



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF FIRST RESPONDERS

STRONGER TOGETHER. ALWAYS READY

VAFR NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & DEADLINES – JANUARY 2, 2026

A New Year. A Stronger Voice for Virginia's First Responders.

As we begin a new year, the Virginia Association of First Responders continues its mission to support, educate, and advocate for all first responders across the Commonwealth.

2026 is a pivotal year for the Association, marked by growth, expanded training opportunities, and a renewed commitment to representing all of Virginia's First Responders

Communications Partnership Announcement

VAFR has formally signed an agreement with Sara Hunt PR Firm, who will partner with the VAFR Communications Committee to help carry out and implement the Association's communications plan.

This partnership will strengthen VAFR's public messaging, advocacy efforts, media outreach, and overall visibility as we continue expanding our voice for first responders across the Commonwealth. If you have a background in marketing or social media and would like to serve on the communications committee, please email wesleymelson@vafr.org.

EMS for Children Training Weekend

January 10–11 | VAFR Office – Oilville, VA

The VAFR is hosting an EMS for Children Training Weekend focused on high-risk, low-frequency pediatric emergencies.

- ✓ BLS & ALS continuing education
- ✓ Pediatric assessment and decision-making
- ✓ Designed for real-world EMS providers

🔗 **Register now:** www.vafr.org

📍 2535 Turkey Creek Road
Oilville, VA 23129

☎ Phone: (804) 749-8191
Fax: (804) 749-8910

✉ vafr@vafr.org



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EMS Day at the Legislature – January 21, 2026 – 9:00am

VAFR members and partners are invited to attend EMS Day at the Legislature on Tuesday, January 21, 2026, as we advocate for Virginia's first responders during the current session of the Virginia General Assembly.

 Location: General Assembly Building
1000 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23219 - Room: 7th Floor – North Meeting Room

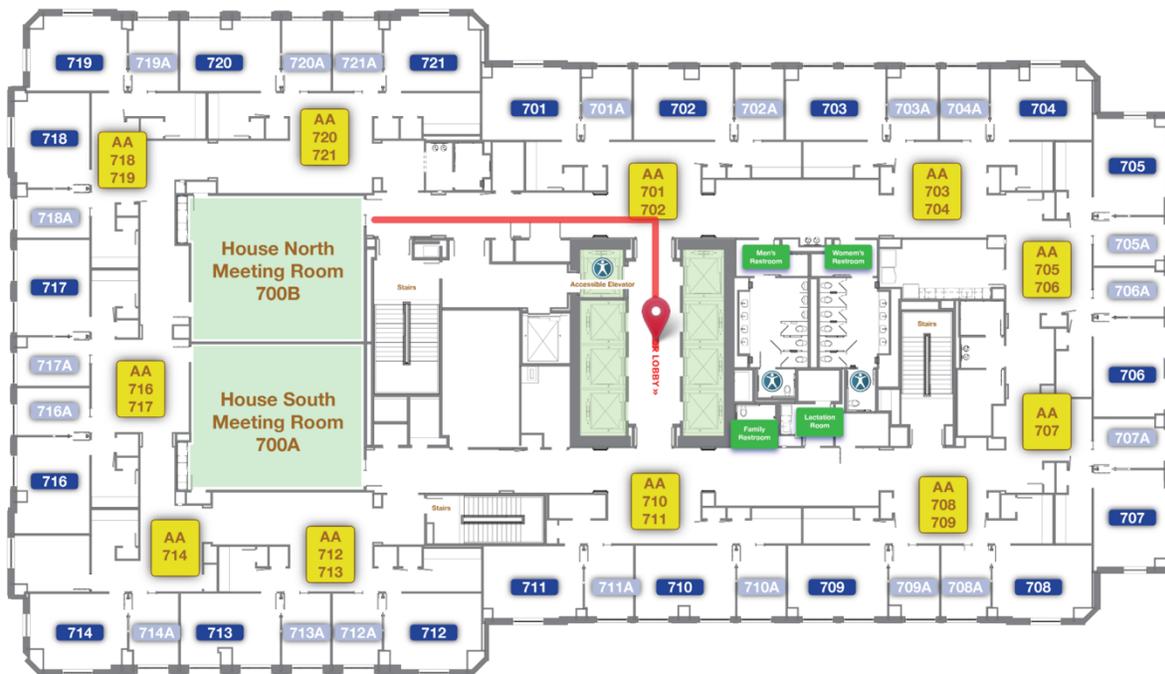
Entry & Security:

- Allow 15 minutes for parking, walking, and security
- Photo ID required
- Entry through the Broad Street Visitors Entrance only

Parking:

- No on-site parking
- Metered street parking nearby
- Paid parking available at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parking Lot

 RSVP: angelridesfxbg@gmail.com - (VAA President Tanya Ison)



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2026 Membership Dues Reminder

Membership dues for 2026 will be mailed in early January.

Dues Deadline: March 15, 2026

Timely renewal ensures uninterrupted access to:

- Training and continuing education opportunities
- Legislative advocacy and representation
- Member programs, benefits, and events
- Association communications and updates

State EMS Advisory Board Meeting – February 6, 2026

The State EMS Advisory Board will meet on Friday, February 6 at 10:00 AM. The meeting will be held in person in Hanover County at 7093 Broad Neck Road. A virtual observation option will be available, with connection details released closer to the meeting date.

VAFR EVOC Instructor Update

VAFR is offering multiple EVOC Instructor Update courses across the Commonwealth in January and February 2026. Register at www.vafr.org

- **Jan 10th 9:00 - 12:00** – Lynchburg, VA
- **Jan 17th 11:00–1:00** – Castlewood, VA
- **Jan 24th 0:00–12:00** – Oilville, VA (VAFR State Office)
- **Jan 24th 1:00–3:00** – Oilville, VA (VAFR State Office)
- **Feb 7th 9:00–11:00** – Pearisburg, VA
- **Feb 7 10:00–12:00** – Williamsburg, VA
- **Feb 7th 1:00–3:00** – Riner, VA
- **Feb 8th 10:00–12:00** – Locust Grove, VA

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Plan Ahead - VAFR's 2026–2027 Signature Events

If you're looking for meaningful training, valuable connections, and time to step back and recharge with fellow first responders from across Virginia, VAFR's upcoming Board of Governors meetings and Conventions are opportunities you won't want to miss. These events continue to be built around practical education, collaboration, and community, with formats designed to respect your time and maximize value.

Spring Board of Governors (BOG) – March 20–23, 2026 - Charlottesville, VA

The Spring BOG brings together agency leaders, instructors, and members for focused training, important association business, and time to connect outside the classroom. Hosted in beautiful Charlottesville, this weekend blends productive sessions with a relaxed setting ideal for conversation and collaboration.

Training will be held:

- Friday (full day)
- Saturday (full day)
- Sunday (half day)

 DoubleTree by Hilton – Charlottesville

 Room block link coming early January 2026

VAFR Convention – October 8–11, 2026 - Harrisonburg, VA

The VAFR Convention continues to be our largest annual gathering of first responders from across the Commonwealth. Using the same successful format as last year, the 2026 Convention will offer multiple training tracks, networking opportunities, and time to engage with peers facing the same challenges you are.

Training will be held:

- Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (full days)
- Sunday (half day)

Dedicated training tracks include:

- EMS / Rescue
- Fire
- Law Enforcement

 Hotel Madison – Harrisonburg

 Room reservations open March 2026

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Looking Ahead: VAFR Convention – 2027 - September 30 – October 3, 2027, | Spotsylvania, VA

We're excited to share an early look at our 2027 Convention, which will be hosted at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center. This family-friendly venue allows us to continue delivering high-quality training while offering an outstanding destination experience for attendees.

The event will follow the same proven format, with full training days Thursday through Saturday and a half-day Sunday, along with tracks for EMS/Rescue, Fire, and Law Enforcement.

 Kalahari Resort and Convention Center – Spotsylvania

 Room reservations available early 2027

 Mark your calendars now — more details on registration, instructors, and course offerings will be shared as each event approaches. Whether you're attending for education, leadership development, or simply to reconnect with the VAFR community, we look forward to seeing you there.

- **February 1:** 1st Annual Virginia First Responder Symposium brochure released
- **February 6:** Virginia EMS Advisory Board Meeting - Hanover, VA
- **February 7:** VAFR Board of Directors Meeting – Zoom
- **March 15:** 1st Annual Virginia First Symposium registration opens
- **March 20 – 22:** VAFR Spring BOG – Charlottesville, VA
- **June 12 - 21:** 1st Annual Virginia First Responder Symposium – Blacksburg, VA
- **July 31 – August 2:** VAFR Camporee – Natural Bridge, VA
- **October 8 – 11:** VAFR Annual Convention and Training – Harrisonburg, VA

Call for Presenters – BLS Education Track - VAFR Convention | October 8–11, 2026

VAFR is currently seeking passionate and engaging educators to be part of the BLS education track at the 2026 State Conference.

For more info, contact:

Kayla Cahoon, NRP, FP-C

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 Email: Kayla.Pauley3@gmail.com

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