

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

January, 2026



SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**January 8, 2026
Business Meeting**

**February 5, 2026
Business Meeting**

**March 5, 2026
Business Meeting**

**March 15, 2026
Train Show
10am til 4pm
Workers Needed!!**

**April 2, 2026
Business Meeting**

**May 7, 2026
Business Meeting**



EDITORS NOTE

Winter has set in with a vengeance! But, you all know that, so on to more important things. The January OP session is over, more details at the business meeting.

Membership dues come due in January. There will be an email sent to all members & a copy of the current roster. Please pay your dues as soon as you can. It will help your Officers/BOD members figure out our financial future for the rest of 2026.

Planning for the March 15 Train Show is proceeding on schedule. We will need every members help to make this event a success!

Finally, this is an election year for our Society. A Nominating Committee will be appointed in March and will report at the April business meeting. The election will take place and results will be provided at the May meeting. New officers will take their places on July 1st, 2026.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the December 4, 2025 Business Meeting

Call to order by President Richard T. at 7:03 pm with 13 members, including 6 officers, attending.

Minutes of the previous meeting:
Wally V. moved to approve the minutes as published in the December newsletter, seconded by Dave E. Unanimous approval.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)
Income from donations and sales exceeded expenses for the month of November and the Society remains in solid financial condition.

Publicity: (Rich H.)
Facebook followers are up to 1,530 with multiple likes for recent photos posted on the Society page. Holiday Open House publicity is out, including distribution of flyers by Dave E. to 22 locations!

Fundraising:
A small donation was received on Giving Tuesday. Thank you!

Membership (Rich H.):
Nothing reported.

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2

Donations: (Rich H.):

A family member brought in HO equipment, including some potentially collectible A.C. Gilbert HO, on behalf of Dennis Chambers. Additional donations of N and HO equipment noted for the month.

Facilities:

Jon Hebb reported progress in constructing new display cases in the lobby.

Richard T. suggested converting the unused restroom into a spray booth to carry fumes outside. Jon H. will look into the feasibility. A warming cabinet for paints may be needed.

Train Show (new topic): Flyer needs corrected and re-printed: Hours: 10am – 4pm; Regional T-Track layout will be on display. So moved by Keith D., seconded by Gary D. Approved unanimously.

One participant is already signed up with 6 tables. We're gradually accumulating tables and will need to hustle in February to gather as necessary to meet demand.

Max M. suggested that we reach out to Scale Trains and invite them to display. Jon H. will take the lead on this. They have attended smaller shows in the past.

Old Business:

Richard T.: "Do Not Touch" signage. Jon H. will work on if he's given text to include.

The Society received a "fair number" of visitors and some donations during the November Eloquence Flea Market.

Members-only operating session reminder for Wednesday, December 10th, 5pm to 8:30pm.

New Business:

Eloquence Open House, December 6th: with regret, unable to participate due to existing commitments.

Preparations ongoing for the annual New Year's Day invitation
Operating Session: January 1st, 2026, 9am to ???

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

More scenery, terraforming (Sculptamold) and painting done last month.

HO Scale: (Richard T.):

Gary D. read an email report from Mike H. regarding progress on the bridge / viaduct complex for Valley Crossing: Piers and abutments are nearly done with wood ties to be added next. The rock formations along the main, east of Coal Junction tunnel are ready for final gap filling and painting. Mike envisions a combination of gray and red strata similar to Sand Patch. Gary also reported progress with interlocking detectors and west end loop automation. Eric H. planted finished trees near those ready installed on the peninsula with additional trees being processed. Keith D. thanked Jon H., Bob T. and Gary D. for working with him to get new duplex DCC receptacles installed throughout the layout. Jon H. installed a new chip / firmware in the DCC system that should reduce some of the errors and down time experienced recently. Finally, Eric M. installed a switch at Center Point to facilitate the development of a gas loading spur between Center Point and North Bend.

N Scale Layout:

(Max M.): Track work is nearing 98% completion with additional progress on controls and scenery expected soon.

For the Good of the Order:

Keith D.: Materials in the back room not claimed immediately following the January 1st Op Session will be tossed out.

Jon H. suggested removal of the old (non-functioning) hot water heater, which requires input from Mall Management,

Rich H. provided a generous financial gift that also includes his 2026 dues.

Jon H. mentioned the difficulties in mounting the large wreath donated by Ward P.

Adjournment:

Motion by Gary D. seconded by Bill H, Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric H., MVRHS Secretary



ARTICLES WANTED

Space is available for members to write an article for the newsletter. It may be about your model railroad, a new model you just built or acquired, a railfan trip you recently took or about any railroad related topic. Just type it up and send it to: Rich Henderson, Editor at: trainman430@comcast.net Please allow two (2) weeks before the next newsletter is published.

**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://MVRRHHS.org>

**Our Society
facebook page:**
[https://www.facebook.com/
MVRRHHS](https://www.facebook.com/MVRRHHS)

**From the Desk of Gary
Deavers**

It's January 2026 / 1970! I was five and six years old in 1970, and my grandfather had this calendar hanging in their kitchen. Well, not "this" calendar, but a copy of the same. After 1970 ended, he gave me the calendar for the pictures and over the next few months, it disappeared – probably one day while I was at school and Mom figured my room needed a good cleaning. In any event, two or three of the pictures would come to mind over the decades. In 2019 I ran across one of the prints (the one featured next month) and my interest was rekindled. I went to my good friend eBay and started searching for "UTU

Calendar circa 1969 / 1970" and there it was: a copy in decent condition for about ten dollars. All I had to do was wait for a year when the days and dates lined up to share it in the MVRRHHS Newsletter. I hope you enjoy these pages as much as I did some 56 years ago. You can even print off the page and use it in your train room.

January – I vaguely remember this one. At five, I didn't know how miserable it could be to work outside in the winter like the switchman, and I doubt that window enclosed office was warm enough for short sleeves. I thought my Grandpa had the "most funnest job in the world" as I watched him go to his car bundled up with grip in hand to report for another twelve hour tour on the B&O lines around Fairmont.

