



Full Throttle Forward to Nation's Capital Convention

by Meredith Buono-DaGrossa and Brigitte Jones

Formal Official Notice And Introduction

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 3b of Article IX (National Convention) of the BVA National Bylaws, all members of the Blinded Veterans Association in good standing are hereby notified that the **BVA 77th National Convention** will be held at the **Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill**, 400 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001, **from Monday, August 22, through Friday, August 26, 2022.**

The BVA National Convention is back in person! As always, numerous details are important for attendees to begin planning their trips and weeklong stays in Washington, DC.

The following includes information on registration, hotel, and travel. A miscellaneous section of "Frequently Asked Questions" and responses should cover many of the additional subjects of interest and concern.

Registration Information

BVA members can register and pay online at <https://bva.org/national-convention/> or by contacting Meredith at BVA National Headquarters at 202-371-8880, ext. 304, or via email mbuonodagrossa@bva.org. The deadline to pre-register online is **July 28, 2022**, at 5:00pm Eastern Daylight Time.

Hotel Information

The BVA rate at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill is \$145.00 per night (plus a 14.95 percent state and local tax). The property offers complimentary standard Wi-Fi in guest rooms as well as use of its indoor pool and fitness center.

Complimentary airport transportation for convention attendees to and from the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) **ONLY**. Details are being worked out and finalized at this time. More information will be presented to BVA members registered at a future date.

While on the hotel property, enjoy Starbucks in the hotel gift shop; breakfast, lunch, and dinner in Article One; or snacks and drinks from the Article One Lounge.

To reserve your room, please use the convention room booking link on the BVA website. You can also call 800-233-1234 and use room block code "**G-BVET**" to secure the reservation. The room block rate is available from August 21-27, 2022. The deadline to make that reservation at the blocked rate is also **July 28, 2022.**

Travel Information

Since free shuttle service will be available from the single airport, convention attendees are urged to fly into Reagan National Airport. If traveling by train, Washington Union Station is a mere three blocks from the Hyatt Regency. Volunteers will be on-hand at both Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and Union Station to assist travelers.

For travel assistance, please contact Brenda K. McDaniel, Independent Travel Consultant and daughter of a BVA member, between 11:00am and 6:30pm EDT. Brenda can be reached at brenda_mcdaniel@sbcglobal.net or 915-204-0101. Should you prefer coordinating your own travel, Brenda has secured a BVA discount with Delta Airlines. When booking, simply use code **NMVNJ**.

The following are scheduled highlights of the BVA 77th National Convention (still subject to minor changes where necessary):

Monday, August 22

- Registration
- Offsite Tour: Arlington National Cemetery and surrounding area

Tuesday, August 23

- Exhibit Hall (9:30am-6:00pm)
- Offsite Tour: National Mall area to include the World War II, Lincoln, and Vietnam Veterans Memorials
- President's Reception (included in registration fee)

Wednesday, August 24

- Exhibit Hall (9:30am-6:00pm)
- Opening Session with Keynote Speakers and Government Officials
- BVA Business Meetings
- BVA Auxiliary Silent Auction
- Sponsored Lunch and Learn
- Special Interest Group Meetings
- Happy Hour Reception (Exhibit Hall)
- Dine Around

Thursday, August 25

- BVA General Session with VA briefings
- BVA Auxiliary Silent Auction
- Father Carroll Luncheon (included in registration fee)
- District Caucus Meetings
- Offsite Trip: BVA Bowling and Dinner Sponsored by Vanda Pharmaceuticals

Friday, August 26

- Closing Business Meeting
- BVA Auxiliary Business Meeting
- BVA Reception and Awards Banquet (included in registration fee)

Post-Convention Activities-Saturday, August 27

- Kayaking on the Potomac
- Possible Evening Activity (To Be Determined)

Our most anticipated convention FAQs include the following:

What is the cancellation policy for members?

Registration cancellations can be made until 5:00pm EDT on **Thursday, July 28**, to receive a full refund. Cancellations after July 28 will not receive a refund except on a case-by-case basis and approved by the Board of Directors.

How do I sign up for offsite events, tours, and activities?

Registration for offsite events, tours, and activities will be available online from June 1 through July 31 and at the hotel registration desk during the convention. All activities will have a small administrative fee that is non-refundable.

Do the hotel rooms have refrigerators for my medications?

Yes. All rooms are equipped with a small refrigerator.

Can my regional group still advertise in the convention program?

Yes! We encourage it! BVA Regional Groups and Chapters can advertise by contacting Meredith at BVA National Headquarters and providing their full-page or half-page ad **NO LATER THAN June 20**. Payment must be received at the time of commitment. The regional group discounted price for a full-page ad is \$100 and a half-page ad is \$50.

Is there a shuttle from the airport to the hotel?

Yes! A shuttle will be provided on peak arrival and departure travel days (Sunday, August 21; Monday, August 22; and Saturday, August 27) from Reagan National Airport (DCA) only. Traveling outside of those days or arriving at a different airport may require members to use the Metrorail, taxi, or Uber/Lyft to travel from the airport to the hotel.

Will the buses and shuttles be wheelchair accessible?

Yes. Please also contact Meredith to ensure that BVA is aware that you will need wheelchair accommodation for offsite trips and airport shuttles.

Will someone meet me at the airport/train station?

Provide Meredith with your flight information, which will enable volunteers at the airport to meet you and ensure that you board the shuttle in a timely manner.

Is there a dog relief area?

Yes!

Where are the local conveniences such as restaurants, bakeries, and cafes?

Restaurants, Bakeries, and Cafés (less than a ten-minute walk):

- Article One Grill | Inside Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill
- The Ministry | 601 New Jersey Avenue NW | 202-813-3951
- SUNdeVICH | 601 New Jersey Avenue NW | 202-750-8128
- West Wing Café | 300 New Jersey Avenue NW | 202-347-5855
- Sandwiches by Phillip | 440 1st Street NW | 202-525-3602
- Blue Bottle Coffee | 50 Massachusetts Avenue NW | 510-653-3394
- Starbucks | 50 Massachusetts Avenue NW Space T-16 | 202-682-5895

Restaurants and Bars (less than a 30-minute walk):

- Bistro Bis | 15 E Street NW | 202-661-2700
- The Dubliner (Late Night Hours) | 4 F St. NW | 202-737-3773
- Art & Soul | 415 New Jersey Avenue NW | 202-393-7777
- Charlie Palmer Steak | 101 Constitution Avenue NW | 202-547-8100
- The Capital Grille | 601 Pennsylvania Avenue NW | 202-737-6200
- Fogo de Chao | 1101 Pennsylvania Avenue NW | 202-347-4668
- District Rico | 91 H Street NW | 202-842-5007
- Laos in Town | 250 K Street NE | 202-695-7182
- Indigo | 243 K Street NE | 202-544-4777
- Bistro Cacao | 316 Massachusetts Avenue NE | 202-546-4737
- The Monocle Restaurant | 107 D Street NE | 202-546-4488
- The Rooftop DC | 476 K Street NW, Rooftop Level | 202-695-1800
- RPM Italian | 650 K Street NW | 202-204-4480
- Kinship | 1015 7th Street NW | 202-737-7700

Grocery/Pharmacy/Sundries:

- Grocery/Pharmacy: Walmart (0.4 Miles)
- Grocery: Giant Food (0.8 Miles)
- Pharmacy: Walgreens (0.3 Miles, inside Union Station)
- Pharmacy: CVS (0.5 Miles)
- Class 6: Kogod Liquors (341 Feet)

What is the plan in the event of a fire drill or emergency?

Volunteers and hotel staff will orient members to the emergency exits, stairwells, and assembly areas near their rooms. Any further questions can be answered at the convention by BVA Staff.

What meals are included in my registration fee?

- Tuesday evening President's Reception Dinner
- Wednesday Lunch and Learn
- Thursday Father Carroll Luncheon

- Thursday evening Bowling and Dinner
- Friday evening BVA Awards Banquet
- Other meals may be added if additional sponsors sign on.

What dining options are at the Convention Hotel?

The hotel has an onsite restaurant with breakfast, lunch, and dinner options. We are working with the hotel on possible special menu selections and pricing for convention attendees.

Will there be a nightly Hospitality Suite?

The Hospitality Suite is planned—with limited hours.

What if I have more questions?

For additional questions or concerns, please contact Meredith in the intervening weeks and months ahead. We are excited to celebrate with you once again in person at the BVA 77th National Convention. See you in Washington, DC!

Important Administrative Deadlines For 77th National Convention

1. **June 14** (no later than 70 days before convention)—Latest date for national headquarters to mail ballots for the special election of all District Directors.
2. **June 15**—National headquarters mails annual financial report forms (two copies) to treasurers of regional groups.
3. **July 11** (no later than 45 days before convention)—Ballots for special election of District Directors due at national headquarters. The 45-day mark is July 9, which is a Saturday. The due date has been pushed forward two days to accommodate the weekend.
4. **July 14**—Regional group meeting notices to elect convention delegates must be mailed to group members. A copy of this notice must also be mailed to national headquarters at the same time.
5. **July 14**—Latest date to mail proposed bylaw amendments to members in good standing.
6. **July 19** (35 days before convention)—National headquarters counts ballots for special election of District Directors.
7. **August 2** (21 days before convention)—Completed delegate credentials forms and proxy forms must be postmarked no later than midnight.