



BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY
OUR NEW REGIONAL GROUP
BY-LAWS

Established: September 1, 2015
Or Revised: May 15, 2012

ARTICLE I – NAME

SECTION 1: The name of this organization shall be OUR NEW REGIONAL GROUP OF THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY (ONRG – BVAA)

ARTICLE II – SUPREME AUTHORITY

SECTION 1: The supreme authority of Our New Regional Group of the Blinded Veterans Association Auxiliary shall be vested in its members, whether expressed in convention/conference, in a regular or special meeting called or by a duly authorized electronic or mail ballot.

SECTION 2: At all times when the membership is not assembled, the supreme authority of Our New Regional Group of the BVAA shall be vested in the Executive Board (see Article VII below).

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Membership shall consist of family and friends of Blinded Veterans over 18 years of age.

SECTION 2: All membership lists will be restricted to the use of the National BVAA and the specific Regional Group from which it came, and will not be released to any outside agency or organization.

SECTION 3: Membership in the Blinded Veterans Association Auxiliary is a privilege, not a right. Membership may be refused or revoked when it is determined that the integrity of the purpose of the Blinded Veterans Association Auxiliary may be compromised (see Article II, above).

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

SECTION 1: At least one, preferably more, meeting(s) should be held during the year. One of these meetings should be designated as the Annual Meeting and shall be held to conduct business, to elect and install officers, and present special interest programs. Additional meetings may be held as required and called by the Regional Group Auxiliary President; or, with the approval of the National BVAA, by at least three members in good standing, at least one of whom should be a duly elected officer of the regional group.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: The officers of the regional group shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and any other officer necessary for the operation of the Regional Group. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

SECTION 2: Officers shall be nominated from the floor.

SECTION 3: If a vacancy occurs, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the President. An exception shall be in case of a vacancy in the Presidency. The office of the Vice President shall then be filled by appointment of the new President.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1: The regional auxiliary President shall be chief executive officer of the auxiliary and shall coordinate all of the auxiliary activities, preside at all meetings of the auxiliary, serve as ex-officio member of all committees as deemed necessary to conduct the work of the auxiliary.

SECTION 2: The regional Vice President shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the regional President and shall perform duties of the President during the President's absence or disability.

SECTION 3: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all membership and special meetings; shall handle all correspondence of the auxiliary. The Secretary will submit copies of minutes of all meetings within 15 days to the National Auxiliary President and National Auxiliary Secretary.

SECTION 4: The Treasurer shall maintain true and complete records of accounts, reflecting all of the expenditures of the auxiliary; shall report regularly to the President and prepare a detailed Treasurer's report at the annual meeting. The books and records shall be available "on demand." **The Treasurer will submit a copy of the Treasurer's Annual Report within 15 days of the annual meeting to the National Auxiliary President and National Auxiliary Treasurer.**

- A. All regional auxiliary funds shall be deposited in banking institutions approved by the auxiliary officers. The accounts shall be in the name decided upon for the regional auxiliary group.
- B. Funds of the Regional Group shall be dispensed only by checks drawn by the Treasurer and signed by both the Treasurer and President.

The regional auxiliary officers shall maintain the proper records of their offices, consistent with the responsibilities of those offices, and upon termination of their terms, send their records to the succeeding officers.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1: The ONRG – BVAA Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, the Immediate Past President.

SECTION 2: The ONRG – BVAA Executive Board shall have full power to act for the organization between general membership meetings, provided that the board shall take no action contrary to the policies established by the membership, and all of its actions shall be reported at the next general membership meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – DUES

SECTION 1: Any person residing within a Regional Group's geographic area and who is a member of the National Blinded Veterans Association Auxiliary shall automatically be a member of the area's Regional Group. Payment of dues to the National Auxiliary shall constitute area specific Regional Group membership (individual regional groups may charge dues).

SECTION 2: Each Regional Group member must remain a member in good standing of the National Auxiliary. Delinquent members shall have no right to vote, but will be reinstated upon payment of their dues.

ARTICLE IX – FINANCES

SECTION 1: The President, Vice President, Secretary, and immediate past President shall inspect the books, records and funds of the Treasurer and report to the membership at the annual meeting.

SECTION 2: In advance of undertaking any fund-raising, the Regional Group Auxiliary shall submit a program budget and plan of fundraising activities to the National Executive Auxiliary Board for approval. After review by the board, final approval by the BVA Board of Directors will be requested. Upon receipt of that approval, the National Executive Auxiliary Board will notify the Regional Group in writing. Since this is required before fund-raising can be initiated, submission of plans should be submitted seventy-five (75) days in advance.

SECTION 3: The Regional Group is the controlling body for all funds in the regional group including any chapters that may be a part of the Regional group.

SECTION 4: The regional group may accept individual, member, or group donations to establish a treasury.

ARTICLE X – CONDUCT

- SECTION 1: It is recognized that Our New Regional Group is subordinate to the National Blinded Veterans Association Auxiliary (BVAA). BVAA issued our charter, and may cause it to be revoked or amended to coincide with changes in the National BVAA Bylaws or correct violations; to discipline the officers and members, to regulate regional group elections and generally, to regulate regional groups activities and ways they conduct their affairs. It is the policy of the National Blinded Veterans Association Auxiliary that regional group auxiliaries shall be allowed the greatest amount of freedom of action and liberty consistent with reasonable control by the National Auxiliary. Whenever possible and prudent, members of a regional group will be disciplined by the regional group in accordance with Article III, Section I of the BVAA National Bylaws and the bylaws of the regional group.
- SECTION 2: BVA Auxiliary regional groups are permitted to form chapters in their geographical area where a BVA regional group and a BVA auxiliary regional group are established **and where a BVA chapter is also formed**. The chapter of BVA Auxiliary would then be subordinated to that BVA Auxiliary regional group and subject to the bylaws of that regional group. **The BVAA regional group has full authority to disband any chapter that is not operating according to the Bylaws of the Regional Group or those of the National BVAA.**
- SECTION 3: The National Blinded Veterans Association Auxiliary Executive Board may investigate the activities and operations of any regional group auxiliary that has willfully violated any of the by-laws and regulations

of the National BVAA and may revoke the charter of such subordinate body.

- A. The regional group auxiliary has the authority to review and take action on all minor infractions of their bylaws, the National BVAA By-Laws, or other minor offenses of the members of the regional group. Review and actions taken will be handled in house by the membership and/or elected officers of the regional group. The regional group will then report their actions to the National BVAA Executive Board. See also Article II and Article III of the National BVAA Bylaws.

SECTION 4: Inherent in the revocation of any regional group auxiliary charter is the loss of permission to use the name “Blinded Veterans Association Auxiliary”.

SECTION 5: The National Executive Board may establish and adopt rules and regulations governing regional group auxiliaries and otherwise have supervision and authority over all subordinate or regional group auxiliaries.

SECTION 6: In seeking publicity of any nature, prior approval by the National BVAA Executive Board MUST be obtained.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

SECTION 1: These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting at any meeting of the general membership, a quorum being present.

SECTION 2: All amendments must be approved by the National BVAA Executive Board.

ARTICLE XII – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

SECTION 1: Robert Rules of Order, newly revised, shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws.

ARTICLE XIII – DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1: Upon dissolution of the Our New Regional Group Auxiliary, ALL remaining members shall vote to dissolve the Regional Group Auxiliary. Following the payment of all bills, all remaining funds shall be forwarded to the National BVA Auxiliary Treasurer.