

# 2011 SVA National Conference

## Information Guide



WELCOME

to the *2011 National*

**CONFERENCE**

**LAS VEGAS**

**NEVADA**

Student Veterans of America

P.O. Box 77673

Washington DC 20013

[www.studentveterans.org](http://www.studentveterans.org)



# WELCOME

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It is my pleasure to invite you to SVA's 2011 National Conference at the Rio Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. The fourth annual conference will commence on the evening of December 8, 2011 with a *Networking Reception* and conclude with the *Banquet* on the evening of December 10, 2011. This packet was created to provide details and information relevant for attendees and their planning. This document will be posted on SVA's website until the conference begins and will be updated should the need arise. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this packet or any of the other materials posted, please feel free to contact Gerald Kapinos via email at [gerald.kapinos@studentveterans.org](mailto:gerald.kapinos@studentveterans.org).



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# LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

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First, we have already received a lot of questions regarding why Las Vegas and why the weekend of December 8-10, 2011 were selected. This paragraph is intended to answer those questions up front. First, SVA's National Conference planning committee began coordinating the details of this event in February 2011. Initially, the staff conducted an exhaustive vetting process to determine the ideal location. Some of the factors that were considered included: cost, availability, transportation, capacity, academic calendar, location of previous events, seminar potential, requirements, availability of support, average travel costs, appeal, time needed to plan, etc. Therefore, with all these factors in mind, the Rio Hotel & Casino's facilities were selected, for that weekend. Inevitably, some student veterans will have conflicts during this weekend (i.e. exams, papers due, work, drill, etc.); however, this would have been the case no matter what time was selected. Additionally, the Rio's package, combined with Las Vegas' infrastructure made this the most affordable option for chapters travelling on limited budgets. Therefore, this was the best option for our organization.

## REGISTRATION

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### Website

SVA has established a conference [webpage](#) for this event. On this site, SVA will post the most current agenda as the details are finalized. This website has the registration form and you can visit by clicking the *Register Now!* button.

### Registration

People wishing to attend the national conference will need to complete and submit this online registration form. You can add additional guests on the same registration, or have each person register individually. This event is open to the general public, however there are some portions of business which are closed to non-members (i.e. elections). Once you have registered, you cannot log back into the system with your email. If you need another confirmation or edit any of your information, you must contact Gerald Kapinos directly at [gerald.kapinos@studentveterans.org](mailto:gerald.kapinos@studentveterans.org). DO NOT REGISTER TWICE. All registered guests will be listed on a roster at check in, and thus you do not need a physical ticket.

### Payment

You will also need to pay the registration fee. There are two rates offered for this event: *Member* and *Non-member*. The Member rate is for any person associated with an official SVA Chapter and it is \$35.00 per person. The Non-member fee is for everyone else and is \$60.00 per person. There are two choices of payment methods: online or check. If you choose online, you will be directed to SVA's PayPal secure transaction system. If you wish to send a check or money order, you must do so to the address provide before December 1, 2011. All sales are final, and there will not be any refunds.



# LODGING

## Rio Hotel & Casino

SVA has reserved a block of 150 single or double occupancy rooms at the Rio Hotel & Casino for the base rate of \$59.00 per room, per night. This rate is also subject to all applicable taxes, which is currently 12%. Additional person(s) for each room will be charged an additional \$30.00 per person with a maximum capacity of four people per room (this only applies to rooms with 3 or 4 people). These rooms will be available until November 17, 2011; after which time the remaining rooms will be released to the general public.

You have to make your reservations directly with the Rio. To do so, you can call the Rio at 1(888) 746-6955 on or before November 17, 2011. You must identify yourself as part of the "SVA National Conference" to receive our special rate. Your reservation must be guaranteed with a deposit for the first night's guestroom and tax charge. If your reservation is guaranteed with a credit card, the first night's guestroom and tax charge, per guestroom, will be billed immediately to the cardholder's account.



The Rio allows individual cancellations without penalty up to 72 hours prior to your scheduled arrival date. The Rio will charge you one night's guaranteed guestroom rate plus tax for cancellation within 72 hours of the scheduled arrival date or failure to check-in on the

scheduled arrival date. Any remaining nights of a "no-show" reservation will be canceled. It is the Rio's policy to require a credit card or cash deposit for incidental charges.



The Rio accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, or Diners Club cards. Check-in time is 4:00pm and check-out time is 11:00am. Any departures after 11:00am are subject to the full day charge. Each guestroom must have at least one registered guest, twenty-one (21) years of age or older.



# TRANSPORTATION

## Driving

Las Vegas is located near the southern tip of Nevada. The main interstate that runs through Las Vegas is I-15. The Rio Hotel & Casino is adjacent to Exit 38-Flamingo Road, west of I-15. There is parking available on the property which is free of charge. The address for the hotel is:

Rio All Suite Hotel & Casino  
3700 W. Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89103



## McCarran Airport (LAS)

The most convenient method of travel to Las Vegas is by flying into the McCarran Airport (LAS). 44 million travelers flew in and out of McCarran last year, and its location next to the strip has made travelling to Las Vegas user friendly. After arrival, there are a variety of methods of ground transportation for you to use. The Rio Hotel & Casino **does not** have an airport shuttle. There are a variety of ground transportation options to and from McCarran Airport detailed in the following paragraphs.

## Shuttle

The most economical method to get from the airport to the hotels and back is private shuttles. There are a number of companies which offer this service. [CLICK HERE](#) to visit McCarran's webpage concerning these. The Rio is considered "off-strip", so the average cost would be approximately \$8.00 per person one way, and \$15.00 per person round trip. The webpage has all the information concerning these shuttles. Be advised, these shuttles run routes between various locations, and they are popular, so please allow yourself enough time for transit.

## Taxi & Limos

There are a number of taxis and limos for hire in Las Vegas. If your group is bringing a large number of people (more than 4), then it may be more economical to rent a limo. [CLICK HERE](#) for information concerning this method.

## Bus

There is a Greyhound Bus Terminal located in downtown Las Vegas. This is another option for your travel. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information concerning this type of service. Beware, the bus terminal is over 5 miles away from the Rio. The address for the terminal is:

200 South Main Street  
Las Vegas, NV 89101



## Train

There is no train station in or near Las Vegas. Amtrak does offer service to Las Vegas via a train and bus combination. Depending on where you are coming from, Amtrak will get you to the nearest train station, then have you board a bus for the remainder of the trip. In most cases, the nearest train station is Salt Lake City, UT; which is approximately 500 miles from Las Vegas. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information about this mode of travel.

## Monorails & Trams

Within the Las Vegas strip, there are a number of public transportation options to get you between the different properties, such as the Las Vegas Monorail and a few inter casino trams. The Las Vegas Monorail is located on the east side of Las Vegas Blvd and travels between the MGM Grand and Sahara Ave with five stops in between. To ride the LV Monorail, riders must purchase a ticket. The LV Monorail's [website](#) has all the pertinent information including maps, station locations, and ticket prices. We've also included a map in this packet showing the monorail's location with respect to the other options.



In addition to the LV Monorail, there are also three inter casino trams. All three of these trams are located on the west side of Las Vegas Blvd. Unlike the monorail, these are free to use. However, they are limited in their travel and will only transport you between a couple properties. We've included a map showing the trams locations and routes. Below is the list of trams available and their details:

- ❖ Mirage-Treasure Island Tram: It runs approximately every 15 minutes between the hours of 7am and 2am daily.
- ❖ Bellagio-City Center-Monte Carlo Tram: It runs approximately every 4 to 7 minutes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- ❖ Excalibur-Mandalay Bay Tram: This tram varies depending on which property you start at. If you start at Excalibur and head south, it will only transport you to Mandalay Bay. If you start at Mandalay Bay heading north, it will stop at Luxor and Excalibur. It runs approximately every 3 to 7 minutes, between 7am and 10:30pm daily.

## Public Bus/Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

The city of Las Vegas operates a public transportation system called the Regional Transit Commission (RTC). There are a variety of different options to get you in and around Las Vegas during the conference. There are varying prices for varying services. Please visit the RTC's [brochure](#) or their [website](#) for more detailed information.

## Rio's Strip Shuttle

The Rio has a shuttle service they operate between Harrah's and the Rio. This free shuttle has a pick up near the entrance to the Carnival World Buffet. The shuttle operates approximately every 30 minutes, between 10:00am and 1:00am daily. Beware, no luggage is allowed on a shuttle bus. Please visit the Rio's [website](#) for more information.



# CONFERENCE DETAILS

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## **Career Fair**

On Friday afternoon, December 9, 2011 SVA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will host a *Career Fair*. This event will feature numerous employers from various sectors across the country who are looking to hire veterans. Each employer will have an exhibit table and it will be staffed by hiring managers and recruiters. Attendees are encouraged to bring multiple copies of their resume to hand out during this session. Student veterans not graduating immediately can benefit from this session as it may increase their network and pave the way for finding employment when they are ready to graduate. Additionally, these employers can answer questions and help student veterans prepare for success post graduation. Beware, attendees are free to peruse the *Career Fair* at their leisure, however it may end early if the interest declines. Afterward, attendees will be free until Saturday morning.

## **Elections**

There are three positions that will be determined by election at the 2011 SVA National Conference. They are the President, Vice President, and Secretary. In accordance with SVA policy and governing documents, each official SVA chapter in good standing may have one delegate vote for each of these positions. Chapters need not send a delegate to cast a vote, however chapters sending an official representative will have the opportunity to vote in-person at the conference.

Student veterans interested in running for a national office position, must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a student veteran and a member of an official SVA chapter
2. Must have at least one semester (or equivalent) remaining prior to graduation
3. The candidate can be either a veteran or actively serving in any branch/component of the U.S. Armed Forces.
4. Must be a currently enrolled student (half time or greater) at an institution of higher learning
5. Must have a GPA equal to or greater than 2.5 (4.0 scale)

Persons meeting the above criteria and interested in declaring their candidacy, must do so by completing the candidate declaration form online. This form will be available online and will be accepted between October 27, 2011 and November 24, 2011. All candidate declarations will be reviewed by the SVA *Election Commission* to determine eligibility. SVA will then consolidate the candidates' information and create candidate profiles which will be posted on SVA's [website](#) starting November 28, 2011 until the polls have closed.

All candidates will compete against each other. The candidate receiving the most votes will be declared President, the candidate with the second most votes will be Vice President, and the



candidate with the third most votes will be declared Secretary. Ties will be decided by the *Election Commission*. Write-in candidates are not authorized.

### **Awards**

As in years past, SVA's 4th Annual National Conference will have a period of reflection and recognition. This will take place during Saturday's banquet where SVA will present three awards detailed below. Each of these awards has specific criteria and all chapters are encouraged to compete for one or all of these categories. SVA has created an online application procedure for each of these awards which will close on November 1, 2011. Below are the links for each of the award categories and the winners will be announced at the Banquet on Saturday.

- ❖ [Best Chapter Program](#): this award is for a chapter with a specific program that is innovative and addresses a specific issue or problem faced by student veterans on a particular campus. The program should have a clearly defined problem, contain detailed components, and have specific measurable results or impact that contributes to the overall SVA mission of helping fellow student veterans be successful during their academic pursuits.
- ❖ [Student Veteran of the Year](#): this award is for the individual who best exemplifies the mission of SVA. He or she works tirelessly to ensure that their fellow student veterans have the best opportunity to attain their goals in higher education and the workforce beyond.
- ❖ [SVA Chapter of the Year](#): this award is for the chapter that goes above and beyond to ensure that its members are successfully integrated into their college or university. This extraordinary chapter works with their college or university officials and other student groups to foster a sense of belonging on campus, allowing its members to succeed both in and out of the classroom.

### **Food**

The only meal that will be provided for the 2011 SVA National Conference will be on Saturday evening's banquet. Otherwise, food will be the attendees' responsibility. The Rio has a variety of dining [options](#) available as well as other properties in and around the strip area.

### **Conduct & Safety**

As always, SVA expects its members to act in a professional and courtesy manner. Inappropriate behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Las Vegas can be a fun and exciting town, but contrary to popular belief, there are rules. Las Vegas is virtually no different from anywhere else, with the exception of having lots of entertainment options. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department has a [pamphlet](#) and [website](#) for tourists coming to Las Vegas. Please remember, you will be accountable for your actions. With that being said, this should be our best conference yet, and please join us for this exciting event!





# LAS VEGAS MAP





# LAS VEGAS TRANS MAP



- 1: Rio
- 2: Stratesphere
- 3: Palace Station
- 4: Circus Circus
- 5: Rivera
- 6: Hilton
- 7: Trump
- 8: Fashion Show Mall
- 9: Wynn
- 10: Treasure Island
- 11: Palazzo
- 12: Mirage
- 13: Venetian
- 14: Harrah's
- 15: Imperial Palace
- 16: Caesar's Palace
- 17: Flamingo
- 18: Bellagio
- 19: Bally's
- 20: Paris
- 21: Cosmopolitan
- 22: Planet Hollywood
- 23: Aria
- 24: Crystals
- 25: Monte Carlo
- 26: New York, NY
- 27: MGM
- 28: Excalibur
- 29: Tropicana
- 30: Luxor
- 31: Mandalay Bay

- Tram & Strip Shuttle
- █ LV Monorail
- █ Casino Tram
- █ Casino Tram
- █ Casino Tram
- █ Rio Shuttle Bus
- Station/Stop
- # Property





# RIO HOTEL & CASINO MAP



### Carnival World

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Rio Shuttles to Harrah's and Paris & Bally's | 3. Rio 300 Zone       |
| 2. Carnival World Buffet                        | 4. Poker Room         |
|   | 5. Race & Sports Book |

### Ipanema Court

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 6. All American Bar & Grille     | 12. Sports Deli                                   |
| 7. Hotel Security / Lost & Found | 13. Mah Jong Chinese Kitchen                      |
| 8. Rio Logo Gift Shop            | 14. Front Desk / Hotel Registration / Car Rentals |
| 9. Starbucks Coffee              | 15. Box Office / Concierge                        |
| 10. Main Casino Cashier          | 16. VIP Registration                              |
| 11. IBar Ultra Lounge            | 17. Total Rewards Center                          |

### Convention Way

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 18. Búzios Seafood                      | 37. Jaguar Room   |
| 19. Promotions Registration             | 38. Palma Room    |
| 20. São Paulo Cafe                      | 39. Tropical Room |
| 21. Starbucks Coffee                    | 40. Salsa Room    |
| 22. Penn & Teller Theater               | 41. Choro Room    |
| 23. Rio Spa & Salon                     | 42. Brasilia Room |
| 24. Penn & Teller Box Office            | 43. Miranda Room  |
| 25. Belize Room                         |                   |
| 26. Pavilion Florist                    |                   |
| 27. Business Services, Catering & Sales |                   |
| 29. Janeiro Boardroom                   |                   |
| 30. Flamengo Boardroom                  |                   |
| 31. Rio Pavilion                        |                   |
| 32. Tango Room                          |                   |
| 33. Conga Room                          |                   |
| 34. Lambada Room                        |                   |
| 35. Amazon Room                         |                   |
| 36. Coco Room                           |                   |

### Masquerade Village

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 44. Shutters Bar               | 56. Masquerade Bar  |
| 45. High Limit Tables          | 57. Keno  |
| 46. Gaylord India Restaurant   | 58. Martorano's   |
| 47. High Limit Slots           | 59. Wetzel's Pretzels   |
| 48. Diamond Lounge Elevator    | 60. Chippendales Theatre  |
| 49. Crown Nightclub            | 61. Flirt Lounge  |
| 50. The Wine Cellar            | 62. Chippendales Boutique                                       |
| 51. Village Bar                | 63. Vince Neil Ink  |
| 52. Village Seafood Buffet     | 64. VooDoo Steak & Lounge (take elevator to 50th & 51st floors) |
| 53. Hamada's Asiana Restaurant |   |
| 54. McFadden's Restaurant      |   |
| 55. Rio Java                   |   |

Masquerade Village Shopping Area

