE BVA NATIONAL BYLAWS, AS AMENDED.

ARTICLE XV (CHAPTERS)

SECTION 1.

EACH SUBORDINATE CHAPTER IS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE, UNDER THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP.

- A. EACH SUBORDINATE CHAPTER WILL HAVE NO OFFICIAL STANDING OUTSIDE OF THE PARENT REGIONAL GROUP.
- B. EACH SUBORDINATE CHAPTER WILL HAVE AN IDENTIFIABLE NAME (EXAMPLE: ATLANTA CHAPTER OF THE GEORGIA

REGIONAL GROUP).

SECTION 2.

CHAPTER MEMBERS MUST BE BVA MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING.

SECTION 3.

CHAPTERS MUST HAVE AND ELECT THEIR OWN OFFICERS, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS:

- A. CHAPTERS WILL HOLD ELECTIONS BETWEEN THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND MARCH.**
- B. CHAPTER OFFICERS SHALL BE TITLED AS SPECIFIED IN THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP BYLAWS.**
- C. TERMS OF OFFICE SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE GEORGIA REGIONAL GROUP BYLAWS.**
- D. CHAPTER OFFICERS SHALL NOT SERVE SIMULTANEOUSLY AS REGIONAL GROUP OFFICERS, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT THE PRESIDENT OF EACH CHAPTER MAY BE APPOINTED, BY THE REGIONAL GROUP PRESIDENT, TO SERVE ON THE REGIONAL GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS AN AT-LARGE MEMBER FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.**

SECTION 4.

CHAPTERS MAY SCHEDULE AND HOLD THEIR OWN MEETINGS.

- A. WRITTEN MINUTES OF EACH CHAPTER MEETING MUST BE PREPARED AND FORWARDED TO THE REGIONAL GROUP SECRETARY WITHIN 60 DAYS OF SUCH MEETING, AND WILL BE READ AT THE NEXT REGIONAL GROUP MEETING.**
- B. THE REGIONAL GROUP MAY HOLD MEETINGS AT CHAPTER LOCATIONS ON A ROTATING BASIS.**

SECTION 5.

CHAPTER OFFICERS MAY REQUEST, THROUGH THE

REGIONAL GROUP, NAME LABELS AND PRINTOUTS FROM BVA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN ORDER TO SEND OUT CHAPTER MEETING NOTICES, NOTIFY MEMBERS OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES, AND TO RECRUIT BVA MEMBERS.

SECTION 6.

CHAPTERS MAY NOT INCORPORATE NOR APPLY FOR INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) 501(C)(3) TAX-EXEMPTION STATUS.

SECTION 7.

CHAPTERS MAY NOT ENGAGE IN FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES UNLESS THE REGIONAL GROUP HAS SOUGHT AND OBTAINED APPROVAL FROM THE BVA NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SECTION 8.

CHAPTERS MAY NOT OPEN SEPARATE BANK ACCOUNTS.

- A. FUNDS FOR EACH CHAPTER SHALL BE MAINTAINED BY THE REGIONAL GROUP AND DISTRIBUTED AS REQUESTED.**
- B. FUNDS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO A CHAPTER MUST BE APPROVED AT A REGIONAL GROUP MEETING, OR BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL AT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP MEETING.**
- C. EACH CHAPTER SHALL MAINTAIN THEIR FUNDS AS A PETTY CASH FUND, NOT TO EXCEED \$500.00, AND SHALL FORWARD A TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE REGIONAL GROUP BY JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR.**

SECTION 9.

A CHAPTER MUST BE APPROVED OR DISSOLVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF A PROPERLY CONVENED REGIONAL GROUP MEETING.

- A. A CHAPTER MAY BE DISSOLVED FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REGIONAL GROUP BYLAWS, OR FOR SOME OTHER COMPELLING REASON(S) AS DETERMINED BY THE REGIONAL GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

- B. A CHAPTER WHICH HAS BEEN DISSOLVED SHALL IMMEDIATELY TURN OVER ALL OF ITS ASSETS, INCLUDING BOOKS, RECORDS, PROPERTY AND FUNDS, TO THE PARENT REGIONAL GROUP.**

SECTION 10.

EACH CHAPTER SHOULD ESTABLISH ITS BOUNDARIES WITHIN A REGIONAL GROUP AREA (50 MILES), KEEPING IN MIND THAT CHAPTERS SHOULD HAVE A LOCAL FOCUS.