



NORFOLK & WESTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Convention 2024

June 13-15, Roanoke, West Virginia

Holiday Inn Airport, Roanoke, VA

The N&WHS and your convention hosts would like to invite you to the 2024 N&WHS convention in Roanoke, VA, this year. We will return to Roanoke this year after a long absence due to Covid. The convention will return to the Holiday Inn Airport Convention Center on 3315 Ordway Drive, NW, Roanoke, VA 24017, located just off the Hershberger Road exit on I-581. As with all conventions, please book early, before June, to ensure the best rate and availability of rooms.

As we did last year, our focus is on fellowship and getting together, we will try and organize some outings later, but likely those will be decided at the time.

I want to ask everyone to bring models to the contest.

Last year, we only had four models in total.

If we do not have at least two entries per category, the contest will not occur in that category. So please consider bringing models. Otherwise, the contest will become a bring-and-brag exhibition in the future. If you wish to bring models to display and not enter the contest, there should be room, but I urge you to enter your models.

I have added complete street addresses to the Friday and Saturday events. Bus rental prices have continuously increased, and as with last year, we need to transport ourselves to the events. I also urge everyone to try to carpool.

Roanoke, the Norfolk and Western headquarters, was the epicenter of N&W activities. It was also an essential location for the Virginian, being the eastern end of the electrification. Both railroads maintained huge yards in Roanoke. Sadly, time has continued to reduce and reduce much of the railroad activities in today's Norfolk Southern. But there are still many N&W structures, and most of the tracks remain. We'll be visiting the Virginia Museum of Transportation located in the former N&W freight house and the restored Virginian Roanoke Station at the convention this year.

There are other locations to visit in the area. For instance, you should visit if you haven't seen the O. Winston Link Museum in the former N&W Roanoke passenger station, you should visit.

This year, I have extended an invitation to both the Roanoke Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society, as both groups share a common interest in railroad history in Virginia. To facilitate that, I have offered everyone the same convention prices.

Thursday, June 13

Morning: Registration begins outside the conference rooms at 9:00 AM and should be staffed through the afternoon and early evening; however, there may be a break or two for meals, so if no one is there, check back later. N&WHS Board Meeting will occur this morning.

Afternoon: The afternoon is open for you to railfan around Roanoke on your own or with others arriving early.

Evening: Seminars begin at 7 PM in the Grove Ballroom – Elk Room.

Friday, June 14

Morning: Registration desk will be open from 9:00 to 10:30 for Friday morning arrivals.

Lunch: We have a special lunch planned at the Virginian Station at 11:00. The station is located at 1402 South Jefferson Street, Roanoke. Several active NS tracks are close, so arrive and watch for trains while enjoying a bite to eat. It is suggested that people meet at the registration table at the hotel to carpool to the station, although there is some parking at the station if you wish to drive separately.

Evening: Seminars begin at 7 PM in the Grove Ballroom – Elk Room

There is the Modeling Committee meeting at 9:00 PM

There is the Virginian Interest Group meeting at 10:00 PM

Saturday, June 15

Morning: Registration for latecomers will be open from 9:00 to 10:00 AM

The annual Membership meeting will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 in the Grove Ballroom – Elk Room.

Afternoon: Seminars run from 1:00-3:00 PM in the Grove Ballroom – Elk Room

Dinner

There will be a barbecue on the back platform of the Virginia Museum of Transportation, 303 Norfolk Ave SW, Roanoke.

We had such a good time last time we had a convention in Roanoke, so we decided to do it again. As with the previous time, Wildwood Smokehouse will provide the food. Arrive after 4:00 and tour the museum. The food starts at 5:00.

Evening: Seminars begin at 7:00 PM in the Grove Ballroom – Elk Room

Sunday, June 17

There are no formal activities on Sunday – railfan the area on your way home.

— Steve Summers, Convention Chair

