

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

June, 2024



EDITORS NOTE

Breaking News: Kalmbach Publishing/Media has been sold to Firecrown publishing/media.

Firecrown is owned by Craig Fuller and is based in Tennessee. The building in Milwaukee where Kalmbach was started by A.C. Kalmbach has been sold. But never fear, your Model Railroader, Classic Toy Trains & other magazines are in good hands. Fuller has stated that his company intends to re-build the magazines. He believes it is a long term investment and that "Print" media is making a comeback! People want to sit back and relax and read their favorite publications instead of staring at a screen.

Work sessions continue on Sunday afternoons for O gauge, Monday evenings for the N scale and on Tuesday afternoon for the HO scale layout. Members are welcome to come and help during these work sessions. These are your new model railroads, so come and help!

Our next Open House is on August 24 & 25. Please consider helping. Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the May 2, 2024 Business Meeting

Call to order: 7:00pm by President Richard T.

In attendance: 4 officers and 11 members for a total of 15

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Rich H. moved that the minutes of the previous business meeting on April 4th be approved as published in the May newsletter; motion seconded by Dave T. The motion carried with no opposition and no discussion.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)

(Richard T. filling in for Keith D.): Expenses were less than income for the month of April and the Society remains financially stable and able to meet its obligations.

Publicity: (Rich H.)

Facebook followers now number 1,369 with 11 new for the month. Photos from the recent Spring Open House generated numerous likes, comments and shares.

Fundraising :(Richard T.)

Grant applications are being held until we have heating installation cost estimates from an electrical contractor. Once the estimates are available the plan is to seek funding from at least two sources. Jon H. provided insight into the potential

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**June 6, 2024
Business Meeting**

**July 4, 2024
Business Meeting**

**August 1, 2024
Business Meeting**

**August 24 & 25, 2024
Back to School
Open House
Workers Needed!**

**September 5, 2024
Business Meeting**

**October 3, 2024
Business Meeting**

**National Model Railroad
Month Open House
November ??**



Minutes continued from Page 1

operating expenses due to an unfortunate power company load-based cost structure for small businesses that includes most non-profits. Alternatives to installing the suggested garage style ceiling mount heaters include using free standing 1,500 – 2,000-watt space heaters for another winter and monitoring demand, and a heat pump, which, in addition to cost, requires a drain. Meanwhile, ceiling fans may help with summer cooling and a dehumidifier to protect scenery and benchwork was suggested by Wally V. A heat loss survey and the installation of proper insulation may be in order as well.

Membership: (Rich H.)

John L. submitted his application and received a recommendation from Kenton C. Motion to accept: Jon H.; second by Dave T. the membership present voted to confirm with no opposition and no discussion beyond the candidate introducing himself. The total number of members is now up to 43 across all membership levels and an updated roster is pending.

Donations:

There were no donations reported.

Old Business:

The Spring Open House was a success. Meanwhile, the Back to School Open House dates need to be brought up for a vote. Rich moved that August 24th and 25th be selected with a second from Gary D. The motion carried without opposition and with no further discussion.

Early Head Start visit (Rich H.): Program representatives toured the Society space and are satisfied with arrangements. The Society will host up to 20 3-year-olds along with a similar number of chaperones on Wednesday, May 22nd at 10am. Ken

C. moved to accept the proposed date and arrangements with a second from Wally V. The motion passes unanimously. Rich will issue a call for volunteers and the event will be noted as part of our community support mission.

New Business:

Website updates are needed and will involve coordination among Jon H., Mike H., and Richard T. Web content may be submitted anytime to Jon or Mike. A brief discussion of fall and winter open house events led to proposed dates for the National Model Railroad Month Open House: November 2nd and 3rd, and the Holiday Open House: December 14th and 15th. The dates will be revisited and voted on as Old Business during next month's business meeting.

Jon H. has taken a lead role in updating lighting and other infrastructure aspects of the Society space. The President suggested that a facilities committee would be appropriate and that Jon should serve as it's chairperson, continuing to research solutions and bring proposals to the membership.

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

The yard track is nearly finished, including roadbed and track. Some switch work on sidings remains. More Sculptamold and paint were applied to the outside track. A new Chessie passenger train was on display during the meeting.

HO Scale:

Gary D. reported progress on signals, including a Showcase Miniatures bracket post B&O signal mast, and fiber optics for signal heads. Richard T. reported the fascia is done and a color selection is needed. Scenery construction continues. The underlayment support for the stream in the

peninsula has been roughed in and is ready for additional bracing and fastening in place. It will be overlain with masonry for the stream bed. Bridge design for the Valley Crossing peninsula is in an advanced stage with stone arch spans planned on the mainline and a deck truss and girder viaduct in the works for the branch line where it crosses the main and stream.

N Scale Layout:(MaxMcD.)

The background is now painted, including clouds. Some track issues are now resolved. Wally V. is working on a scenic drop-in unit encompassing the mine camp. Piano wire is needed for switch mechanisms.

For the Good of the Order:

Rich H.: Those attending the Cumberland, MD train show and wanting to carpool will meet at the usual rendezvous point off the Cheat Lake exit.

Gary D.: Mark Stewart of Stew's Structures has a video on YouTube of our recent Open House. Search for Stew's Structures in your web browser and choose his YouTube channel. Once on his channel, look for the Videos link and scroll to find the MVRRHs logo.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhDexRETSYQ>

Max M.: The 30th National N scale Convention is scheduled for June 18th - 23rd in Bethlehem, PA. Search for N scale convention Bethlehem PA or go to <https://www.nationalscaleconvention.com/>.

Motions to adjourn were voiced at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eric J. Hopkins,
Secretary MVRRHs*

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

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Richard Turton

Vice President

Kenton Colvin

Secretary

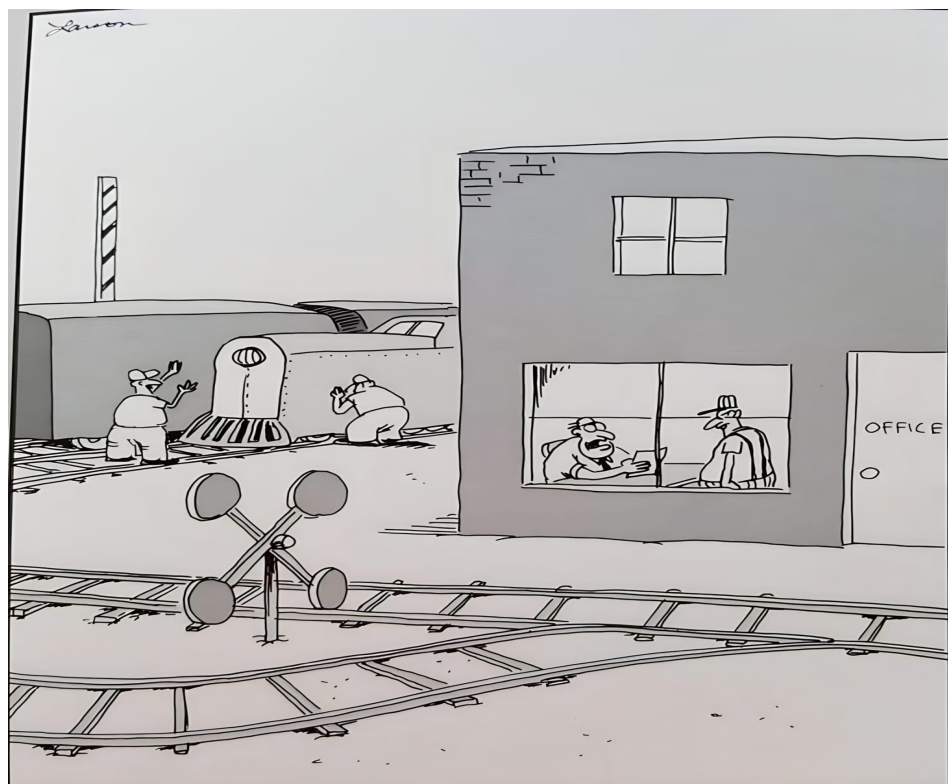
Eric Hopkins

Treasurer

Keith DeVault

Membership

Rich Henderson



"I've been looking at your time sheets, Webster ... leaving early, coming in late, etc., etc. ... Working for the railroad, Webster, means working *all* the live long day."

Immediate Past President

Gary Deavers

Our Society Website:

<https://MVRRHs.org>

Our Society

facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
MVRRHs](https://www.facebook.com/MVRRHs)



By age 47, it became clear that Lester and his parents had distinctly different ideas on what it meant to grow up and become a successful engineer.