

# ***TRAIN OF THOUGHT***

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

### **February, 2025**



### ***EDITORS NOTE***

It's February and we are about half way through Winter. I think everyone can agree that it has been a trying time these last few weeks and I for one am ready for Spring! Longer, sunnier & warmer days make for more model railroading fun!

Speaking of Spring our first open house of the new year is on March 15 & 16, 2025. This will be a two day event and will be extra special this year as we are also hosting the NMRA Division 2 meeting on Sunday, March 16.

Work continues to proceed on all three of our model railroad layouts and members are encouraged to come and help with the construction.

Membership dues are now due. Please try to pay as soon as possible. Send your check to Keith using his address listed in the roster or paid by check or cash at the Society. The last day to pay without penalty is March 31.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

*Rich Henderson, Editor*



### ***Minutes of the January 2, 2025 Business Meeting***

**Call to order** by President Richard T. at 7:02 pm with 12 members, including 5 of 6 officers, attending.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**  
Rich H. moved that we approve the minutes of the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 business meeting as published in the January newsletter, seconded by Wally V. Approval was unanimous after no discussion.

**Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)**  
Income, bolstered by the Holiday Open House exceeded expenditures for the month and the Society remains in solid financial condition and able to meet it's obligations. Bob T. asked about the possibility of seeking a better interest rate on savings via an online bank.

**Publicity: (Rich H.)**  
Facebook followers are now up to 1,440 with 39 new. Photos from last month's Open House event received numerous positive comments, likes and shares.

**Fundraising: (Richard T.):** Nothing new to report.

**Membership (Rich H.):** Nothing new to report.

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

**February 6, 2025  
Business Meeting**

**March 6, 2025  
Business Meeting**

**March 15 & 16, 2025  
Spring Open House  
**Workers Needed!****

**March 16, 2025  
NMRA Division 2  
Meeting**

**April 3, 2025  
Business Meeting**

**May 1, 2025  
Business Meeting**

**June 5, 2025  
Business Meeting**



**Donations: (Rich H.):** Some American Flyer trains were donated with additional expected from the same source.

**Facilities:** Jon H. reported that there is now internet set up and working in the Society space; it was used successfully during the January 1<sup>st</sup> op session. One of the new heaters is installed for testing. Richard T. expressed the need for member and community feedback regarding the impact of the new heaters in order to report back to the funding agency. A Facebook question or poll is a possibility. The single heater operating now has made a significant improvement in comfort in its vicinity. Bob T. reported a ceiling leak over the HO layout near the paper mill, possibly due to snow melt. The leak was repaired but the membership should be prepared for additional leaks as the snow continues to melt.

**Old Business:** Rich H. gave an overview of the recent successful Holiday Open House where we had plenty of visitors and positive comments. The Amplify Children's Academy student visit went well. They're now added to our school list for future event notification.

Richard T. reported that the January 1<sup>st</sup> HO scale layout **Op Session** was a success, with 26 visitors and approximately 40 trains run. Visitors hailed from Huntington and Charleston in West Virginia and Johnstown, Irwin and New Stanton in Pennsylvania. Bob T.'s car card system worked well. Among issues to address, some new throttles are needed, additional staging will aid operations and some track areas and switches have mechanical and / or electrical problems. Richard T. proposed that the Society schedule

an internal op session with concurrent or followup analysis in order to improve future operation experiences.

**New Business:** Richard T. expressed the need for an immediate decision regarding the prospective train show being considered in conjunction with the March 16<sup>th</sup> hosting of the NMRA Division 2 monthly meeting. Among the aspects under discussion: Logistics – tables (40 total estimated), space; table fees – preferably low for the first event; organizational challenges, especially with such a late start; maximum number of vendors. The Mall can supply a dozen tables with the possibility of borrowing additional ones from other community organizations. The membership must commit to supporting such an event. Profits may be deferred in order to help generate interest in future shows. Keith D. suggested tabling show discussion pending clarification of questions. Rich H. suggested that the Board meet to discuss the matter.

#### **LAYOUTS:**

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

Eight to ten feet of track is now ballasted and more scenery was installed including a grade crossing and cross buck signs and more sculptamold.

##### **HO Scale:**

Richard T.: The focus this month was on the op session.

##### **N Scale Layout:**

(Max M.): The proposed and approved benchwork expansion is underway.

##### **For the Good of the Order:**

Bill H. and Rich H. discussed a request for train repair by the owner of a local restaurant. A member will convey the consensus that this

work may be outside of our scope.

(My minutes include notes about “Backdrop, bridge, local student”; not sure of meaning; may be related to repair request)

Adjournment:  
Movement to adjourn at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Hopkins, MVRRHs 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://MVRRHs.org>

#### ***Our Society facebook page:***

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