

# **BLANK BVA REGIONAL GROUP, INC.**

## **CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the **BLANK** BVA Regional Group, Inc., in order to develop a closer relationship among the blinded veterans of our Nation; to assist in their rehabilitation; to hasten their acceptance into the community; and to promote peace with liberty, do adopt and establish these Constitution/Bylaws.

### **Article 1 – Name**

The name of the organization, by which it shall be known, is and shall be the **BLANK** BVA Regional Group, Inc. and its duration, shall be perpetual, unless its Charter is withdrawn by the Blinded Veterans Association for good cause shown.

### **Article 2 – Affiliation**

Section 1. The Regional Group is and shall be an affiliate group of a National Association known as the Blinded Veterans Association, as attested to by a Charter issued by said Association. The Regional Group shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the National Association and to the provisions of that corporation's Charter and Bylaws. Any provision in these Constitution/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 veterans' organizations or agency for the blind.

### **Article 3 – 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 8 below).

### **Article 4 – Membership**

Section 1. Membership shall be limited to Members of the Blinded Veterans Association residing within the boundaries of the states of **BLANK**.

Section 2. All Members shall have and retain rights of membership in the **BLANK** Regional Group as set forth in the current edition of the BVA National Bylaws, as amended.

Section 3. All the above-mentioned members shall have and retain full rights of membership in the Regional Group, including the right to vote and hold office.

#### **Article 5 – 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 of the **BLANK** BVA Regional Group, Inc 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. No less than two (2) officers (one of which shall be either the President or the Vice President) and three (3) members will constitute a legal meeting.

Section 4. All Members and the District Director must be notified either electronically, or in writing, of each meeting of the regional group at least ten (10) days before the date of such meeting. The notification will include the date, time, location, virtual link information to include dial in phone numbers and purpose(s) of the meeting.

#### **Article 6 – Officers**

Section 1. The Regional Group shall elect officers every **BLANK** years from among its Members at a meeting of the membership, and all Members shall be notified, electronically or in writing, in advance for the purpose for which the meeting is called (see Section 4 of Article 5 above).

Section 2. The officers elected shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, provided that the members, in their discretion, may combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 3. Officers shall serve until their successors have qualified. In no case, however, shall an officer serve a period exceeding **BLANK** months without reelection. Qualification is defined as being a member of that Regional Group and eligible to run for office.

#### **Article 7 – Duties of Officers**

Section 1. The President shall be the executive head of the Regional Group with full power to enforce the provisions of these Constitution/Bylaws and the policies adopted by the membership. They shall preside at meetings of the membership. They shall have and exercise all functions especially entrusted to them by the membership and shall perform all duties usually performed by such executive officer, including appointment of such committees as they 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 them 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 District Director within two months of such meetings. They shall notify all members and the District Director of scheduled meetings in accordance with Article 5, Section 4 of these Bylaws. They shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the President.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall maintain true and complete books of account reflecting all income and expenditures of the Regional Group. They 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.

### **Article 8 – 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, and Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer).

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 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 (the quorum shall be two members if the regional group has a single office of Secretary/Treasurer).

Section 4. Vacancies occurring among the officer personnel of the Regional Group shall be filled temporarily by members appointed by the Executive Committee. These appointments will only fulfill the term of office until the next election cycle.

### **Article 9 – Discipline of Members**

Discipline of officers and members of the **BLANK** Regional Group shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 (Discipline of Members) and Article 16 (Trial Procedure) of the current edition of the BVA National Bylaws, as amended.

### **Article 10 – Finance**

Section 1. Membership dues for members of the Regional Group, and the regulations governing payment of such dues, are as specified in Article 10 (Dues) of the current edition of the BVA National Bylaws, as amended.

Section 2. All sums received by the Treasurer shall be placed by them in a bank designated by members of the Executive Committee. The bank account shall be in the name of the **BLANK** Regional Group.

Section 3. Funds of the Regional Group shall be dispensed by checks or electronically by the Treasurer in conformity with a budget adopted by the membership. All other expenditures must be approved by the membership.

Section 4. No fundraising endeavor involving an appeal for funds to the public shall be undertaken without authorization by a Regional Group meeting and prior approval of the National Board of Directors.

### **Article 11 – 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 **BLANK** days' notice of such proposed amendment(s) shall have been given to all members.

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 12 – Rules of Order**

All points of parliamentary procedure not covered by these Constitution/Bylaws shall be governed by Robert's "Rules of Order, Newly Revised."

### **Article 13 – Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of the **BLANK** BVA Regional Group, Inc, all assets, real or personal, shall become subject to the provisions of Article 14, Regional Groups, Sections 8 and 9 of the current edition of the BVA National Bylaws, as amended.

### **Article 14 – Chapters**

Section 1. Each subordinate Chapter is, and always will be, under the direction and control of the **BLANK** Regional Group. Inc...

- Each subordinate Chapter will have no official standing outside of the parent **BLANK** Regional Group, Inc.
- Each subordinate Chapter will have an identifiable name (example: North Louisiana Chapter of the Louisiana/Mississippi BVA Regional Group, Inc).

Section 2. Members must belong to the **BLANK** Regional Group, Inc.

Section 3. Chapters may not incorporate nor apply for Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 501 tax exemption status.

Section 4. Chapters are not authorized to establish banking accounts. All funds must be deposited in the parent Regional Groups banking accounts and may be earmarked as belonging to a specific chapter. The Regional Group Treasurer and Chapter leadership are responsible for managing and accounting for those funds.

Section 5. Each Chapter should establish its boundaries within a Regional Group area, keeping in mind that Chapters should have a local focus.

These bylaws are hereby adopted on this **BLANK**.