

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

December, 2024



SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**December 5, 2024
Business Meeting**

**December 14 & 15, 2024
Holiday Model Railroad
Open House
Workers Needed!**

**January 1, 2025
Operating Session ??**

**January 2, 2025
Business Meeting**

**February 6, 2025
Business Meeting**

**March 6, 2025
Business Meeting**



EDITORS NOTE

Wow, It's December, where has the time gone? Christmas and the New Year will be here soon. Our Holiday Model Railroad Open House will soon be upon us. December 14 & 15, 2024 will be here before we know it. This will be our last public event before the long winter months. Let's make it an unforgettable event for all our fans!

All of our Holiday decorations are up and I want to thank Roy Shaffer for helping to make the Society look festive. Now, it's up to the rest of us to support our Society. Please set aside some time to work the open house. Saturday is always the busiest day but we need members on Sunday too. Wally V. has graciously volunteered to have his Crank organ & parrot out front again this year. Holiday music will fill the old malls halls!

Lastly, annual dues come due on January 1st, 2025. Please pay as soon as you can. It will help our officers to have a better idea of our finances for the new year.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the November 7, 2024 Business Meeting

Call to order by President Richard T. at 7 pm with 14 members, including all 6 officers, attending.

Minutes of the previous meeting:
Jon H. moved that we approve the minutes of the October 3rd business meeting as published in the November newsletter, seconded by Rich H. Approval was unanimous after no discussion.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)
Expenditures exceeded donations for the month somewhat but the Society remains in solid financial condition.

Publicity: (Rich H.)
Facebook followers are now up to 1,393 with 6 new. Posted videos taken during the November Open House of all three layouts received positive comments. Holiday Open House flyers are available for members to distribute. Radio PSAs go out on November 15th while school letters and newspaper announcements go out on December 2nd. Jon H. provided additional posters and postcard size announcements.

Logo shirts: Jon H. is exploring options, including a private website for members to order a variety of

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styles with a small portion of each sale going to the Society. Cost saving through bulk orders will also be considered.

Fundraising: (Richard T.): Open house revenues have decreased lately but continue to cover some routine expenditures, e.g. utilities. Layout spending has slowed as well, which helps. Still, the Society may need to consider additional income sources in the future. Ideas from the membership are welcome as we seek to achieve a stable funding level to cover regular expenses. Jon H. suggested a QR code for donations.

Membership: (Rich H.) Nothing to report.

Donations: (Rich H.): No recent financial donations received. Jon H. had several recommendations:
- Remind public that the Society accepts in-kind donations; Wally V. mentioned a sign and Jon offered the possibility of a laser-cut design.
- Sell excess model train inventory on eBay for a small stream of income.
- Items that don't sell can become parts donors, with remainder discarded.

Facilities: Jon H. and Dave E. reported progress on lighting and ceiling grid in the back room. Additional construction activity planned. Electrical projects will hopefully commence soon.

Old Business: Rich H. reported 173 visitors on Saturday and 49 on Sunday during the November Open House with many positive comments and conversations. Donations and sales are, nonetheless, lower than expected. The wooden trains remain popular with the younger set.

New Business: None reported.

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

The engine house is in place with details and doors to be added. The J. Spangler Pallet Company is also installed, named after founding member (and builder of the donation caboos) Junior Spangler. More scenic media and ballast were applied to the layout.

HO Scale: (Keith D.)

Steady progress was made on the upper level and on the unified peninsula.

N Scale Layout:

More progress on the yard. A mine bypass is in the design phase. The layout functioned well during both days of the Open House.

For the Good of the Order:

Keith D. Described boxes of equipment belonging to former members up for possible sale or donation. There are some empty boxes as well.

Adjournment:

Rich H. moved that the meeting adjourn with a second from Gary D. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric H., MVRHS secretary



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

President

Richard Turton

Vice President

Kenton Colvin

Secretary

Eric Hopkins

Treasurer

Keith DeVault

Membership

Rich Henderson

Immediate Past President

Gary Deavers

Our Society Website:

<https://MVRHS.org>

***Our Society
facebook page:***

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