

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

March, 2023



EDITORS NOTE

March, Spring is almost here.

Most of you already know that Lou Lemelle, past President and long time member has passed. He will be missed by many of us. Lou worked hard to see our society grow & prosper. Now, he is in that great roundhouse in the sky.

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 is on March 19th and we will open our doors at 12 noon for visitors. Also, our Spring Open House is on April 15 & 16 and we need to be able to show the public our progress. Please Help!

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

Remember Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the February 2, 2023 Business Meeting

The president called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM with 4 officers and 10 members attending.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Wally V. moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as published in the Society newsletter, with a second by Max M. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report (Keith D.):

The president relayed the contents of the January financial report for the absent Keith D. The Society remains solvent.

Publicity (Rich H.):

The Society's Facebook page followers continues at 1,200, with likes and shares to recently posted photos, including new structures on the O scale layout and HO scale layout construction photos.

Business Express Ad Cars (Eric H.):

Nothing to report.

Membership (Rich H.):

Dues continue to arrive in the Treasurer's mailbox. Please send your payment to Keith at the address provided in the latest roster, if you haven't already done so.

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**March 2, 2023
Business Meeting**

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

**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**



The deadline to avoid losing your membership and being required to “re-join” the Society is March 31st.

Donations (Rich H.):

A previous model railroad equipment donor presented us with Amtrak O27 passenger cars and a locomotive surplus to his needs. Also, Ken C. reported that he received various train magazines and books from a donor who gives magazines to the Society each year.

Old Business:

The president reported that a new NCE ProCab was purchased and installed, thus providing a backup to our existing one. Bill H. reported that the Society’s old Digitrax system is now installed at the workbench for testing locomotives and programming decoders.

New Business:

Formalizing a previous discussion (1/5/2023), Rich H. moved that the May 4th business meeting be moved to May 11th in order to accommodate the Rails to Pittsburgh 2023 Mid Central Regional Convention (<https://www.keystonedivision.org/convention/index.html>). Second by Ken C., approved unanimously.

Rich H. offered two possible weekends for our spring Open House, and after some discussion moved that we set April 15th and 16th as the dates for this event. Wally V. seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Budget for 2023, from the January 26th board of directors (BOD) meeting. The membership director provided members with summary budget information. The BOD expects a nearly flat budget, with a modest carryover into 2024. Rich H. moved that the membership accept the budget as presented, with Wally V and Ken C. seconding.

Motion approved unanimously.

Increasing donations

Tom K. recommended that we place a see-through receptacle in the lobby that visitors will be unlikely to miss. Richard T. suggested the possibility of tying fund-raising campaigns to specific purposes.

LAYOUTS: O Gauge (Rich H.):

Building construction was a primary focus over the past month, with some track work also accomplished. Several buildings are visible on the layout, and Rich displayed a nice farmhouse at the meeting. Grade work is nearing completion.

HO Scale:(Richard T.)

The upper level benchwork east of Chiefton was built in anticipation of developing a coal mine scene over Easton Staging, with cork roadbed advancing up the branch incline in that direction. Additional drop wires were installed, along with more DCC sockets (Keith D.) Gary D. developed a master numbering plan for every mainline switch, signal, feeder drop and signal block. The HO layout task force plans to meet in the near future.

N Scale Layout: (Max M.):

The N scale committee is closer to a plan centering on a single mainline. Michael H. produced a drawing in AnyRail CAD, a copy of which was passed around at the meeting. Staging space of less than full layout width is proposed to the left of the existing benchwork. The membership indicated general consensus in favor of the concepts presented. The N scale committee now includes Max M., Frank B., Wally V., Dave E., Bill H., Greg M., Michael H. and Eric M.

For the Good of the Order:

Goals for the year adopted by the BOD during the January 26th meeting include a functional HO layout ready for an operating

session by January 1st, 2024, including the expansion of the upper level to a staging area above and west of Chiefton to simulate a mine operation. Similarly, the N scale layout should be functional by the same date. For the O scale layout: Complete track and basic wiring in time for the August Back to School Open House.

Member survey:

The BOD is developing a survey to ascertain alternative ways members can leverage their unique skill sets to improve the Society. Examples may include fundraising or grant writing ideas.

Tom K. recommended that the Society place items slated for the scrapyard (i.e. disposal) on a “Free” table to encourage interest in the hobby.

Please keep members Bill H. and Peter T. in your thoughts as they continue their respective battles with cancer. Bill will undergo radiation therapy in the near future, and Peter is recovering at home from extensive surgery.

Motion to adjourn at 7:57 PM by Rich H., second by Wally V.

*Eric J. Hopkins,
Secretary MVRHRS*



***Mon Valley Railroad
Historical Society
OFFICERS***

President

Richard Turton
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kenton Colvin

Cell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Secretary

Eric Hopkins
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Keith DeVault
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rich Henderson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lou Lemelle
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

<https://MVRRRHS.org>

***Our Society
facebook page:***

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