TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

April, 2023

EDITORS NOTE

Spring is in the air and our Spring Model Railroad Open House is just around the corner. We will need every member to help out. Please set aside some time. Mark your calendar for April 15 & 16, 2023.

We continue to have work sessions on most Tuesday afternoons and all members are welcome to come and help us build our model railroads. Contact Keith for more information or check your email as I post work sessions as soon as I know they are scheduled.

The NMRA Division 2 meeting was well attended and our visitors from the Pittsburgh area seemed well pleased at the progress we have made in such a short time. Let's keep the momentum going!

Finally, annual membership dues are due before March 31, 2023. Please get your dues to Keith as soon as possible.

Remember Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor

Minutes of the March 2, 2023 Business Meeting

Call to order: 7:04 PM, with 12 members in attendance, including 5 officers.

The president asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Lou Lemelle, who passed on February 21st. Lou was a long-time member of the Society and was our immediate past president at the time of his passing. His enthusiasm, generosity and dedication to the hobby and the Society will be missed.

Gary D., MVRRHS president prior to Lou, agreed to assume the immediate past president role on the board of directors.

Minutes of the previous meeting:
Motion by Wally V., second by Bill H. to approve as published in the MVRRHS newsletter. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report (Keith D.):
The Society remains financially stable, with a modest improvement of the bottom line over last month.

Publicity (Rich H.):
Facebook followers remain at a nominal 1,200 with several new followers, likes and shares of recently published photos.

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

April 6, 2023
Business Meeting

Spring Open House
April 15 & 16, 2023
Workers Needed!

May 11, 2023
Business Meeting

June 1, 2023
Business Meeting

July 6, 2023
Business Meeting

August 3, 2023
Business Meeting

August 26 & 27, 2023
Back to School
Open House?
Workers Needed!

Minutes continued from Page 1

We received a $10 donation through our Facebook page. Flyers are ready for the Spring Open House event coming up on April 15th and 16th. Rich will send a PDF copy to members to print and post as appropriate.

Business Express Ad Cars (Eric H.):
Nothing to report. (See the related sub-committee request for exploring new sources of revenue under new business.)

Membership (Rich H.):
Rich emailed eight members who hadn't yet paid, two of whom paid just prior to this meeting. With the loss of Lou Lemelle and two members not renewing, our total membership now stands at 37.

Donations (Rich H.):
Income from the Open House during the Empty Bowls event totaled $140 for sales of used merchandise and monetary donations combined.

Old Business:
Bill H. announced that test track built with the old Digitrax DCC system for testing locomotives is now available for HO, with construction details still in progress. Testing ability for other scales will be available in the future.

New Business:
The president requested the formation of an ad hoc sub-committee tasked with revamping the Ad Car program and brainstorming new avenues for revenue generation. The sub-committee will report back to the membership at the next business meeting. Members of the subcommittee thus far include Eric H., Jon H., and Rich H. Others with fundraising ideas are welcome.

Dave E. inquired about the wooden trestle donated to the Society some years ago, which is reminiscent of a trestle on the PRR near his grandmother's home. The ensuing discussion pointed toward a possible diorama featuring the trestle.

LAYOUTS: O Gauge (Rich H.):
Full operation by the Spring Open House remains the goal for the O scale layout. The O scale team continues to lay track and debug occasional electrical issues. The inside grade is progressing as are the bridge and upper level.

HO Scale:(Richard T.)
The current focus for the HO scale team is the upper level Eleanor mine at Igot over Easton staging. The power bus and drop wires are now installed on the grade leading to the mine. The HO layout is expected to be operational on the lower level and up to the Eleanor mine in time for the NMRA MCR Division II meeting hosted by the MVRRHS on March 19th, 2023. In addition to track laying and wiring, a majority of track has been painted by hand or airbrush. Beyond the Division II event, the HO team hopes to complete the entire upper level in time for the January 1st, 2024 operating session.

N Scale Layout: (Max M.):
The N scale track plan remains under review of operational aspects, but moving closer something presentable to the membership. A budget will be ready for the April business meeting.

Dave E. suggested adding the plexiglass protectors from the old modules to the N scale layout.

For the Good of the Order:
Keith D. reported that a substantial quantity of HO code 83 flex track was salvaged from the former Dick Flock layout for use by the Society.

Bill H. asked that members be more cautious about discarding items that may be saved by others. Some track that he'd been saving for someone was put in the trash recently. Labeling and bagging items to be saved may help avoid misunderstandings. There remains an ongoing need to cull unneeded items.

In the same vein of moving items no longer of value to the Society, the president recommended a date label on sale items to help in sorting those destined for the "free" bin / table.

Keith D. suggested consigning appropriate items to the MCR Rails to Pittsburgh white elephant sale.

Jon H. suggested eBay as another possible channel for moving sale items.

Motion to adjourn by Rich H., with multiple seconds, at 7:41 PM

Eric J. Hopkins,
Secretary MVRRHS

ARTICLES WANTED

Space is available for members to write an article for the newsletter. It may be about your model railroad, a new model you just built or acquired, a railfan trip you recently took or about any railroad related topic. Just type it up and send it to: Rich Henderson, Editor at: [redacted]

Please allow two (2) next newsletter is published.

Mon Valley Railroad
Historical Society
OFFICERS

President
Richard Turton
[redacted]

Kenton Colvin
Cell [redacted]

Secretary
Eric Hopkins
[redacted]

Keith DeVault
[redacted]

Rich Henderson
[redacted]

Gary Deavers
[redacted]

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