

PROCESS FOR STARTING (OR RENEWING) A REGIONAL GROUP
OF THE
BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY

First: A BVAA Regional Group may be established within an area where a BVA Regional Group already exists. The name of the BVAA Regional Group will match the name of the BVA Regional Group.

1. Identify at least 5 existing BVAA members and/or obtain BVAA membership applications for spouses, friends and family of blinded veterans who are over the age of 18 and who espouse to the purpose of the Blinded Veterans Association Auxiliary (BVAA), as found in the National BVAA Bylaws. Remember, BVA members or those eligible for BVA membership CANNOT be BVAA members!
2. Hold an organizational meeting where the following are accomplished:
 - a. Gather BVAA applications and fees not already current.
 - b. Officers are elected
 - c. Bylaws are established (See sample bylaws for "Our New Regional Group")
3. Turn into National BVAA for your application:
 - a. Minutes of the organizational meeting listing officers, etc.
 - b. Membership roster; and applications with dues
 - c. Copy of bylaws adopted by the group for the new BVAA Regional Group

BVAA National will review your application for your BVAA Regional Group, make sure all of the pieces for approval are present, approve it when everything is compatible and complete; and send it to BVA National for final approval. The BVA National Board generally meet 3- 4 times per year; applications are reviewed for approval at their meetings. Formal acceptance as a BVAA Regional Group will come following this final approval. Charters are generally presented at national conventions so that everyone may share in your success and extend congratulations.

After receiving final approval from the BVAA National Board, you may proceed to file for your group's Federal EIN/TIN number, any applicable State certifications and file for your groups 501(c)3; and establish any necessary banking accounts.

4. FUNDRAISING MUST BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BVAA NATIONAL BYLAWS