BVA 79th National Convention Overview
Important Dates

• BVA/ACB National Convention:
  • July 5-12 (Friday – Friday)

• BVA Business Meetings:
  • July 7-10 (Sunday – Wednesday)

• ACB Offsite Tours:
  • July 5-12 (Every day except Thursday, July 11)

• BVA will NOT be conducting offsite tours. If you would like to sign up for tours, you must register and pay through ACB. Registration for tours opens in May.

• For any offsite tour questions, please contact Janet Dickelman, ACB Convention Chair, at (651) 428-5059 or via email janet.dickelman@gmail.com
Registration Information

- $150 per person for BVA members, BVAA members, guests, and non-members.

- BVA Registration will open at the end of February/early March. All members MUST register online at BVA.org.

- Registration includes:
  - Convention Bag
  - T-shirt
  - BVA Business Meetings
  - Father Carroll Luncheon
  - BVA Gala

- Due to manpower limitations, if you require special assistance of a caregiver, you will be required to make those arrangements and register them as a guest.
Hotel Information

- **Address:**
  - The Hyatt Regency Riverfront Jacksonville 225 East Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202

- **Room Rates:**
  - $99 per night plus tax

- **Accommodations include:**
  - Free Wi-Fi in guest rooms and social spaces
  - Refrigerators in each room
  - Heated outdoor pool
  - 24-hour fitness center

- **To make reservations via:**
  - Phone: call (800) 233-1234 and use Code G-ACOB. To receive the group rate you must register by June 10, 2024

- **Hotel Parking:**
  - Self-parking at the hotel is $15 per day. This fee includes day, overnight, and in/out privileges. The garage is on Newnan Street.

- **Dog Relief Area:**
  - TBD
Hotel Dining Options

**Market:** open 24/7 featuring fresh brewed Starbucks® coffee and specialty drinks, sandwiches, pastries, bottled beverages, and souvenirs.

**SHOR Seafood Grill:** Serving a variety of American and seafood dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**TAVERN:** Enjoy handcrafted beverages, light fare, and signature entrées in a modern bar setting.

**Mortons The Steakhouse:** Savor generous portions of USDA prime aged beef, as well as fresh fish, lobster and chicken entrees served with Morton's animated signature tableside menu presentation.
Transportation to the Hotel

Please note that a shuttle will not be provided. You will be required to arrange transportation to and from the airport. When you finalize your travel plans, please send your itinerary to Margarine Beaman at oleo501625@outlook.com who will be assisting with navigation to the best of her ability.
Transportation Options

Airplane
- The Jacksonville Airport (JAX) is 15 miles from the hotel.

Bus
- If you plan to travel by bus, the Greyhound station is 1.2 miles from the hotel and is located at 1111 W Forsyth St. Megabus also drops off at the Greyhound station.

Train
- If you plan on taking the train, Amtrack’s station is 5.6 miles from the hotel and is located at 3570 Clifford Lane.

Local Transportation
- Uber or Lyft will cost approximately $25 from the airport to the hotel. A taxi is about $10 more.
Paratransit/ADA Jacksonville Information

1. Contact your local paratransit so they can email or fax your information/visitor request form. This information should be emailed to eligibility@jpafla.com or fax to (904) 265-8919.

2. This request should be processed in early June for the start of the National Convention on July 7, 2024.

3. Call the Jacksonville Florida Paratransit office at (904) 265-6001 to check for approval and to receive your client number. You will need this information to reserve a ride.

• Costs and Payment:

• Connexion
  • $3 exact fare
  • Rides must be reserved in advance

• Connexion Plus
  • $6 for 15 miles or less
  • $2 each additional mile
  • Available 2 hours after calling
  • CREDIT CARD payments only

• For more information, or to download the app visit the website:
  • https://www.jtafla.com/ride-jta/paratransit-services/
Renting a Wheelchair or Scooter

Renting a Wheelchair or Scooter

• If you would like to rent a wheelchair or scooter you will need to reserve as soon as possible to make sure your request can be honored. Rental minimum is for one week (most economical) Friday, July 5- July 12 and includes delivery and pick-up from the hotel. You will need to pay for the rental with a credit card. Once you have reserved, please email janet.dickelman@gmail.com. Janet (ACB) will keep a list to ensure everyone receives their items. The wheelchair or scooter will be at the front desk under your name.

• **Where to rent:**
  • Action Disability Resources, Inc
  • Contact: Jared
  • P: (904) 777-1979

• **Wheelchair Pricing**
  • 16 or 18 inch = $100
  • 20 inch = $115
  • 22 inch = $125

• **Scooter Pricing**
  • 3 or 4 wheeled = $125
BVA Schedule of Events-*Subject to Change

Sunday, July 7
• 8:30am-5:00pm – BVA VSP Office
• 9:00am-4:30pm – BVA Registration Open
• 9:00am-5:00pm – Exhibit Hall Open
• 7:00pm-8:00pm – 79th National Convention Opening Ceremony

Monday, July 8
• 8:30am-5:00pm – BVA VSP Office
• 9:00am-11:30am – BVA Opening Business Meeting
• 1:00pm-3:00pm – Bylaws and Resolutions Meeting
• 5:00pm-6:00pm – BVA Gala Happy Hour and Reception
• 6:00pm-9:00pm – BVA Gala

Tuesday, July 9
• 7:30am-8:45am – BVA Ambassador Recognition Ceremony (proposed)
• 8:30am-5:00pm – BVA VSP Office
• 9:00am-10:00am – BVA Board of Directors’ Membership Open Forum
• 10:00am-11:30am – Team BVA Outreach Teams Panel
• 12:00pm-2:00pm – Father Carroll Luncheon and Awards Ceremony
• 3:00pm-6:00pm – BVA Closing Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 10
• 8:00am-10:00am – BVA and BVA Auxiliary National Board of Directors Breakfast and Meeting
• 8:30am-5:00pm – BVA VSP Office
Exhibit Hall Hours & Dates (Managed by ACB)

• The Exhibit Hall will be managed by ACB this year. To order your Exhibit Hall Booth contact Michael Smitherman, Conference Exhibits Coordinator, by email at exhibitors@acb.org, or by phone at (601) 331-7740.

Guest Information

• Exhibit Hall Hours
  • Sunday, July 7 from 9:00am-5:00pm
  • Monday, July 8 from 11:00am-5:00pm
  • Tuesday, July 9 from 11:00am-5:00pm
  • Wednesday, July 10 from 9:00am-1:00pm

Exhibitor Information

• Exhibit Hall Set-up
  • Saturday, July 6 from 1:00pm-5:00pm

• Exhibit Hall Open
  • Sunday, July 7 from 9:00am-5:00pm

• Exhibit Hall Move-out
  • Wednesday, July 10 from 1:00pm-4:00pm
### ACB Offsite Tours

#### Friday, July 5
- 8:30am-1:00pm: Sea Serpent Airboat Tour  
  City Bus Tour I – Jacksonville City
- 1:30pm-3:30pm: City Bus Tour I – Jacksonville City
- 3:45pm-6:30pm: Food Tour – 3 Stops (Italian, Seafood, Dessert)

#### Saturday, July 6
- 8:00am-12:15pm: iFly Indoor Skydiving  
  City Bus Tour II – Jacksonville City
- 9:00am-1:45pm: Fort Caroline  
  City Bus Tour III – Jacksonville City
- 5:30pm-8:00pm: Jacksonville Beach Pier

#### Sunday, July 7
- 6:30am-11:30am: Autobahn Indoor Speedway  
  City Bus Tour IV – Jacksonville City

#### Monday, July 8
- Time TBD: The Ritz Theatre and Museum of Southern History
- Time TBD: Beach Party

#### Tuesday, July 9
- Time TBD: Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind

#### Wednesday, July 10
- 12:15pm-3:00pm: Sweet Pete’s Candy/Lunch
- 2:15pm-5:00pm: Sweet Pete’s Candy/Lunch
- 1:00pm-3:15pm: USS Orleck

#### Thursday, July 11
- None

#### Friday, July 12
- 6:15pm – 6:30pm: Kennedy Space Center; $285 with lunch provided
Questions?

Questions regarding Convention should be addressed to:

• Your District Director. Contact information may be found at National Board – Blinded Veterans Association (bva.org)

• You may also contact the Convention Committee. Contact information TBD.