

# ***TRAIN OF THOUGHT***

## **MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.**

### **January, 2023**



### ***EDITORS NOTE***

Christmas is over and the New Year is right around the corner. It may even be 2023 by the time you get this newsletter. I hope everyone had a safe & happy holiday season!

Now we are on for Spring. There is a lot of work ahead of us & construction continues on our new HO scale, O gauge & N scale layouts. We sure could use your help. Why not set aside some time to help your fellow members build our model railroads. Working together we can grow closer together as friends and as members. Contact Keith for more information as to when we will be having work sessions and keep checking your email as I post work sessions as soon as I know they are scheduled.

Lastly, annual membership dues come due on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. I will be sending out an email to remind all members so look for it. Remember, your dues help to pay our monthly rent & utilities. Please help us by getting your membership paid ASAP. Thanks!

Remember Model Railroading is Fun!

*Rich Henderson, Editor*



### ***Minutes of the December 1, 2022 Business Meeting***

Vice President Kenton C. called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM, with 17 members attending, including 4 of 5 officers. President Richard T. is recovering from a recent automobile accident.

#### **Minutes of the previous meeting:**

Wally V. moved that the previous meeting's minutes be approved as published in the MVRHRS newsletter; second by Rich H. The motion was approved unanimously without discussion,

#### **Treasurer's report (Keith D.):**

Treasurer Keith D. reviewed our financial status and transactions for the month of November 2022. MVRHRS remains financially sound.

#### **Publicity (Rich H.):**

Flyers for the Christmas Holiday Open House on December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> are available for members to take and distribute. Additional ones will be dropped off at businesses next week (Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>).

Public Service Announcements are out with local broadcasters, public and private school notices go out today and newspaper articles will run December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2*

### ***SCHEDULE of EVENTS***

**January 5, 2023  
Business Meeting**

**February 2, 2023  
Business Meeting**

**March 2, 2023  
Business Meeting**

**NMRA Div. 2 Meeting  
March 19, 2023**

**April 6, 2023  
Business Meeting**

**Spring Open House ??**

**May 4, 2023  
Business Meeting**

**June 1, 2023  
Business Meeting**



*Minutes continued from Page 1*

On Facebook we have 1,200 followers. Mall Christmas tree photos received likes and shares, as did our Open House flyer when posted there. The flyer was posted to multiple group pages.

Call for volunteers: Please sign up for one or both days to crew the Open House.

**Business Express Ad Cars (Eric H.):**

Nothing to report. Michael H. suggested that we run the Business Express currently subscribed Ad Cars during the Open House. Dave E. has the shelves ready in the foyer for a static display of the ad cars.

**Membership (Rich H.):**

New Associate Member candidate Roy Shaffer: Motion to accept from Rich H., second from Gary D. Motion approved unanimously. Welcome Roy!

**Donations:**

\$207 received during the November National Model Railroad Week Open House.

**Old Business:**

OLLI class Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Kenton C.) 10 AM – 12 PM. Volunteers sought for 11AM – noon portion. Several members indicated that they would be there to help.

**Naming Committee Report (Eric H.):**

All major yards and staging areas are now named, as are adjacent communities. This will help clarify future plans and discussions involving specific locations.

**DCC System (Keith D.):**

Our offer for the purchase of the former Dick Flock layout NCE wired DCC system was accepted. Volunteers sought to help in

dismantling the system in order to bring it back to the MVRRHS. A radio communication subsystem may be added later.

**Christmas Open House (Rich H.):** Repeated call to volunteer to crew the Open House. Santa and Mrs. Claus chairs inspected. More cleaning to do before the date.

**New Business:**

(Keith D.)  
Division II Meeting in Morgantown: Date moved to March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Society will open at noon with the business meeting at 2:30 PM.

(Dave E.)

Society materials in unauthorized areas in back of the shop. Need to move under layouts, use or discard.

Open vent fans in the former kitchen area need to be blocked in order to reduce heat loss.

**LAYOUTS: O Gauge (Rich H.):**

Some limited progress over the past couple of weeks. Grades are mostly built. Uncoupling tracks need to be installed. The inside loop will not be in operation during the Open House. (Dave E.): Control panel design in progress. Overall looking good and trains will be running.

**HO Scale:**

Track laying progresses apace in Easton and West Allegheny staging yards. The HO layout is generally looking “railroady”. Focus will shift to switching locations/industries as track laying winds up in the staging areas. The supply of switches on hand remains sufficient, though an inventory is in order once the current scope of work is done. More cork roadbed is needed. The next work session is set for Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The HO layout task force should meet soon to plan the next phase, including a decision on starting the

second level over Easton Staging. Design and testing of a support system for the mostly shallow upper level is needed. Gary D. added that additional wiring is planned, and there is limited workspace available at the West Allegheny Shops.

**N Scale Layout (Wally V.)**

The N scale layout backdrop supports will be used for bulletin boards until the backdrop is installed. Mike H. started a track plan in a model railroad CAD application (AnyRail) with input from Greg M. and Eric M. The aim is to have a plan done within the next one to two months. A repeat of the temporary Kato layout is planned for the Christmas Open House.

**For the Good of the Order:**

Keith D. plans to host an operating session on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 starting at 9 AM. An email announcement will go out soon. Also from Keith: The Railroad Prototype Modelers association will meet at Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, PA next March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Mid-Central Region Convention takes place over May 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>.

Dave E. stated that the concourse O scale layout brought in a significant amount last month, and that routine locomotive maintenance is needed, as well as some scenery updates and cleaning.

Mike H. urged members to identify materials that we need and prepare to discard what’s not foreseeably of use. On a related note, a motion by Mike to release the old dehumidifier to Dave H. A second from Keith D. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

*Eric J. Hopkins,  
Secretary MVRRHS*

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