BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

78th National Convention
August 14-18, 2023
Marriott St. Louis Grand
OrCam is proud to support our Veterans and we thank them for their service

“OrCam MyEye enables me to live the life I once did before, when I had eyesight”
– Scotty Smiley, US Veteran

OrCam provides wearable and handheld devices that help the visually impaired live more independently, including those with:

- Blindness
- Low Vision
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Reading Challenges

★★★★
Stop by booth 200 to demo the newest OrCam devices and accessories!

★★★★
Veterans may qualify for free OrCam devices from the VA
78th National Convention

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Dear BVA 78th National Convention Attendees,

As National President of the Blinded Veterans Association, I am humbled and honored to extend a warm welcome to all who are associated with our BVA 78th National Convention. Reflecting on the proud history of our organization, we take immense pride in the remarkable achievements of the past 78 years. From humble beginnings, our organization has grown to become a leading advocate for blind and low vision veterans and their caregivers, tirelessly working towards the empowerment, rehabilitation, and overall well-being of this special population of men and women who faithfully served their country and gave so much of themselves in doing so.

As we mark this milestone, let us acknowledge the incredible progress that has been made in the field of visual impairment and rehabilitation. From advancements in assistive technology to breakthrough medical treatments, these improbable accomplishments remind us of the positive impact we can make when we come together.

One of the primary objectives of our National Convention is to foster a sense of camaraderie among visually impaired veterans. I hope you utilize your experience to connect, share experiences, and establish lifelong friendships. We have also curated a lineup of distinguished keynote speakers who will inspire and enlighten us throughout the event. Their expertise and unique perspectives will shed light on important issues affecting visually impaired veterans. Whether it be assistive technologies, innovative rehabilitation techniques, or a host of other topics, the knowledge they impart will equip us with valuable insights and propel us towards new possibilities.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have made this convention possible. Together, we are a force to be reckoned with, united by our unwavering commitment to the blind and low vision veterans who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. Let us seize this moment to honor their courage, share knowledge, and forge a path toward a brighter future. Again, welcome to the great city of St. Louis and the 78th National Convention of the Blinded Veterans Association.

Joseph D. McNeil, Sr.
National President
Blinded Veterans Association
Dear BVA 78th National Convention Attendees,

Welcome to the Gateway City and another long-anticipated chance to meet and unite in person with our fellow veterans from around the country. We are especially happy to be in St. Louis for the first time ever! Turning a few pages, you will see a list of all 78 venues for BVA conventions and note that a few cities are listed up to four and five times. We are pleased to finally add the great city of St. Louis to that distinguished list.

Our Convention Committee has laid the foundation for a successful series of events this week. Like last year, one of the priorities in the planning was the scheduling of activities that would be enjoyable, invigorating, and interactive, keeping the necessary meetings inside the hotel at a minimum so that our attendees could spend adequate time in what promises to again be an exciting Exhibit Hall containing a wealth of new ideas, technology, and solutions that can most certainly make life more fulfilling for a veteran with sight loss.

The Marriott St. Louis Grand is situated in the heart of downtown within a one-square mile footprint filled with lively arts and entertainment possibilities, great food, and the best in architectural wonders, all on the banks of the Mighty Mississippi River. Specific highlights include a national park, an abundance of interactive greenspace, and the renowned St. Louis City Museum.

When not busy with one of our offsite activities, I also recommend visiting the Old Courthouse, site of the historic Dred Scott case; Kiener Plaza, which features a playground, fountains, and a concert area; CityGarden, an urban park and sculpture garden; Soldiers Memorial Military Museum and its Gold Star flag, among other wartime artifacts; and Union Station, home to a nearly completed 200-foot high Ferris Wheel and a 60,000-gallon aquarium.

Please be active participants in the convention educational sessions and business meetings that will shape BVA as an organization for the future. Do not miss your opportunity to vote on important matters and make your voice heard on the proposed bylaw amendments and other vital issues that affect blind and low vision veterans.

This convention would not be possible without the hard work of Margarine Beaman and her cadre of volunteers, our generous sponsors, and a dedicated headquarters staff. Please acknowledge their efforts. At the same time, we welcome your ideas and suggestions for improving future conventions.

Donald D. Overton, Jr.
Executive Director
Blinded Veterans Association
Dear BVA 78th National Convention Attendee:

On behalf of the members of the HRG of the BVA, we wish to express our thanks for choosing to join us in St. Louis, Missouri.

We hope you enjoy yourself and take advantage of all the convention activities we have planned as well as recreational and dining opportunities in St. Louis. Don’t miss the exhibitor hall, meetings, river boat dinner cruise, tours of the botanical gardens and Anheuser Bush, and bowling.

We planned these events to be informative and enjoyable. So please make yourself available to attend as many of these happenings as possible.

Enjoy your 78th BVA convention!

Jeanie Murphy
President, Heartland Regional Group
Dear Convention Attendees,

I would like to welcome you to the Blinded Veterans Association’s (BVA) 78th National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. The BVA is a Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organization tasked by Congress to serve veterans and their families managing with sight loss. Over the past 78 years, the BVA has served veterans and their families in our communities with great distinction.

The Blinded Veterans Association has fostered a community for veterans that allows them to help one another and offer support for those in need. The strong sense of fellowship is commendable, and I know they will continue to be effective advocates for veterans and their families.

This convention honors the decades of work on behalf of veterans who have bravely served our nation and made incredible sacrifices for our freedoms. I am pleased this year’s is in St. Louis, and I am grateful our region can be a part of your important mission.

I will always do my part to support the Department of Veterans Affairs and all Veterans Service Organizations to ensure our veterans get the help and benefits they have earned and deserve. Thank you for your service to our country and thank you to those who provide support to our veterans.

While I serve Missouri’s Second District in Congress, wherever you live in the United States you have an advocate serving you in the U.S. House of Representatives. I encourage you to reach out to your local Member of Congress if you have an issue with the Department of Veterans Affairs and need any assistance.

Sincerely,

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress
2023 Schedule of Events Overview

Welcome Orientation and General Meetings
Please attend the Monday Welcome Orientation Session to review the official schedule, offsite activities, and hotel amenities. The Welcome Orientation Sessions will take place in the Kingsbury/Westmoreland Room at 9:00am. For all other meetings, please refer to your schedule for when and where meetings will take place.

Offsite Activities
Participants in tours and other events outside the hotel must be pre-registered and fees paid in advance. The hotel lobby will be the meeting place for all such activities. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the official start of the event.

Nurse’s Station
A Nurse’s Station will be open daily from 8:00am-5:00pm in the Pershing Room. Thanks to the St. Louis VA Medical Center for providing this service.

VA Million Veteran Program
Using genetic, military exposure, lifestyle, and health history from veteran partners, the Million Veteran Program (MVP) seeks to better understand the role of genes and health. Check in the Exhibit Hall and the Pershing Room to learn more about and participate in this monumental VA program.

Bow Wow Lounge
For the first time ever, BVA will have a Bow Wow Lounge available as a respite area and lounge for attending service dogs. The Bow Wow Lounge will be in the Washington Room and will have access to relief areas. Please ensure to adhere to the Bow Wow Lounge rules that will be posted there.

Assistance with BVA Claims
Accredited BVA National Service Officers Marlene Davis-Lilly and Duayne Driscoll will be onsite to help with advice, benefits, and claims questions. The Service Officers can check on the status of VA claims, assist with new claims, and provide guidance on gathering the necessary information for a claim. Contact information with potential meeting times and places will be available at convention check-in.
2023 Schedule of Events Overview (continued)

Hotel Emergency
In case of a fire alarm or other emergency, the hotel’s public address system will provide instructions. Please use the stairs or gather at your floor’s designated location for rescue. Do not use the elevators!

WayAround
WayAround is providing accessible descriptions of the hotel and convention center at this year’s BVA Convention! Scan a WaySign (located underneath ADA signs) with your iPhone or Android device to access an accessible directory of all the spaces used by BVA at the hotel. Be sure to download the free WayAround app for iOS, Android, or BlindShell Classic 2 to access the accessible descriptions.

BVA Breakfast
The hotel will be offering a BVA Special for breakfast for our members Monday-Friday during the convention in the Zenia Restaurant. Guests are welcome to be seated and request that meal by name. The breakfast will consist of two eggs, a protein (sausage patties or bacon), a pastry/bread, and coffee and orange juice. The cost of the BVA Special will be $16.00 plus a 13.179 percent sales tax.
## 2023 Schedule of Events

### Marriott St. Louis Grand

### Sunday, August 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Volunteer Help Desk</td>
<td>Landmark Foyer &amp; Hotel Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm – 5:00pm</td>
<td>BVA Registration</td>
<td>Landmark Outer Foyer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Monday, August 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 9:30am</td>
<td>Welcome Orientation (open to all)</td>
<td>Kingsbury/Westmoreland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Volunteer Help Desk</td>
<td>Landmark Foyer &amp; Hotel Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Bow Wow Lounge (Service Dogs)</td>
<td>Washington Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>BVA Registration</td>
<td>Landmark Outer Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>Service Dog Walk</td>
<td>Meet in Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm – 3:00pm</td>
<td>BVA Auxiliary Business Meeting</td>
<td>Gateway B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm – 9:00pm</td>
<td>Offsite Trip: Rollin on the Riverboat Cruise</td>
<td>Sponsored by Vispero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30pm – 11:00pm</td>
<td>Hospitality Suite</td>
<td>Presidential Suite, Room 1931</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Hosted by the Heartland Regional Group*

*Sponsored by Waymo and PetSmart, St. Louis District*

*Sponsored by Waymo and HumanWare*

*Sponsored by Vispero*

*Transportation is provided. Please meet in the lobby at 6:00pm (pre-registration required).*

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Blinded Veterans Association 78th National Convention
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Room Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am – 9:30am</td>
<td>Exhibitor and BVA Member Breakfast</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsored by Bosma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Volunteer Help Desk</td>
<td>Landmark Foyer &amp; Hotel Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Bow Wow Lounge (Service Dogs)</td>
<td>Washington Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsored by Waymo and PetSmart, St Louis District</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 11:30am</td>
<td>Offsite Trip: Missouri Botanical Garden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsored by Oracle Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transportation is provided. Please meet in the lobby at 8:45am (pre-registration is required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am – 5:30pm</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Open</td>
<td>Landmark Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Bingo: All Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Million Veterans Program Blood Draw</td>
<td>Pershing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am – 11:30am</td>
<td>VA Section 508 Accessibility Focus Group</td>
<td>Gateway A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30am – 1:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Learn</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsored by WayAround</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm – 3:00pm</td>
<td>BVA Auxiliary Business Meeting</td>
<td>Gateway B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15pm – 3:30pm</td>
<td>Offsite Trip: Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transportation is provided. Please meet in the lobby at 1:15pm (pre-registration is required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm – 4:00pm</td>
<td>VA Section 508 Accessibility Focus Group</td>
<td>Group A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Rules &amp; Credentials Meeting</td>
<td>Kingsbury/Westmoreland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm – 7:00pm</td>
<td>President’s Reception Cocktail Hour</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm – 7:00pm</td>
<td>President’s Reception Receiving Line</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm – 9:00pm</td>
<td>President’s Reception and Dinner</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00pm – 10:30pm</td>
<td>Hospitality Suite</td>
<td>Presidential Suite, Room 1931 (19th Fl.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Room Name</td>
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<td>---------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30am – 8:45am</td>
<td>Ambassador Ceremony</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sponsored by OrCam</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00am – 5:30pm</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Open</td>
<td>Landmark Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Bingo: All Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Volunteer Help Desk</td>
<td>Landmark Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Bow Wow Lounge (Service Dogs)</td>
<td>Washington Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sponsored by Waymo and PetSmart, St Louis District</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 10:00am</td>
<td>Opening Session: BVA, VA</td>
<td>Majestic D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Featuring State and Federal Agencies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Million Veterans Program Blood Draw</td>
<td>Pershing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am – 11:45am</td>
<td>Opening Business Meeting (BVA)</td>
<td>Majestic D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm – 1:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Learn</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sponsored by Oracle Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm – 4:00pm</td>
<td>Bylaws, &amp; Resolutions</td>
<td>Majestic D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm – 4:00pm</td>
<td>VA Section 508 Accessibility Focus Group</td>
<td>Gateway A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm – 4:00pm</td>
<td>A Caregiver’s Heart: Overwhelmed and Overjoyed</td>
<td>Gateway B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Speaker: Barbara Webb, Dole Caregiver Fellow</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Caring for Military Families</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm – 5:30pm</td>
<td>Women Veterans Group Meeting</td>
<td>Majestic C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30pm – 6:30pm</td>
<td>Dog Handlers Group Meeting</td>
<td>Majestic A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm – 10:00pm</td>
<td>Offsite Trip: Flamingo Bowl</td>
<td>Majestic C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sponsored by Foreseeable Future Foundation and Humanware</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meal will be provided. Please meet in the lobby at 6:30pm. (pre-registration required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blinded Veterans Association 78th National Convention
Thursday, August 17

7:30am – 8:45am  BVA Members’ Good Morning Breakfast  ______ Crystal Ballroom
                  Sponsored by National Association of Blind Merchants

9:00am – 5:00pm  Volunteer Help Desk  ___________________________ Landmark Foyer

9:00am – 5:00pm  Bow Wow Lounge (Service Dogs)  ________ Washington Room
                  Sponsored by Waymo and PetSmart, St. Louis District

9:00am – 10:00am BRS Continuum of Care Update  _________________ Majestic D
                  Blind Rehabilitation Service
                  Speaker: Nicole L. Sandlan, National Program Director,
                  Blind Rehabilitation Service

10:00am – 11:00am Digital A11Y  ____________________________ Majestic D
                  VA Office of Compliance, Risk, and Remediation
                  Vispero, Allyant, Perigean

11:00am – 11:30am IntraCortical Visual Prosthesis Project  ____________ Majestic D
                  Dr. Philip Troyk, Principal Investigator for ICPP
                  Executive Director, Pritzker Institute of
                  Biomedical Science and Engineering

11:30am – 11:45am Break

11:45am – 12:15pm VA Prosthetic Update  ___________________________ Majestic D
                  Stephen Roberts, VISN 15 Prosthetic Representative

12:30pm – 2:00pm  Father Carroll Luncheon  ________________ Crystal Ballroom
                  Sponsored by Dot Incorporation
                  Keynote Speaker: Brian O’Connell, BVA National Sergeant-At-Arms

2:00pm – 3:00pm  BVA Auxiliary Business Meeting  ________________ Gateway B

2:15pm – 2:45pm  VA Ophthalmology and Optometry Update  _______ Majestic D
                  Dr. Glenn C. Cockerham, MD, SES EQV
                  Executive Director, VHA Ophthalmology Program
                  Jeanette Carbone Varanelli, OD, FAAO,
                  Dipl ABO, ABCMO
                  Senior Advisor for Optometry,
                  Acting Program Executive Director

2:30pm – 4:00pm  VA Section 508 Accessibility Focus Group  ______ Gateway A
### Thursday, August 17 (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3:00pm – 5:00pm | BVA District Caucus Meetings<br>  
  District 1 ____________________________________ Landmark 1  
  District 2 ____________________________________ Landmark 2  
  District 3 ____________________________________ Landmark 3  
  District 4 ____________________________________ Landmark 4 |
| 5:30pm        | Offsite Trip: On Your Own                                                   |
| 6:00pm – 9:00pm | Hospitality Suite ______ Presidential Suite, Room 1931 (19th Fl.)
  Hosted by the BVA Board of Directors |

### Friday, August 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>Closing Business Meeting__________ Majestic E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Volunteer Help Desk __________ Landmark Foyer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  Bow Wow Lounge (Service Dogs)__________Washington Room  
  Sponsored by Waymo and PetSmart, St. Louis District |
| 1:00pm – 2:30pm | Board Meeting __________ Majestic G  |
| 1:00pm – 2:30pm | BVA Auxiliary Business Meeting __________Gateway B  |
| 3:00pm – 4:00pm | Spiritual Outreach Committee __________ Majestic E  |
| 5:00pm – 6:00pm | Cocktail Hour Reception __________ Majestic Foyer  |
| 6:00pm – 9:00pm | Awards Banquet __________ Majestic D  
  Sponsored by Vanda Pharmaceuticals |
| 9:00pm – 10:30pm | Hospitality Suite ______ Presidential Suite, Room 1931 (19th Fl.)
  Hosted by the Heartland Regional Group |
CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

National President – Joseph D. McNeil, Sr.
National Vice President – Paul L. Mimms
National Secretary – Elizabeth Holmes
National Treasurer – Tracy Ferro
Director District 1 – Wanda Grover
Director District 2 – Brian Harris
Director District 3 – Douglas Ingram
Director District 4 – Wade Davis
National Chaplain – Kenneth Harvey
Judge Advocate – Stephen Butler
Sergeant-at-Arms – Brian O’Connell
Immediate Past President – Dr. Thomas Zampieri
Ombudsman – Tonora Lyn Shannon

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Executive Director – Donald D. Overton, Jr.
Chief of Staff – Timothy Hornik
Director of Development – Meredith Buono-Dagrossa
Director of Operations – Andrea Malmer
Director of Public Relations – Stuart Nelson
Director of Communications – Kylie FitzGerald
Director of Member Relations – Teresa Galgano
Deputy Director of Government Relations – Alek Libbin
National Service Director – Duwayne Driscoll
National Service Officer – Marlene Davis-Lilly
National Service Officer – Scott Quinlan
DISTRICTS AND REGIONAL GROUPS

District 1 – Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

District 2 – Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin

District 3 – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico

District 4 – California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington

Marriott St. Louis Grand
Past Award Recipients

MELVIN J. MAAS AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Major General Melvin J. Maas Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed by BVA, is presented annually to one individual, chosen for outstanding demonstration of the principles of initiative, independence, and self-reliance.

2023 – To Be Announced  
2022 – Dr. Thomas Zampieri  
2021 – No Award Given  
2020 – Thomas H. Miller  
2019 – Dr. Norman Jones, Jr.  
2018 – John Linder  
2017 – Kennan Horn  
2016 – Guadalupe (Walley) Guerra  
2015 – James Hogan  
2014 – Paul Mimms  
2013 – Joe Parker  
2012 – Thomas Hicks  
2011 – Dan Standage  
2010 – Dr. L. Eugene Apple  
2009 – Roy Kekahuna  
2008 – Roy Young  
2007 – Peter Link  
2006 – Randy Greene  
2005 – George Brummell  
2004 – Robert “Dale” Stamper  
2003 – Dr. Sidney Ordway  
2002 – Wilbert Vandenbos  
2001 – Vito DeSantis  
2000 – Clifford Philips  
1999 – Mike Lewis  
1998 – Dave Szumowski  
1997 – Elizabeth Carr  
1996 – Michael Burton  
1995 – Ernie Flynn  
1994 – William Fullerton  
1993 – Carl Kirksey  
1992 – Stephen Maquire  
1991 – Don Garner  
1990 – J. Dennis Cadigan  
1989 – Buddy Spivey  
1988 – Robert Bottenberg  
1987 – Joe Burns  
1986 – Clayton Simons, Sr.  
1985 – William Thompson  
1984 – Ellsworth Sharpe  
1983 – Ronald L. Miller  
1982 – Jerry Monroe  
1981 – George Stafford  
1980 – Dennis Wyant  
1979 – George Gillispie  
1978 – Charles Boswell  
1977 – Irvin Schloss  
1976 – E. Sid Allen  
1975 – Michael Johnson  
1974 – Salvatore D’Amico  
1973 – John Amaniera, Jr.  
1972 – Michael Naranjo, Jr.  
1971 – Thomas Dargie  
1970 – Donald Wedewer  
1969 – Dr. George Stocking  
1968 – Paul Dule  
1967 – Richard Nooe  
1966 – Orlando Milano  
1965 – Thomas Hasbrook  
1964 – John E. Hodgin  
1963 – Rob Crowley Riley  
1962 – H. Smith Shumway  
1961 – Hez Bussey  
1960 – Walter Stromer
1959 – Thomas Kennedy, Jr. 1952 – Jesse Castillo
1958 – Vincent Lopez 1951 – Hilliard Kirby
1957 – Welker Shue 1950 – Paul Grant
1956 – James Womack 1949 – Orlando Milano
1955 – Criss Cole 1948 – Thomas Atkeson
1954 – Charles Boswell 1947 – Leonard Shelhamer
1953 – Russell Williams

IRVING DIENER AWARD

The Diener Award was established in 1961 when businessman and BVA advocate Irving Diener donated $50 to present to the BVA member who best exemplified service to their regional group during the previous year. The stipend was originally the amount of life membership dues for one person. The three most recent Past National Presidents are typically the judges for this award.

2022 – Michaun Harrison 1997 – Gerald McDonnell
2021 – No Award Given 1996 – Frank Scarcella
2020 – Tracy Ferro 1995 – C. Caroline Maas
2019 – Elizabeth Holmes 1994 – Cornelius Appleby
2018 – Floyd Everett 1993 – Larry Belote
2015 – Ruth Klein 1990 – Elizabeth Carr
2014 – Charles Register 1989 – Bobby Ridener
2013 – No Nominees 1988 – Urban Miyares
2012 – Randall Durrigan 1987 – Troy McKenzie
2011 – No Nominees 1986 – No Award Given
2010 – Dennis O’Connell 1985 – David Szumowski
2008 – Roy Young 1983 – Harry Quiles
2007 – No Nominees 1982 – Dr. Ronald Miller
2004 – Terry King 1979 – Walter Powell
2003 – Eldon Pugh 1978 – Harold Rogers
2002 – Jimmy Hutcherson 1977 – Dr. George Stocking
2001 – Harold Powell 1976 – Dennis Wyant
1999 – Larry Grant 1974 – Julius Morris
1973 – George Mitchell  
1972 – Harrison Gilpin  
1971 – Jerry Monroe  
1970 – Clyde Waugh  
1969 – Robert Bescoe  
1968 – Leonard Shelhammer  

1967 – Robert Ward  
1966 – Simon Gerbush  
1965 – Stephen Sivacek  
1964 – William Hughes  
1963 – George Gilespie  
1962 – David Schnair  

**DAVID L. SCHNAIR AWARD**

BVA established this award in 1994 in memory and in honor of David L. Schnair, a BVA Board Member and a BVA Volunteer for nearly five decades. The award may be given to a BVA volunteer, member, or auxiliary member who is working in a BVA Volunteer Office and who has provided at least one year of consistent and outstanding service as a BVA volunteer.

2023 – To Be Announced  
2022 – Marlene Davis-Lilly  
2021 – No Award Given  
2020 – Dennis Currie  
2019 – Johnnie Busch, Sr.  
2018 – Anthony Ricci  
2017 – Dennis O’Connell  
2016 – Betty Charlesworth  
2015 – Ronald G. White  
2014 – Charles Davis  
2013 – Carl Hytinen  
2012 – Enrique Sanchez  
2011 – Ronald Morales  
2010 – Robert Keller, Sr.  
2009 – Ron Lester  
2008 – Hazel Powell  
2007 – Jack Shapiro  
2006 – Frank Armstrong  
2005 – David T. May  
2004 – Paul Kaminsky  
2003 – Dora Gibe  
2002 – Rochelle Gurgle  
2001 – Corwin Mathews  
2000 – Dora Gibe  
1999 – Rochelle Gurgle  
1998 – Corwin Mathews  
1997 – Ronald G. White  
1996 – Charles Davis  
1995 – Carl Hytinen  
1994 – Enrique Sanchez

**GAVEL AWARDS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>GOLD</th>
<th>SILVER</th>
<th>BRONZE</th>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Louisiana/Mississippi</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>No Award Given</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>No Award Given</td>
<td>No Award Given</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Heartland</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>White River Junction</td>
<td>Florida</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain</td>
<td>Emerald Coast</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>Emerald Coast</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Washington State</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Southern California</td>
<td>Rio Grande</td>
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<td>Date Range</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 14-18, 2023</td>
<td>Marriott St, Louis Grand Hotel, St. Louis, MO</td>
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<td>August 22-26, 2022</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>August 16-20, 2021</td>
<td>Virtual Educational and Business Sessions</td>
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<td>Marriott Tulsa Hotel Southern Hills, Tulsa, OK</td>
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<td>Nugget Casino Resort, Reno, NV</td>
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<td>August 14-18, 2017</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL</td>
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<td>Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Milwaukee, WI</td>
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<td>Louisville Marriott Downtown, Louisville, KY</td>
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<td>Nugget, Sparks, NV</td>
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<td>Red Lion Hotel at the Park, Spokane, WA</td>
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<td>San Luis Resort, Galveston Island, TX</td>
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<td>August 16-20, 2011</td>
<td>Golden Nugget Hotel, Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<td>Marriott Crystal Gateway, Arlington, VA</td>
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<td>DoubleTree Hotel, Portland, OR</td>
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<td>Hyatt Regency, Phoenix, AZ</td>
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<td>Hyatt Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM</td>
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<td>Adams Mark Hotel, Buffalo, NY</td>
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<td>Wyndham Miami Beach Resort, Miami Beach, FL</td>
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<td>Reno Hilton Hotel, Reno, NV</td>
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<td>Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC</td>
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<td>St. Anthony Wyndham Hotel, San Antonio, TX</td>
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<td>Aug-Sept 28-01, 2001</td>
<td>Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<td>Radisson Resort Knott's Berry Farm, Anaheim, CA</td>
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<td>San Juan Grand Beach Resort, San Juan, PR</td>
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<td>Wyndham Northwest Hotel, Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>Sands Regency Hotel, Reno, NV</td>
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<td>Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans, LA</td>
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<td>Stouffers Renaissance, Arlington, VA</td>
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<td>Omni Netherlands, Cincinnati, OH</td>
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<td>Holiday Inn, Tucson, AZ</td>
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<td>Loewes Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, TN</td>
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<td>Sands Regency Hotel, Reno, NV</td>
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<td>Kennedy Plaza, Providence, RI</td>
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<td>Radisson Hotel, Denver, CO</td>
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<td>Omni San Diego, San Diego, CA</td>
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<td>Omni International Hotel, Orlando, FL</td>
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<td>Caribe Hilton, San Juan, PR</td>
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<td>Holiday Inn, San Francisco, CA</td>
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<td>Radisson-Plaza, Nashville, TN</td>
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<td>Deaville Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ</td>
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<td>International Hotel, New Orleans, LA</td>
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<td>August 12-16, 1980</td>
<td>Sheraton Park Plaza, New Haven, CT</td>
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<td>Wilshire Hyatt Hotel, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>August 08-12, 1978</td>
<td>International Hotel, New Orleans, LA</td>
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<td>Stauffer’s Hotel, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Ben Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>August 12-16, 1975</td>
<td>Statler-Hilton Hotel, New York, NY</td>
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<td>August 06-10, 1974</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Hotel, Denver, CO</td>
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<td>August 14-18, 1973</td>
<td>Dennis Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ</td>
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<td>Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood, CA</td>
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<td>August 04-08, 1971</td>
<td>Playboy Plaza Hotel, Miami Beach, FL</td>
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<td>Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>July 24-27, 1968</td>
<td>Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, CA</td>
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<td>August 01-05, 1967</td>
<td>Hotel America, Hartford, CT</td>
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<td>August 16-20, 1966</td>
<td>Deaville Hotel, Miami Beach, FL</td>
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<td>Statler-Hilton Hotel, New York, NY</td>
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<td>Granada, San Antonio, TX</td>
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<td>August 06-10, 1963</td>
<td>Deshler-Hilton Hotel, Columbus, OH</td>
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<td>The Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>July 18-22, 1961</td>
<td>Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood, CA</td>
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<td>Somerset Hotel, Boston, MA</td>
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<td>Hotel Ben Franklin, Seattle, WA</td>
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<td>Hotel New York, New York, NY</td>
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<td>August 18-21, 1954</td>
<td>Commodore Perry Hotel, Toledo, OH</td>
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<td>August 19-22, 1953</td>
<td>Penn-Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>August 13-16, 1952</td>
<td>Palace Hotel, San Francisco, CA</td>
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<td>August 08-11, 1951</td>
<td>Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA</td>
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<td>August 23-26, 1950</td>
<td>Hotel Severn, Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<td>September 07-10, 1949</td>
<td>Hotel Washington, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood, CA</td>
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<td>September 05-07, 1947</td>
<td>Continental Hotel, Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>September 20-22, 1946</td>
<td>Lincoln Hotel, New York, NY</td>
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Blinded Veterans Association 78th National Convention
Out and About in St. Louis

Welcome to the Blinded Veterans Association's 78th National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri! Here you'll find a wealth of food, acres of parks and green spaces, miles of trails, a thriving arts and culture scene, and much more.

St. Louis was first settled by Europeans in 1764. Before that, St. Louis was the home to the Illini Confederacy - a group of 12-13 indigenous tribes along the upper Mississippi River Valley. In 1764, Pierre Laclède Liguest, along with his 13-year-old scout, selected the site of St. Louis to be a fur trading post; thus, the early settlers of St. Louis were mostly French before being transferred to the Spanish in 1770. Later, in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, St. Louis became part of the United States.

St. Louis became famous in 1803 as the starting point for the Louisiana Purchase Expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Over the next 100 years, St. Louis continued to grow as more immigrants moved in, including German and Irish settlers.

In 1904, the city started booming when it hosted a World’s Fair and the 1904 Olympic Games. The two events invited 20 million persons to St. Louis. The early 20th Century saw continued industrialization, especially as the automobile gained popularity, resulting in the nation’s first gasoline station and the first automobile accident. Throughout the next hundred years, St. Louis continued building and developing its downtown district, creating the city we are visiting today.

As part of BVA’s 78th National Convention, you will have many opportunities to explore the city and to learn a little of the history and culture of St. Louis. If you signed up for the Monday night event, a riverboat cruise along the Mississippi River is in store for you, offering views of the Gateway Arch, the St. Louis Skyline, and, of course, the beautiful river. The cruise will provide live music and dinner, making this the perfect night out. This activity is sponsored by Vispero.

On Tuesday, we have two offsite trips arranged. In the morning we will be going to the Missouri Botanical Gardens, courtesy of Oracle Health. Members will enjoy a nonstop narrated tram tour of the gardens before walking around and exploring the plants, the sensory garden, and the Chihuly Glass Sculpture exhibit. The afternoon takes us to tour the Anheuser-Busch Brewery, where we will get a behind-the-
scenes look at the art of brewing iconic Budweiser beers. The tour will include the history of Anheuser-Busch while enjoying a beer of your choice before walking through the brew house, various cellars, and the packaging facility.

Wednesday will see our members bowling at Flamingo Bowl, a perfect opportunity to get together with old and new friends for a night of laughter and fun as you send bowling balls down the lane, hopefully avoiding any gutter balls! While bowling, a barbecue buffet will be available for your dining pleasure. This trip is sponsored by Forseeable Future Foundation, Inc. and HumanWare. While at this event, attendees will learn about the all-new Stellar-Trek from HumanWare, a handheld GPS device built specifically for visually impaired travelers to aid them in safely navigating the world.

Finally, on Thursday our offsite trip will be free time for you to explore the area with your fellow veterans. However, we know that exploring a new city can be overwhelming. Whether you are looking for a more relaxed evening or an evening of adventure, there is something for everyone. The Marriott St. Louis Grand is situated in a prime location for food, drink, art, abundance of green space, and museums within walking distance or a short commute using Rideshare. The following are some ideas to get you started.

Ballpark Village, located just under a mile from the Marriott St. Louis Marriott Grand, is a premiere dining and entertainment mecca of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. Adjacent to this first-ever sports-anchored, multi-phased, mixed-use development is historic Busch Stadium, home of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. Photo courtesy of Explore St. Louis.
Restaurants within a 5-minute walking distance from the Marriott St. Louis Grand:

- Sauce on the Side – Calzones
- Dao Tien – Vietnamese
- The Over/Under Bar & Grill – Relaxed American classics
- Fariñas Kitchen and Bar – Argentinian Steakhouse
- Bridge Tap House & Wine Bar – Beer, Wine, plus Charcuterie and larger dishes
- Sen Thai Asian Bistro – Thai
- El Burro Loco Bar & Grill – American classics
- Bailey’s Range – Hamburgers
- Jack Patrick’s Bar & Grill – Sandwiches and American classics
- Sugarfire Smoke House – Barbecue

Activities and sights to experience

- Casinos with restaurants on the premises
  - Horseshoe Casino – 1 mile, a 6-minute drive.
  - River City Casino & Hotel – 9.3 miles, a 20-minute drive.
- City Foundry – 3.2 miles, a 9-minute drive. A historic building repurposed into a food hall and entertainment center complete with 22 restaurants, bars, entertainment, and retail.
- City Garden Sculpture Park – a .3 mile, 7-minute walk, or a 4-minute drive.
- Gateway Arch, Gateway Arch National Park, and the Wheel at St. Louis Union Station – a .8 mile, 16-minute walk, or an 11-minute drive.
- Museum of Westward Expansion – a .5 mile, 10-minute walk, or a 4-minute drive.

Check out the visitor’s guide for a complete list of great places to eat, shop, and play in St. Louis. Maps and information about local neighborhoods and all the must-see attractions that St. Louis has to offer are also included. Scan the QR code or visit https://explorestlouis.com.

We hope you enjoy your stay, not only the time spent at the Marriott St. Louis Grand but also out and about in this marvelous American city!
# Alphabetical Sponsor and Exhibitor List

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<tr>
<th>Sponsor/Exhibitor</th>
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<td>Accessibility dot Net, Inc.</td>
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<td>Advanced Low Vision Technology</td>
<td>Booth #103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allyant</td>
<td>Booth #502</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Braille Flag Project, Inc</td>
<td>Booth #101</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bureau of Engraving and Printing</td>
<td>Booth #406</td>
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<td>Bosma</td>
<td>Booth #205</td>
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<td>Boundless AT</td>
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<td>Envision</td>
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22 Blinded Veterans Association 78th National Convention
En-Vision America  
Booth #402

Genentech  
Booth #301

Integration Technologies Group, Inc.  
Booth #109

Eschenbach Optik of America, Inc  
Booth #400

Glidance  
Booth #307

LS&S  
Booth #410

eSight  
Booth #311

Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB)  
Booth #207

National Association of Blind Merchants  
Booth #408

Florida Vision Technology  
Booth #411

Honor Alert  
Booth #107

National Industries for the Blind  
Booth #504

The Foreseeable Future Foundation, Inc  
No Booth

Humanware  
Booth #401

Blinded Veterans Association 78th National Convention
Alphabetical Sponsor and Exhibitor List (continued)

National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress
Booth #308

Palmer Vision
Booth #108/104

RealSAM Inc. Dan
RealThing Ai
Booth #100

OKO by AYES
Booth #409

Patriot Vision Industries
Booth #201

Redhawk Medical
Booth #309

Oracle Health
No Booth

Polara
Booth #516

Slinger, LLC
Booth #506

Patriot Vision Industries
Booth #201

Randolph Sheppard Vendors of America
Booth #208

Redhawk Medical
Booth #309

OrCam
Booth #200

Slinger, LLC
Booth #506

RealSAM Inc. Dan
RealThing Ai
Booth #100

US1 Supply
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<td>Vision Center of Excellence</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanda Pharmaceuticals</td>
<td>#209</td>
<td><img src="qr4.png" alt="QR Code" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vispero</td>
<td>#300</td>
<td><img src="qr5.png" alt="QR Code" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision Center of Excellence</td>
<td>#204</td>
<td><img src="qr6.png" alt="QR Code" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Veteran Usability Project</td>
<td>#500</td>
<td><img src="qr7.png" alt="QR Code" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WayAround</td>
<td>#305</td>
<td><img src="qr8.png" alt="QR Code" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>WeWalk Limited</td>
<td>#110</td>
<td><img src="qr9.png" alt="QR Code" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library</td>
<td>No Booth</td>
<td><img src="qr10.png" alt="QR Code" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you to our exhibitors and sponsors for their generous support of our nation’s blind and low vision veterans.
Exhibit Floorplan

2023 BVA Annual Conference
August 14-18, 2023
Marriott St. Louis Grand / Landmark Ballroom / St. Louis, MO

Entrance
Exhibitor and Sponsor List by Booth Number

100 – RealSAM Inc. Dan RealThing Ai
101 – American Braille Flag Project, Inc
103 – Advanced Low Vision Technology
104 – Palmer Vision
105 – Envision
107 – Honor Alert
108 – Palmer Vision
109 – Integration Technologies Group, Inc.
110 – WeWalk Limited
111 – Digital FOV, LLC
116 – VA Million Veteran Program
200 – OrCam
201 – Patriot Vision Industries
204 – Vision Center of Excellence
205 – Bosma
206 – US1 Supply
207 – Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB)
208 – Randolph Sheppard Vendors of America
209 – Vanda Pharmaceuticals
210 – Chadwick Optical, Inc
300 – Vispero
301 – Genentech
304 – Christian Record Services
305 – WayAround
306 – Boundless AT
307 – Glidance
308 – National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress
309 – Redhawk Medical
311 – eSight
400 – Eschenbach Optik of America, Inc
401 – Humanware
402 – En-Vision America
404 – Clusiv
405 – DOT
406 – The Bureau of Engraving and Printing
408 – National Association of Blind Merchants
409 – OKO by AYES
410 – LS&S
411 – Florida Vision Technology
500 – The Veteran Usability Project
502 – Allyant
504 – National Industries for the Blind
506 – Slinger, LLC
516 – Polara
Ways to Give to BVA

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Become a BVA Visionary
BVA Visionaries are a special team of loyal and dedicated supporters who make recurring monthly donations. Choose a monthly amount to help the organization carry out its mission in support of America’s blinded and low vision military veterans.

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Facebook makes it easy to set up fundraising events in honor of your birthday, a memorial gift, or just because you want to help. Visit https://www.facebook.com/fundraisers/ to set up a fundraiser for BVA in just a couple of steps.

Donate Your Car
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Venmo
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• Dot by Dot

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Booth No. 405
Vanda Pharmaceuticals is dedicated to raising awareness of Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24) and supporting the blindness community. Non-24 is a rare circadian rhythm disorder affecting up to 70% of people who are totally blind. People living with Non-24 experience excessive daytime sleepiness and nighttime sleeplessness, which leads to impaired social and occupational functioning. This is due to the misalignment between the internal master body clock and the 24-hour day.

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President – Dennis McKinney
Phone: 765-994- 5639
Email: dennis@advancedlowvisiontechnology.com

Website: www.advancedlowvisiontechnology.com

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There are approximately **253 million visually impaired people** worldwide, and many rely on the white cane, a simple tool primarily designed to provide ground-level obstacle detection. By equipping the white cane with modern technology, WeWALK delivers a **safer and more independent mobility** experience to visually impaired people. WeWALK is more than a product; it is the first step in a **societal transformation** that fosters social inclusion by empowering visually impaired people.

**WeWALK’s Features**

The WeWALK Smart Cane can **detect above ground obstacles** by using a front-mounted sensor, warning the user with haptic feedback. The smart handle pairs with the accessible WeWALK **smartphone app** using Bluetooth to access connected mobility services, including **navigation, exploration, and public transport**. These features can be controlled from the smart cane's inbuilt touchpad, allowing the user to place their phone in their pocket for single-handed navigation and added safety. In addition, the smart handle has a speaker and microphone to provide audio feedback. New **smart city integrations** and services are constantly being added via software updates, making WeWALK an **ideal personal hub** for the visually impaired community.

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†Primary endpoint of non-inferiority vs aflibercept was defined as the mean change from baseline in BCVA (measured by the ETDRS letter score) at 1 year (average of weeks 40, 44, and 48 in nAMD and weeks 48, 52, and 56 in DME) and was tested for non-inferiority using a margin of 4 letters.
‡After 6 or 6 monthly loading doses. Please see below for more information.

**Verana Health data from Q1-Q4 2022.**

Discover 2 years of DME data at vabysmo-hcp.com/start

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**INDICATIONS**

VABYSMo (faricimab-svoa) is a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor and angiopoietin-2 (Ang-2) inhibitor indicated for the treatment of patients with Neovascular (wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (nAMD) and Diabetic Macular Edema (DME).

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION**

**Contraindications**

VABYSMo is contraindicated in patients with ocular or periocular infection, in patients with active intraocular inflammation, and in patients with known hypersensitivity to faricimab or any of the excipients in VABYSMo. Hypersensitivity reactions may manifest as rash, pruritus, urticaria, erythema, or severe intraocular inflammation.

**Warnings and Precautions**

Endophthalmitis and Retinal Detachments

Intravitreal injections have been associated with endophthalmitis and retinal detachments. Proper aseptic injection techniques must always be used when administering VABYSMo. Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or retinal detachment without delay, to permit prompt and appropriate management.

**Increase in Intracocular Pressure**

Transient increases in intracocular pressure (ICP) have been seen within 60 minutes of intravitreal injection, including with VABYSMo. IOP and the perfusion of the optic nerve head should be monitored and managed appropriately.

**Thromboembolic Events**

Although there was a low rate of arterial thromboembolic events (ATEs) observed in the VABYSMo clinical trials, there is a potential risk of ATEs following intravitreal use of VEGF inhibitors. ATEs are defined as nonfatal stroke, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or vascular death (excluding deaths of unknown cause).

The incidence of reported ATEs in the nAMD studies during the first year was 1% (7 out of 664) in patients treated with VABYSMo compared with 1% (6 out of 662) in patients treated with aflibercept.

The incidence of reported ATEs in the DME studies from baseline to week 100 was 5% (16 out of 262) in patients treated with VABYSMo compared with 5% (32 out of 623) in patients treated with aflibercept.

**Adverse Reactions**

The most common adverse reactions (≥5%) reported in patients receiving VABYSMo were cataarax (15%) and conjunctival hemorrhage (8%).

**Pregnancy, Lactation, Females and Males of Reproductive Potential**

Based on the mechanism of action of VEGF and Ang-2 inhibitors, there is a potential risk to female reproductive capacity, and to embryo-fetal development. VABYSMo should not be used during pregnancy unless the potential benefit to the patient outweighs the potential risk to the fetus. The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother’s clinical need for VABYSMo and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child from VABYSMo. Females of reproductive potential are advised to use effective contraception prior to the initial dose, during treatment, and for at least 3 months following the last dose of VABYSMo.

You may report side effects to the FDA at (800) FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch. You may also report side effects to Genentech at (888) 835-2933.

Please see Brief Summary of full VABYSMo Prescribing Information on the following page.

**References:**


**BCVA=best corrected visual acuity; ETDRS=Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; OCT=optical coherence tomography; Q4W=every 4 weeks; Q8W=every 8 weeks; Q12W=every 12 weeks; Q16W=every 16 weeks.**

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1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE
VABYSMO is a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and angiopeptin 2 (Ang-2) inhibitor indicated for the treatment of patients with:
- 1.1 Neovascular (wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (nAMD)
- 1.2 Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS
4.1 Ocular or Pericentral Infections
VABYSMO is contraindicated in patients with ocular or pericentral infections.

4.2 Active Intraocular Inflammation
VABYSMO is contraindicated in patients with active intraocular inflammation.

4.3 Hypersensitivity
VABYSMO is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to faricimab or any of the excipients in VABYSMO. Hypersensitivity reactions may manifest as rash, pruritus, urticaria, erythema, or severe intraocular inflammation.

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS
5.1 Endothelialitis and Retinal Detachments
Intraocular injections have been associated with endothelialitis and retinal detachments (see Adverse Reactions (6.1)). Proper aseptic injection techniques must always be used when administering VABYSMO. Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endothelialitis or retinal detachment within 24 hours, promptly and appropriately manage (see Dosage and Administration (2.6) and Patient Counseling Information (17.1)).

5.2 Increase in Intraocular Pressure
Transient increases in intraocular pressure (IOP) have been seen in 50% of patients up to 1 hour after injection. Patients with uncontrolled IOP by laser surgery or medical therapy should be monitored closely for potential ocular nerve head pressure.

5.3 Thrombembolic Events
Although there was a low rate of arterial thromboembolic events, there was a potential risk of ATs following intraocular use of VEGF inhibitors. ATs are defined as nonfatal stroke, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or vascular death (including deaths of unknown cause).

The incidence of reported ATs in patients treated with VABYSMO was 2.4% (6 of 256) in patients treated with VABYSMO compared with 16 of 624 in patients treated with aflibercept (see Clinical Studies (14.1)).

The incidence of reported ATs in the DME studies from baseline to week 100 was 5.96% of the patients treated with VABYSMO compared with 5.82% of the patients treated with aflibercept (see Clinical Studies (14.2)).

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS
The following serious adverse reactions are described elsewhere in the labeling:
- Hypersensitivity (see Contraindications (4))
- Endothelialitis and retinal detachments (see Warnings and Precautions (5.1))
- Increase in intraocular pressure (see Warnings and Precautions (5.2))
- Thromboembolic events (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3))

6.1 Clinical Trial Experience
Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in other clinical trials of the same or another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

The data described below reflect exposure to VABYSMO in 1,926 patients, which constituted the safety population in four Phase 3 studies (see Clinical Studies (14.1, 14.2, 14.3)).

Table 1: Common Adverse Reactions (≥ 1%) | VABYSMO | Active Control (aflibercept) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMD</td>
<td>DME</td>
<td>AMD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-664</td>
<td>N-1,263</td>
<td>N-662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataract</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjunctival hemorrhage</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitreous floaters</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retinal pigment epithelial tear</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intraocular pressure increased</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye pain</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intraocular inflammation</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye irritation</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laceration increased</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocular discomfort</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less common adverse reactions reported in ≥ 1% of the patients treated with VABYSMO were: cataract, vitreous floaters, retinal pigment epithelial tear, intraocular pressure increased, eye pain, intraocular inflammation, eye irritation, and laceration increased. Ocular discomfort was reported in <1% of patients.

6.2 Immune-mediated
The immunogenicity of VABYSMO was evaluated in plasma samples. The immunogenicity data reflect the percentage of patients whose test results were considered positive for antibodies to VABYSMO in immunoassays. The detection of an immune response is highly dependent on the sensitivity and specificity of the assays used, sample handling, timing of sample collection, concomitant medications, and underlying disease. For these reasons, comparison of the incidence of antibodies to VABYSMO with the incidence of antibodies to other products may be misleading.

6.3 Lactation
There is no information regarding the presence of faricimab in human milk, the effects of the drug on the breastfed infant, or the effects on the drug on milk production. Many drugs are transferred in human milk with the potential for absorption and adverse reactions in the breastfed child.

6.4 Pediatric Use
Data from clinical studies in pediatric patients have not been established.

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS
8.1 Pregnancy
Risk Summary
There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of VABYSMO administration in pregnant women.

Administration of VABYSMO to pregnant monkeys throughout the period of organogenesis resulted in an increased incidence of abnormalities at intraocular doses of 15x times the human exposure (based on C[R]).

Animal Data
An embryofetal developmental toxicity study was performed on pregnant cynomolgus monkeys. Pregnant animals received from 1 to 3 mg/kg of VABYSMO starting on day 20 of gestation.

A non-dose dependent increase in pregnancy loss (abortions) was observed at both doses evaluated. Serum exposure (C[R]) in pregnant monkeys at the low dose of 1 mg/kg was 135 times the human exposure at the maximum recommended intraocular dose of 6 mg once every 4 weeks. A non-observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) was not identified in this study.
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References:

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https://accessibilityproducts.net

BOOTH #109

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RSVA® is committed to improving economic opportunities for blind people and promotes independent and effective participation in the Business Enterprise Program. Join RSVA® for only $10 or join an existing RSVA® state chapter.

The Randolph-Sheppard Act (co-sponsors Senator Jennings Randolph and Alan Sheppard), federally mandated and passed in 1936, provides employment opportunities for blind individuals through the Business Enterprise Program (BEP). A designated state licensing agency in each state (SLA) administers the Randolph-Sheppard Program and has the first right of refusal to operate business facilities in federally owned government buildings. BEP businesses are also operated in city, county, and state facilities - snack bars, cafeterias, vending machine facilities & routes, highway rest areas, visitor welcome centers, gift shops, convenience stores, and food service canteens on military bases. These facilities generate more than $750 million a year in sales, making the Randolph-Sheppard Program the seventh largest food service program in the nation. For more information about conferences and publications or to join, check out https://www.randolph-sheppard.org.

You can also email rsva@randolph-sheppard.org for additional information.
Veterans Affairs and Wounded Warriors

NIB’s Veterans Affairs and Wounded Warriors program provides veterans who are blind, visually impaired, or have other disabilities with a wide range of career options that suit their interests, goals, and capabilities.

Career Opportunities

- Contract Management
- Cybersecurity
- Section 508 Assurance
- Call Center Operations
- Supply Chain Management
- High-Tech Manufacturing
- Administrative Support
- Base Supply Center Operations

The nation’s largest employment resource for people who are blind, NIB’s mission is to enhance opportunities for economic and personal independence through creating, sustaining, and improving employment.

For more information, visit nib.org/veteran

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The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) is giving blind and visually impaired U.S. citizens and legal residents free currency readers. The iBill Talking Banknote Identifier is a small and compact, handheld device that can assist with identifying your U.S. currency notes. Simply, insert a banknote into the iBill reader and press a button. Instantly, it will tell you the denomination using one of its three functional mode options: speech, or a pattern of tones or vibrations for privacy. Smart phone users can denominate U.S. currency notes with a wave of your hand using one of BEP’s two free mobile applications available for download – the EyeNote for iOS and IDEAL Currency Identifier for Android.

BEP also has a bulk partners program available for those with steady clientele. For more information, please email CurrencyReaderPartners@bep.gov.

Come visit us at booth 406 to get your free iBill currency reader today!
You protected our freedom. Now enjoy the freedom to read your way.

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) at the Library of Congress administers a free library service at no charge for Veterans who have:

- a visual impairment, low vision or are blind
- physical limitations that make it difficult to hold a book or turn a page
- a reading disability (like dyslexia) or a brain injury

Veterans also have preference in the lending of materials and equipment. If you have served in the US armed forces and have a disability that prevents you from reading regular print materials, you may access this service, which promotes independence, wellness, and quality of life.

NLS proudly provides Veterans first preference for audio and braille books and magazines, music materials, a digital library called BARD, and the BARD Mobile app, which NLS patrons can use to access tens of thousands of titles on a smartphone or tablet.

Apply for the service today.

To learn more, speak to your local VA healthcare team or visit www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead.
Florida Vision Technology specializes in electronic magnifiers, Braille tablets, Braille embossers, electronic glasses, text-to-speech readers, digital orientation & mobility assistants, handheld & wearable AI devices. FVT provides training, technical support, virtual university and is dedicated to bringing advancements in technology to help the visually impaired and blind lead more independent, empowered lives.

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On serving our blinded veterans for 78 years

The Charles Register RG holds meetings on the third Friday of every month with guest speakers. Open to the public concerned for the welfare of blind veterans who have bravely served our nation proudly.

We organize/sponsor Pacific Ocean fishing trips, golfing, veterans' families at Christmas, and financially assist the veterans in attendance at the Blind Rehabilitation Center for extracurricular activities as well as the Fisher House for all veterans' families at the Long Beach VA Medical Center.

Telephone: (562) 826-8015 / Email: bvacrrg@gmail.com

Mailing address: P.O. Box 5653, Huntington Beach CA 992615

Our website: www.bvalongbeach.org

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and Everything in Between.

Anxious to see our BVA friends
under the St. Louis Arch in 2023!

Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler
Blinded Veterans Association
Southern California Regional Group

serving low vision and blinded veterans in the counties of Los Angeles, Kern, Riverside, San Bernadino, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

New BVA Member Rebate Program

If you are a new member of the BVA that joined in 2023 and reside in the State of California and/or attended a VA Blind Rehab Center in California, you may claim a $20.00 rebate of your dues paid by contacting:

Ken Asam, President
BVASCRG
Kenasam42@yahoo.com
The Carolina Regional Group salutes the Blinded Veterans Association on its 78th National Convention.

The 2023 – 2024 Carolina Regional Group Officers:

President
Lee M. Davis
Lmdavis@mindspring.com
(919) 376 – 5565

Vice President:
Yoneka M. Trent
Ytrent2002@icloud.com
(919) 771 – 3289

Treasurer:
Marvin Lee
Marlewis2@yahoo.com
(919) 605 – 3284

Chaplain:
David Saylor
Saysaylor@aol.com
(919) 749 – 1983

Sergeant at Arms:
Raymond Smith
Rayray5163@gmail.com

We are celebrating our name change from the North Carolina Regional Group to the Carolina Regional Group as a result of the merger of the North and South Carolina Regional Groups.
WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO BVA ON ITS 78TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

MISSION OF THE WOMEN VETERANS GROUP:
To support and serve blinded women veteran members of BVA through awareness and advocacy efforts affecting their health and welfare.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Jeanine Murphy, Chair  r.jeanine96@gmail.com
Michaun Harrison, Vice Chair  vetrt66@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Holmes  bebcol773@gmail.com
Marlene Davis-Lilly  davislillys@yahoo.com
Teresa Galgano  tgalgano@bva.org

The Women Veterans Group meets virtually via Zoom the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00pm. More information can be found at BVA.org.
Gem State Regional Group
of the
Blinded Veterans Association
Salutes all the 78th National Convention Attendees!
From the Gem State of Idaho
to the
“Gateway to the West” Saint Louis, Missouri

We hope everyone has a great convention and makes incredible memories with old friends and many new ones!

President: Joseph Bogart
Vice President: Charles Knapp
Secretary: Walter Thornton
Treasurer: Richard Griffin

https://bva.org/regional-groups/gem-state-regional-group/
The Illinois Regional Group salutes BVA
August 2023 St. Louis, MO

Anthony Woodson, President
Ray Morales, Vice President
Craig Stennis, Secretary
Daniel Johnson, Treasurer
Get involved with the BVA from wherever you are at.
We offer a variety of meeting types: online, phone, and in-person

Midwest North Regional Group
North Dakota • South Dakota • Minnesota
& members who attend virtually from other states

Guests of BVA members are also welcome at our MNRG meetings. Please email, call or text for details or to get involved with the Midwest North Regional Group (MNRG).

BlindNavyVet@gmail.com
612-559-9797

There are new eligibility rules to join the VA VISOR program. See below the eligibility rules the VA has issued. If you have questions, contact your local VA. Please Share this information with fellow Veterans that may be eligible.

New VA Eligibility
Veterans and Service members who are eligible for VA Healthcare and experience one of the following:
*Legal Blindness
*A decrease or change in vision that cannot be corrected with the use of standard glasses
*A change in vision resulting from a stroke or a traumatic brain injury (TBI)

Once a Veteran is enrolled in VISOR They are eligible to become BVA members. It is a great way to grow our organization!

Have a great Blinded Veterans Association 78th National Convention
Congratulations on 78 years of Hard Work & Dedication.

From the Tennessee Regional Group

Terry Richardson, President          Alexander Cade, Vice-President
Calvin Poole, Treasurer         Henry Harding, Chaplain         Costello Hazlett, Sergeant at Arms

David Jones, Secretary
PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL GROUP

Congratulations on Convention
From
The Officers & Members

William Albert – President
Richard Green – Vice President
Wanda Grover - Secretary
William Anderson- Treasurer
Samuel Huhn- Chaplain
BVA Greater Houston Regional Group

The officers and members of the Greater Houston Regional Group of BVA would like to welcome all of our brothers and sisters to the 2023 National Convention.

President
Paul M. Williams
pmwilliamssr@aol.com
(832) 771-8253

Vice President
Regina Haynesworth Thurston
Rht135@outlook.com
(847) 406-0728

Visually impaired advocates
VETERANS ADVANTAGE URGENT CARE (1 mile)
Hours: 7 Days a Week from 7:00am – 7:30pm
Address: 1901 Washington Ave, St. Louis, MO 63103-1623
Phone: 314-696-2090

AMERICAN CURRENT CARE OF KANSAS (2.1 Miles)
Hours: Monday-Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm
Address: 3100 Market St, St. Louis, MO 63103-2528
Phone: 866-944-6046

DOWNTOWN URGENT CARE (4 Miles)
Hours: 24 hours daily
Address: 916 Olive St, St. Louis, MO 63101-1400
Phone: 314-436-9300

JOHN J COCHRAN MEDICAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM (VA)
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Phone: 314-652-4100

ANIMAL EMERGENCY CLINIC (12.9 Miles)
Hours: Tuesday through Thursday 12:00pm – 12:00am and Friday through Monday 9:00am – 12:00am
Address: 9937 Big Bend Rd, Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: 314-325-1044
EMERGENCY SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Local Services for Animals (continued)

**VETERINARY SPECIALTY SERVICES** (20 Miles)
**Hours:** 24 hours daily
**Address:** 1021 Howard George Dr, Manchester, MO 63021
**Phone:** 636-227-9400; Emergency number: 636-227-6100

**FOUR MUDDY PAWS** (1.9 Miles)
**Hours:** Monday-Friday 10:00am – 7:00pm
**Address:** 1711 Park Ave, St. Louis, MO 63104
**Phone:** 314-773-7297
Four Muddy Paws offers reliable delivery services within a 10-mile radius of the hotel with a $25 minimum purchase. Four Muddy Paws delivers in their Lafayette Square/St Louis shop Monday - Friday. If you order by Noon of your delivery day, you’ll receive Same-Day Delivery. Curbside Pickup is also available during normal business hours.

Other Services

**CVS PHARMACY** (.2 Miles)
**Hours:**
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00am – 1:30pm and 2:00pm – 6:00pm; Tuesday from 10:00am to 2:00pm; Saturday from 9:00am – 1:30pm and 2:00pm – 5:00pm; and Sunday from 10:00am – 1:30pm and 2:00pm to 4:00pm.
**Address:** 301 N 9th St, St. Louis, MO 63101
**Phone:** 314-436-7491

**SCHNUCKS DOWNTOWN GROCERY** (.2 Miles)
**Hours:** 7 Days a Week from 6:00am – 8:00pm
**Address:** 315 N 9th St, St. Louis, MO 63101
**Phone:** 314-436-7694
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Please visit us in the exhibit hall to learn about the easy-to-use technology solutions available under contract #36C10G21D001, or call 1-800-440-9476 for a product demonstration.

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**Merlin ultra**
Foldable Video Magnifier
The Merlin ultra offers full high-definition color and contrast, with sharp crystal clear images and vibrant color accuracy.

**Acrobat Ultra HD**
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The Acrobat Ultra HD is a complete system featuring a 3-in-1 Full HD camera with a high resolution HD LCD for clear, vivid color display.
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