

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

March, 2025



EDITORS NOTE

It's March and Spring is just around the corner, I hope! The March Business meeting is very important and I hope everyone can attend. We will be discussing and approving our 2025 budget. Please remember that our finances influence what we can and cannot do as a society.

Our Spring Model Railroad open house 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 Division 2 meeting on Sunday, March 16. We will open the doors at 12 noon on Sunday, that's one hour earlier than usual for an open house.

Dues are now due and the renewal period ends on March 31, 2025. 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.

Work on our layouts continue and we could use your help. All members are welcome to help build all three of our layouts!

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor

Minutes of the February 6, 2025 Business Meeting

Call to order by President Richard T. at 7:00 pm with 16 members, including 6 of 6 officers, attending.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Wally V. moved that we approve the minutes of the January 2nd, 2025 business meeting as published in the February 2025 newsletter; seconded by Rich H. Approval was unanimous after no discussion.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.) The Society remains in good financial standing.

Publicity: (Rich H.) Our total number of followers increased by 8 last month. Rich reported various demographic measures of our followers. Construction photos received many positive comments. Flyers for the Spring Open House next month will be ready soon. Sunday hours for the Open House are now extended from noon until 4 pm instead of the usual 1 – 4 pm.

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

Membership (Rich H.): No new members. The deadline for dues is approaching. Please make arrangements to pay yours soon if you haven't already done so.

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**March 6, 2025
Business Meeting**

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

**March 16, 2025
Division 2 Meeting**

**April 3, 2025
Business Meeting**

**May 1, 2025
Business Meeting**

**June 5, 2025
Business Meeting**

**July 3, 2025
Business Meeting**



Minutes continued from Page 1

Donations: (Rich H.): A small cash donation was received. The expected additional American Flyer equipment reported last month has not been delivered.

Facilities: Jon H. reported that we are now on the contractor's calendar with a start expected on February 20 and the bulk of planned work to be finished with a day or two. Richard T. emphasized the importance of getting the work done ASAP.

Old Business: The president related that the March train show under discussion will not take place this year due to the lack of time to properly prepare. The plan now is to schedule the train show for the March 2026 NMRA MCR Division 2 meeting in Morgantown.

New Business: The MVRRHs now has a merchandise page with multiple apparel items available: www.shop.mvrrhs.org A bulk order is planned this month. Place your order and make payment by February 28th to avoid shipping fees. Items ordered in this time frame should arrive in time for the Spring Open House.

The MVRRHs officers met at 5pm to discuss the budget and goals for 2025 and will report to the membership next month.

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

Grade crossings are nearly complete and additional trees and shrubs were planted. More Woodland Scenics ballast is needed.

HO Scale:

Richard T.: Progress continues on the peninsula and nearby upper level scenery using the cardboard

armature, paper, plaster cloth and Sculptamold layering method. Trees will be planted once all of the surface material is in place. Ballast will be extended along the upper level over the Chiefton coal yard during the next working session. Fourteen sections of the Valley Crossing bridge / viaduct are now completed.

N Scale Layout:

(Max M.): Progress continues on the expansion of the benchwork toward the aisle with the hope of completion for the Spring Open House.

For the Good of the Order:

Frank B. invited members to attend the upcoming February 10th meeting of the NMRA MCR Technology Committee. The Zoom meeting takes place at 7:30pm.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn from Rich H., second by Ryan M.; Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Hopkins, MVRRHs secretary



Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society February 6th, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

Budget

Keith D. presented an end of year financial report for 2024 starting from the end of 2023 balance and accounting for all expenses and income during 2024. Board members each received a paper copy of the two-page report.

The proposed budget for 2025 is summarized in a separate document. The following expense categories were reviewed by the Board and adjusted as noted:

Rent – unchanged
Electric – 100% increase due to the installation of new space heaters
Water – moderate increase (~11%)
Insurance/Secretary of State business license – unchanged
Publicity expenses – unchanged
Construction expenses – unchanged

Prospective income received a similar review:

Dues – increase by two memberships based on current roster
Public events – 25% increase
Sales of used model railroad equipment – new line item
NMRA MCR Division 2 meeting hosted by MVRRHs – 5% increase

Note that income was estimated exclusive of the 2024 carry-over balance.

President Turton stressed the importance of inclusive revenue reporting; downplaying could impact future grant eligibility.

A revised estimated budget will be presented to the membership in paper form at the March 2025 business meeting.

Goals for 2025

1. Continue planning for March 2026 Train Show with an earnest effort kicking in around August / September
2. Continue progress on all layouts
3. Schedule one or more Saturday work sessions focused on clearing out the back rooms for potential use as meeting space

BOD minutes continued

4. Replace the entire back room ceiling
5. Schedule an evaluation operating session for the HO layout in order to reinforce procedures and identify and address issues for an improved participant experience
6. Schedule additional operating sessions, e.g. spring and fall in addition to January 1st
7. **We will make preparations to host a train show at the 2026 March open house (not discussed at this meeting but we have discussed this previously and I think it should appear as a 2025 planning goal and leads into discussion below)** President Richard T.

***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

Train Show Discussion

1. Tables remain a hot topic; sources, e.g. local volunteer fire departments
2. Food – food truck in parking lot near main entrance
3. Saturday vs. Sunday? (impacts on play spaces vs. worship services) Mall community space?

Our Society Website:

<https://MVRRHs.org>

***Our Society
facebook page:***

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

Heating Survey

1. Half-sheet with request for feedback as presented by Rich H.
2. Pictures needed for reporting back to funding agency

Spring Open House Hours

Adjusted to 12 – 4 pm on Sunday to align with the NMRA MCR Division 2 meeting hosted that day.

Respectfully submitted
Eric H., MVRHS Secretary