

Chapter 6

State Conventions



1936 Convention in Roanoke

State Conventions

One of the major activities of the Association since its inception has been the Annual Convention. In the early years, the event was one or two days with local squads serving as the host for the meeting. The Board of Governors would meet to conduct the business, first aid contests would be held and a parade would take place in the host city.

For the first 15 years of the Association, most of the Conventions were held within a one hour drive of Roanoke. But during the 1950's, the meetings began to move around the state with local squads bidding to host the event.

The first Convention held in Virginia Beach was in 1961 and since that time the majority of Conventions have been at the beach with only occasional returns to Roanoke.

Attendance at the event grew from less than 100 attending in the early days, to the early 1970's, when over 2,000 members and guests would attend the Convention. Squads would send large delegations to participate in the various contests held during the convention. The Awards Banquet on Saturday night was one of the highlights of the Convention when the results of the many competitions for the year were announced. In 1978, due to increased costs the banquet became an optional event and in 2005 it was eliminated.

Trophies are presented in multiple categories to recognize the outstanding competition teams. In the early years, the only contest was in first aid with all teams competing at one time in a large parking lot. Local American Red Cross instructors were recruited to help with judging the contests. Equipment judging was added in the 1950's to display the various ambulance conversions. In the early years, standard vehicles were converted to ambulance-

es and squads liked to show off their work at the Convention. For many years, the Virginia Truckers Association provided most of the trophies for the Convention. Today over 50 trophies are presented to recognize "Virginia's Finest" in the annual competitions.

Following is a summary of the Convention dates and locations. One of the most interesting facts about the convention history has to do with the numbering of the Conventions. Due to World War II, no Convention was held in 1945, but the BOG met on September 25, 1945 at Virginia Bridge Company to conduct business and elect officers. The subsequent minutes referred to the 1946 Convention as #11 and not #12. This numbering system that skipped 1945 continued until the 1980's when the 1945 meeting was again counted as a Convention. In any event, 2009 will mark the 75th meeting of the Board of Governors of the Association.

	Year	Date	Location	Chairman
1	1935	September 28	Lynchburg	
The meeting was held on Saturday, September 28th beginning at 9:00 AM and concluding after the Banquet on Saturday night. The business session was held at the Elks Club with the parade held at 2:00 PM and first aid demonstrations held at 3:00 PM. The banquet and dance was held at 7:30 PM.				
2	1936	September 26	Roanoke	
The meeting was held on Saturday, September 26 at the Hotel Patrick Henry. The banquet speaker was Judge Harris S. Birchfield, Roanoke Traffic and Police Court.				
3	1937	September 25	Covington	
The meeting was held on Saturday, September 25 at the Collins Hotel in Covington. The parade was held in the afternoon followed by the first aid contest.				
4	1938	September 24	Salem	
5	1939	September 29-30	Alexandria	LeDru P. Strobel
The meeting was held at Virginia Public Service Company auditorium. The banquet speaker was Dr. Roy Lyman Sexton, Chair, DC Chapter, American Red Cross.				
6	1940	September 29-30	Lynchburg	
7	1941	September 26-27	Roanoke	
8	1942	September 26	Roanoke	
9	1943	September 25	Lynchburg	
10	1944	September 29-30	Alexandria	
The meeting was held at the George Mason Hotel. BOG meeting began on Friday night and continued on Saturday morning. Saturday night banquet was held at River Bend Club.				
11	1945	September 25	Virginia Bridge	
(Due to the war, no Convention was held, but the BOG met on September 25th at the Virginia Bridge Company to conduct business and elect officers. The subsequent minutes referred to the 1946 Convention as #11 and not #12. This numbering system that skipped 1945 continued until the 1980's when 1945 meeting was again counted as a Convention.)				
12	1946	October 18-19	Natural Bridge	
13	1947	September 12-13	Clifton Forge	J. W. M. Paxton
14	1948	September 10-11	Petersburg	

15	1949	September 23-24	Lynchburg	
16	1950	September 29-30	Bristol	
The meeting was held at the General Shelby Hotel. The Banquet speaker was Dr. Marcellus Johnson. Public demonstration of first aid techniques was held on Saturday afternoon.				
17	1951	September 28-29	Roanoke	
18	1952	September 26-29	Fredericksburg	
The guest speaker at the Convention was Governor John S. Battle.				
19	1953	September 25-26	Danville	
20	1954	September 23-25	Abingdon	
The meeting was held at the Martha Washington Inn. The parade was held on Saturday afternoon and the first aid contest was held at 3:00 PM on Saturday.				
21	1955	September 22-24	Virginia Beach	
22	1956	September 28-29	Lynchburg	
23	1957	September 27-28	Richmond	
24	1958	September 20-21	Natural Bridge	
25	1959	September 25-26	Bristol	
Silver Anniversary				
26	1960	September 23-24	Fredericksburg	W. B. Billingsley
The meeting began with the Board of Governors meeting on Friday morning. Get Acquainted Party held on Friday night, Parade at Noon on Saturday, and First Aid Contest on Saturday afternoon.				
27	1961	September 29-30	Virginia Beach	
28	1962	September 28-29	Danville	
The meeting began with business meeting on Friday morning and parade at Noon on Saturday.				
29	1963	September 27-28	Richmond	
30	1964	September 25-27	Winchester	William R. Meadows
The meeting began with business meeting on Friday morning, parade on Friday night. The speaker at the Saturday night banquet was Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr.				

- 31 1965 September 23-25 Natural Bridge
The meeting began with the Official Opening on Friday morning. The banquet speaker on Saturday night was Wert Faulkner, Former General Manager, James Lees & Sons Company. The parade was held on Saturday afternoon.
- 32 1966 September 29-Oct 1 Roanoke Gaines Hughes
The meeting was held at the Hotel Roanoke. The banquet speaker was Reverend Harry Gamble, minister at Calvary Baptist Church.
- 33 1967 September 28-30 Virginia Beach Marvin R. Hines
The guest speaker at the Saturday night banquet was Joseph L. Yon, Rear Admiral, Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital, Portsmouth and Burton P. Short of the Virginia Highway Builders Association installed the officers.
- 34 1968 September 12-14 Richmond L. E. Phillips, Jr.
The meeting began with the Official Opening Ceremony on Thursday night. The First Aid Contest was held on Saturday afternoon with all teams competing at one time. The guest speaker at the Opening was Phil J. Bagley, Jr., Mayor, City of Richmond.
- 35 1969 Aug 21-23 Roanoke John A. Garrett
The meeting began with the Official Opening Ceremony on Thursday night. The guest Speaker was Gordon S. Krueger, Director, Canadian Red Cross Society. The Banquet speaker on Saturday night was John T. Hanna, Director, Virginia Highway Safety Division. Many members left the Convention to assist with rescue efforts in Nelson County following the destruction left by Hurricane Camille that struck on August 19, 1969.
- 36 1970 September 24-26 Virginia Beach Marvin R. Hines
The meeting began with the Official Opening Ceremony on Thursday night. The guest Speaker was Frank A. Busch, Manager of Virginia Beach. There was no Banquet speaker on Saturday night.
- 37 1971 September 23-25 Virginia Beach Marvin R. Hines
The meeting began with the Official Opening Ceremony on Thursday night. The guest Speaker was Donald Rhodes, Mayor of Virginia Beach.
- 38 1972 September 28-30 Roanoke William H. Baker
The meeting began with the Official Opening Ceremony on Thursday night, with Roy Webber, Mayor, City of Roanoke. The banquet speaker on Saturday night was Ross Hersey, "King of the Shaggy Dog Story."
- 39 1973 September 27-29 Virginia Beach Glenn Puhle
The Board of Governors meeting began on Thursday morning with the Official Opening held on Thursday night. Medical Seminars were held on Friday afternoon and the parade was held on Friday night. Convention registration fee was \$12 and included the banquet.

40 1974 September 5-7 Roanoke RonBrubeck&BillBaker
The Board of Governors meeting began on Thursday morning with the Official Opening held on Thursday night. Medical Seminars were held on Friday afternoon and the parade held on Friday night.

41 1975 September 25-27 Richmond L. E. "Buddy" Phillips, Jr.
The guest Speaker at the Opening on Thursday night was Attorney General Andrew P. Miller

42 1976 September 22-26 Roanoke Ben Franklin, III
The guest Speaker at the Opening on Thursday night was Attorney General Andrew P. Miller

43 1977 September 21-25 Richmond L. E. "Buddy" Phillips, Jr.
The Board of Governors meeting was held on Thursday afternoon and the Official Opening on Thursday night. The guest speaker was Charles W. Gunn, Jr., Ninth House District.

44 1978 September 20-24 Roanoke G. Kenneth Morgan
The Board of Governors meeting was held on Thursday afternoon and the Official Opening on Thursday night. The guest speaker was Charles W. Gunn, Jr., Ninth House District.

45 1979 September 26-30 Roanoke A. Page Entsminger
The guest Speaker at Opening on Thursday night, Lieutenant Governor Chuck Robb.

46 1980 September 18-20 Virginia Beach A. Page Entsminger
The guest Speaker at Opening on Thursday night was Governor Mills Godwin.

47 1981 September 24-26 Roanoke John Fray
The guest Speaker at Opening on Thursday night, Daniel W. Bird, Jr., 38th Senate District.

(From 1945 until 1981, convention numbering skipped 1945. The 1981 Convention showed #47 in the promotion materials and subsequent issues counted the 1945 meeting as a Convention.)

48 1982 September 23-25 Virginia Beach John Fray & J. C. Phillips
The guest Speaker at Opening on Thursday night, Elmon T. Gray, 16th Senate District.

49 1983 September 22-24 Virginia Beach J. C. Phillips
The guest Speaker at Opening on Thursday night, John T. Hanna, Director, Virginia Department of Transportation Safety.

50 1984 September 27-29 Roanoke J. C. Phillips
Golden Anniversary. The guest speaker for the Opening on Thursday night was Attorney General Gerald L. Baliles.

- 51 1985 September 26-28 Virginia Beach Carey Harvey Cutter, Jr.
The attendees gathered in Virginia Beach, but the Convention was cancelled on Thursday morning when the Governor ordered an evacuation of the city due to Hurricane Gloria. A meeting was convened several weeks later in Staunton to handle the official business.
- 52 1986 September 25-27 Virginia Beach Carey Harvey Cutter, Jr.
The guest speaker at the Opening on Thursday night was Reverend Jerry Falwell.
- 53 1987 September 23-26 Roanoke Carey Harvey Cutter, Jr.
The guest speaker at the Opening on Thursday night was Attorney General Mary Sue Terry.
- 54 1988 September 21-24 Virginia Beach L. E. Phillips, Jr. & Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Thursday night was former Governor, "Chuck" Robb.
- 55 1989 September 27-30 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt & John Fray
The guest speaker at the Opening on Thursday night was Reverend Jerry Falwell. On Friday morning at the Board of Governors, Governor Gerald Baliles spoke.
- 56 1990 September 26-29 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Thursday night was State Senator Virgil H. Goode, Jr.
- 57 1991 September 18-21 Roanoke Ford Wirt
- 58 1992 September 23-26 Virginia Beach Carroll R. Hawkes
The guest speaker at the Opening was C. Richard Cranwell, State Delegate, 14th District
- 59 1993 September 22-25 Virginia Beach Carroll R. Hawkes
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Delegate Lacey E. Putney, 19th District.
- 60 1994 September 28-Oct 1 Virginia Beach James P. McGuire
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Colonel Carl Baker, Superintendent of State Police.
- 61 1995 September 20-23 Roanoke James P. McGuire
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was C. Richard Cranwell, State Delegate, 14th District.
- 62 1996 September 25-28 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Lieutenant Governor Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
- 63 1997 September 24-29 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Delegate Lacey E. Putney, 19th District.

- 64 1998 September 23-26 Roanoke Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Delegate Ward L. Armstrong, 11th District.
- 65 1999 September 22-25 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Virginia Delegate Bobby Orrock.
- 66 2000 September 27-30 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker for the Opening was Honorable Meyera Oberndorf, Mayor of Virginia Beach.
- 67 2001 September 27-29 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker for the Opening on Thursday night was Honorable Will Sessoms, Vice Mayor of Virginia Beach.
- 68 2002 September 26-28 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest Speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was David B. Palmer, Chairman, Virginia State EMS Advisory Board.
- 69 2003 September 24-27 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker for the Opening on Thursday night was Gary Brown, Director, Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services.
- 70 2004 September 22-25 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Captain Frank Aucremanne, USN, Chief of Staff, Navy Mid-Atlantic Region.
- 71 2005 September 21-24 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Honorable Meyera Oberndorf, Mayor of Virginia Beach.
- 72 2006 September 27-30 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Honorable Meyera Oberndorf, Mayor of Virginia Beach.
- 73 2007 September 26-29 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Honorable Meyera Oberndorf, Mayor of Virginia Beach.
- 74 2008 September 24-27 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Wednesday night was Dr. Karen Remley, Commissioner of Health for the Virginia Department of Health.
- 75 2009 September 23-26 Virginia Beach Ford Wirt
The guest speaker at the Opening on Thursday night was VAVRS Past President, Ken Morgan.
Diamond Anniversary