



BVA 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Official Convention Letter

Pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section 3 of the National Bylaws, all members of the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) are hereby notified that the Association's **80th National Convention** will be held at the Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75207, **from Saturday, July 5 through Friday, July 11, 2025**. BVA is partnering with the American Council of the Blind (ACB) in hosting this historic gathering.

The following details are important for attendees to begin planning their trips and stays in Dallas.

Registration Information

BVA members and guests can register and pay online at <https://bva.org/national-convention/>. Alternatively, members and guests can register by calling 202-371-8880 and speaking with the National Administrative Coordinator or the National Membership Coordinator, or by emailing membership@BVA.org. The registration price is \$200 per person. This price does not include Offsite Trips and the Cooking Seminar.

The deadline to register for the convention is June 20, 2025. All registrations after June 20 must be onsite and will have a fee of \$250 per person, excluding Offsite Trips. BVA National Headquarters highly encourages members to register by the end of May to ensure accurate counts on T-shirts, meals, etc. 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

The BVA room rate at the Hyatt Regency Dallas begins at \$99 per night (plus a 15 percent room tax and a \$2 Tourism Public Improvement District Tax). The hotel offers complimentary standard Wi-Fi in guest rooms and social spaces, refrigerators in each room, a K-cup coffee maker, use of the outdoor pool daily, and a 24-hour fitness center on the third floor.

You can reserve your hotel room online at [National Convention – Blinded Veterans Association](#) or call **(800) 233-1234** and use **Code G-AMCB**. To receive the group rate, you must register prior to **June 10, 2025**. A credit card upon booking is mandatory, but a deposit is not required. Upon arrival, a pending authorization hold will be applied for the entire stay. This is a hold, not a charge. The hold will be charged upon check-out. Cancellations are required 7 days prior to arrival. If the guest does not cancel at least 7 days prior to the arrival date, a charge for one night will be applied.

Dining options include Coffee's Post market, Parrino's, Centennial, Monduel's, and Dining To Go.

Hotel Parking

Self-parking in the outdoor Radish Lot located at the intersection of Hotel Street and Reunion Boulevard West is \$30 per day. This fee includes in/out privileges for overnight guests only.

Valet Parking is available at the hotel entrance for \$50 plus tax per day. This fee includes in/out privileges and overnight stay. Hourly fee varies if not staying overnight.

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. For more additional transportation options, visit the [National Convention](#) page.

Dallas has two airports: DFW International and Dallas Love Field (DAL). Dallas Love Field is the closest and recommended airport to the Hyatt Regency Dallas. Approximate taxi fare is \$20-\$25 from Dallas Love Field Airport (DAL). App-based rides are available as well. A contract for reduced rates with Z-trip as well as paratransit information are being pursued by the Convention Coordinators.

Travel Information

For travel assistance, please contact Brenda K. McDaniel, Independent Travel Consultant and daughter of a BVA member, by email at brenda_mcdaniel@sbcglobal.net, or by telephone at (915) 204-0101 between 11:00am and 6:30pm Eastern Time.

Schedule of Events (subject to change)

Open All Week:

1. Waymo Bow Wow Lounge – Monday, July 7-Friday, July 11, from 9:00am-5:00pm
2. Nurse's Office – Time TBD
3. Veterans Service Program Claims – Sunday, July 6-Friday, July 11, from 9:00am-4:00pm

Saturday, July 5	Agenda	Room
7:00pm-9:00pm	ACB Opening Ceremony	TBD
Sunday, July 6	Agenda	Room
9:00am-5:00pm	Exhibit Hall Open	TBD
9:00am-5:00pm	BVA Registration	TBD
10:00am-11:00am	BVA Orientation	TBD
11:15am-3:00pm	Sound Bowl Session Holistic Healing & Relaxation/Dallas VA Rec Therapy Robert Hampton & Amor Aguilera	TBD
2:15pm-3:15pm	Vote-Now Instructions	TBD
3:30pm-5:30pm	Emerging Technologies/Navigation Seminar Meta, NaviLens, WayAround, WeWalk, Biped	TBD
Monday, July 7	Agenda	Room
8:00am-9:00am	BVA Opening Ceremony	TBD
8:00am-9:00am	BVA Registration	TBD
9:15am-12:00pm	Opening Business Meeting/National Staff Reports	TBD
9:00am-11:30am	BVA Auxiliary Opening Business Meeting	TBD
11:00am-5:00pm	Exhibit Hall Open	TBD
12:15pm-4:00pm	Offsite Trip/6th Floor Museum	TBD
1:00pm-3:00pm	District Caucus Meetings/District Directors	TBD
4:15pm-5:15pm	Learn Team BVA Interest Groups (Adaptive Sports, Book Club, and Dog Handler)	TBD
6:30pm-9:30pm	Hospitality Suite Hosted by Greater Houston Regional Group	TBD
Tuesday, July 8	Agenda	Room
7:00am-8:00am	Dog Walk	TBD
8:30am-10:00am	Fireside Chat/508 Compliance Accessing VA Systems (coffee/pastries served) Moderated by Matt Ater-VP, Vispero	TBD
9:00am-5:00pm	BVA Auxiliary New Business & Adjournment	TBD
10:30am-12:00pm	Town Hall/ Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation & Prosthetic Services Niki Sandlan, National Program Director	TBD
11:00am-5:00pm	Exhibit Hall Open	TBD
1:00pm-2:30pm	Learn BVA (Veterans Service Program Ambassador Program, & Development)	TBD
2:45pm-4:15pm	Music Therapy/Dallas VA Rec Therapy Ruth Hook, Creative Arts Therapist	TBD
4:30pm-5:30pm	Hospitality Suite in lieu of Happy Hour Hosted by Greater Houston Regional Group	TBD
6:30pm-9:00pm	BVA Gala	TBD

Wednesday, July 9	Agenda	Room
8:00am-9:15am	Ambassador Breakfast Sponsored by OrCam (Active Ambassadors ONLY)	TBD
9:00am-1:00pm	Exhibit Hall Hours	TBD
9:30am-11:00am	Cooking Seminar The Blind Kitchen & WayAround Deb Erickson, Executive Chef & Founder Neva Fairchild, WayAround	TBD
12:30pm-2:15pm	Father Carroll Luncheon & Awards Ceremony Guest Speaker: TBD	TBD
2:00pm	Vote-Now Elections & Bylaws Close (3:00pm Eastern)	
2:30pm-4:30pm	Meet the Board of Directors & Executive Director	TBD
6:30pm-9:30pm	Hospitality Suite Hosted by Greater Houston Regional Group	TBD
Thursday, July 10	Agenda	Room
8:30am-9:30am	BVA Buds – Let Your Garden Grow Monique Statham, Gardening Group Facilitator	TBD
10:00am-11:30am	Regional Group Presidents, VP, Secretary & Treasurers Education with Board of Directors	TBD
11:45am-3:45pm	Offsite Trip – AT&T Stadium VIP Tour Home of America’s Team/Dallas Cowboys	TBD
1:00pm-2:30pm	VA Health and Benefits App Tracy Ferro, National Secretary	TBD
TBD	BVA Auxiliary Tricky Tray Prizes Awarded	TBD
4:30pm-5:30pm	Break	TBD
6:30pm-9:30pm	Hospitality Suite Hosted by Greater Houston Regional Group	TBD
Friday, July 11	Agenda	Room
9:00am-11:30am	Closing Business Meeting- (Announcement and swearing-in of elected officers, results of Bylaw election, new business, and closing remarks)	TBD
12:00pm-4:00pm	Tai Chi/Qigong Session- Dr. Yang, Dallas Rec Therapy	TBD
5:00pm-8:00pm	Offsite Trip- Circle R Ranch-80th Texas BBQ	TBD

Member Voting Options

Every member shall be eligible to attend and participate in Convention meetings and shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Members do not have to be present at the convention to vote but there is no longer proxy voting. Members may vote online, by mail, or telephonically.

- a. Online and telephonic voting begins June 2, 2025. Voting instructions will be emailed each week until the member has voted.
- b. All members will receive a paper ballot in the mail which, if used, must be received by Vote-Now by July 2, 2025.
- c. Online and telephonic voting ends at 2:00pm Central Time on July 8, 2025.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the registration cancellation policy?

Fully refundable registration cancellations will be honored through June 20, 2025, at 5:00pm Eastern Time. Registrations after June 20 must be onsite at the Convention and the cost will be \$250 exclusive of Offsite Trips.

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

Separate BVA Offsite Trips are available on the registration page at **BVA.org**. Spacing is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Offsite Trips are \$25 per person and the Friday night Circle R Ranch-80th Texas BBQ is \$10 per person.

Will someone meet me at the airport/train station?

Volunteers may be available to assist BVA members and guests at the airport. 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. For more additional transportation options, visit the [National Convention](#) page.

Is there a shuttle from the airport to the hotel?

A shuttle will not be provided. Dallas has two airports: DFW International and Dallas Love Field (DAL). Dallas Love Field is the closest and recommended airport to the Hyatt Regency Dallas. Approximate taxi fare is \$20-\$25 from Dallas Love Field Airport (DAL). App-based rides are available as well. A contract for reduced rates with Z-trip as well as paratransit information are being pursued by the Convention Coordinators.

Do the hotel rooms have refrigerators for my medications?

Yes. All rooms are equipped with a small refrigerator.

What dining options are available at the hotel?

The hotel has onsite restaurants with breakfast, lunch, and dinner options.

Is there a dog relief area?

Yes! ScoopMasters will provide and maintain our dog relief areas. If you would like to preorder dog food to be delivered to your hotel room, call Tim Stone at (661) 714-0749 or order online [here](#). Food must be ordered by June 20, 2025, to ensure delivery. Also, back by “popular” demand, the Bow Wow Lounge sponsored by Waymo will serve as a respite area for our canine heroes throughout the convention.

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.

What meals are included in my registration fee?

Tuesday: Refreshments and pastries will be served Tuesday morning during the VA 508 Accessibility Fireside Chat. Dinner will be served at the Gala.

Wednesday: Afternoon lunch at the Father Carroll Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

What meals are included during the Offsite Trips?

Thursday: The AT&T Stadium VIP Tour includes lunch.

Friday: Circle R Ranch-80th Texas BBQ includes a buffet dinner.

What if I have additional questions?

If you have any additional questions or comments, please contact your District Director, the BVA National Administrative Coordinator, or the National Membership Coordinator, or by emailing membership@BVA.org. We are excited to celebrate with you in Dallas.

Important Dates/Deadlines

- April 3 — Deadline for Candidate nominations of National Officers and District Directors 1 and 3.
- April 17 — Nominee Biography Deadline. Submit electronically via email to membership@bva.org.
- May 6 — Proposed Bylaw Amendment Deadline.
- May 21 — Proposed Bylaw Amendments will be posted via BVA.org, **BVA Happenings**, and social media.
- June 2 — Commencement of electronic voting with Vote-Now.
- July 2 — Deadline for paper ballots to be received and accepted by Vote-Now.
- July 9 — Vote-Now Election close date at 3:00pm Eastern Time.
- July 11 — Election results announced in-person at Convention.