



**National Board of Directors
Business Meeting Minutes
April 22 – 23, 2025**

Name: 2025 Virtual Mid-Winter Board of Directors

Date & Time: 22 & 23 April 2025, 1 PM Eastern

Call to order: 1:06 PM Eastern

Roll call of attendees

Paul Mimms, President (PM) P
Wade Davis, Vice President (WD) P
Tracy Ferro, Secretary (TF) P
Joseph Bogart, Treasurer (JB) E/P
Joseph McNeil, Past President (JM) P
John O'Connell, DD1 (JO) P
Ann Dixon, DD2 (AD) P
Douglas Ingram, DD3 (DI) P
Randy Cantrell, DD4 (RC) P

Non-Voting Attendees

Stephan Butler, JAG (SB) E
Brian O'Connell, Sergeant at Arms (BO) E
Vernon Humphrey, Executive Director (VH) P
Donald Overton, Special Advisor (DO) P
Meredith Buono-DaGrossa, National Development Director (MD)
Lea Rowe, National Legislative Director (LR)
Duayne Driscoll, National Service Director (DD)
Stuart Nelson, National Communications Director (SN)
Teresa Galgano, National Membership Coordinator (TG)
Robert Murphy, President BVAA (RM)

P = Present. A = Absent E.= Excused

Opening prayer WD

Pledge of Allegiance JM

Approval of agenda

Motion: JM

Second: WD

Vote results: Passed

BVAA Update: Scholarships available, none submitted yet.

Approval of previous meetings minutes

PO BOX 90770 ★ WASHINGTON, DC 20090 ★ 202-371-8880 (P) ★ 202-371-8258 (F) ★ BVA.org

Motion: DI
Second: JM
Vote results: Passed

National Presidents Session. Thanks to BOD and Staff for getting us to this point. DO gave update on new position and Care Review Program. VH introduced himself and his objectives for organization.

2:00pm – 2:30pm

Morgan Stanley Investment Portfolios (Trip Mclaughlin / Don Overton) Investment and LMF accounts are doing fine. Accounts positioned conservatively. Essentially BVA is overall in good condition and has not gone down yet. No Board action recommended at this time.

2:30pm – 3:00pm

CharityCFO FY2026 Budget (Trina Owens Rogers CFO / Don Overton) Revenues are looking good, up slightly. Expenses are higher and we are in the RED for this year.

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Service (VA BRS NPO). Nicki Sandlen, Ella Hart, Michael Bastian, Bobbie Hillen. NS briefed on hiring exemption freeze for BRS. BRS going through Marketing review. Looking to add more out-patient services. New prevalence model coming out. Reworking data programs to ID veterans in BHA but not in BRS. EH briefed on VIST for Esat Orange. Waiting to post for new VISOR chief. WD asked what plans are to fix VIST shortages and how long it will take / recommendations should be ready by August / September. EH briefed on VA sensitivity training. NMB briefed on Meta Glasses and Assistive Technology (AT) hubs for low population areas. Battle Creek setting up mobile unit to provide care to rural areas. VIST locator services and NPO phone numbers to be shared with Secretary and forwarded to BOD. Briefed on VA scholarships available.

4:00pm – 5:00pm. Staff Reports

1. Veterans Service Program (Duayne Driscoll / Marlene Davis-Lilly)
2. Legislative Affairs (Lea Rowe / Don Overton)
3. Communications (Stuart Nelson)
4. Membership (Teresa Galgano)
5. Programs (Vern Humphrey)
6. Development / Convention (Meredith Buono-Dagrossa)
7. Headquarters Update (Don Overton)

Motion to Recess: WD

Second: JB

Vote Results: Passed

Date & Time: Wednesday, 23 April (1:00pm – 5:00pm) (EST)

Participants: Board of Directors / Staff

Call to Order: 1:03 PM Eastern

Follow Up on Awards, how many submitted. Only one submitted at this time.

1:00pm – 2:00pm. District Director Reports

1. District 1 (John O'Connell)
2. District 2 (Annie Dixon)
3. District 3 (Douglas Ingram)
4. District 4 (Randy Cantrell)

2:00pm – 3:00pm National Officer Reports

1. National President (Paul Mimms)
2. National Vice President (Wade Davis)
3. National Secretary (Tracy Ferro)
4. National Treasurer (Joe Bogart)

3:00pm – 4:30pm

1. Old Business
 - A. Review 79TH National Convention Minutes / To be posted on line for Convention Vote
 - I. Motion to move forward: WD
 - II. Second: JB
 - III. Vote Results: Passed
2. New Business
 - A. Bylaw amendments and revision / DO Presented
 - I. Motion to present to Membership after review by JAG: DI
 - II. Second: WD
 - III. Vote Results: Passed
 - B. LMF apportionment realignment / ideas to be reviewed in the future
 - I. Motion to table: JB
 - II. Second: WD
 - III. Vote Results: Passed
 - C. RG disillusion status's.
 - D. Leadership training for BOD / Will develop flow chart of VA services
 - E. Team BVA objectives and submissions. New policy to be presented at convention
 - F. Develop leadership recruitment letter. Target younger members.
 - G. Corporate Signatory Update. Legal requirement.
 - I. Motion: JB
 - II. Second: WD & DI
 - III. Vote Results: Passed

Open discussion: PM / Review with members to survey meeting.

Benediction: PM

Adjournment time: 5:34 PM Eastern

Motion: DI

Second: WD

Vote Results: Passed

Approved: Date and meeting approved 19 May 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

Submitted By: PM/tf