

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

February, 2026



EDITORS NOTE

Winter continues to bite us hard! I for one can't wait til Spring arrives. Our first mini-open house happened on Saturday, January 24th, 2026 and was a hit. Despite the threat of bad weather people showed up and enjoyed our layouts.

Planning for the March 15 Train Show is proceeding on schedule. Flyers have been posted on several facebook pages and we are reserving tables. Other model railroad groups are asking if they can bring their own modular layouts to display. Please Help!

Membership dues are now due! Members have a "grace period" til March 31, 2026 to pay. Please pay ASAP. It will help your Officers & BOD members figure out our financial future for the rest of 2026.

Election - A Nominating Committee will be appointed in March. They will report at the April business meeting. Results will be reported in May. New officers will take their places on July 1st, 2026.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the January 8, 2026 Business Meeting

Call to order by President Richard T. at 7:00 pm with 15 members, including 6 officers, attending.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Dave E. moved to approve the minutes as published in the January newsletter, seconded by Roy S. Motion approved unanimously with no discussion.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.) Expenses exceeded income for the month of December but the Society remains solvent and continues to meet its financial obligations.

Publicity: (Rich H.) Facebook followers are now at 1,559, up 29 from the previous month, with many likes for recent layout construction photos.

Fundraising:
Nothing new to report.

Membership (Rich H.):
No new membership applications. Dues notices sent out via email. Some members have paid, waiting for the rest to renew.

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

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

June 4, 2026
Business meeting



Donations: (Rich H.):

Rich made a substantial financial donation along with his 2026 dues. We received some of Jack Lindsey's HO equipment and an O gauge set came in during the Holiday Open House. Additional equipment is expected from a club member.

Facilities:

Richard T. reported that a quote for the second cabinet in the lobby area was received and moved that the membership approve. Eric H. provided a second to the motion, which was approved following a brief discussion of height and other construction details. Do Not Touch signage for the train layouts remains a high priority.

Train Show (new topic):

Keith D. reported that 15 to 18 tables have been sold so far for the Mountaineer Train Show. Flyers are needed for distribution at upcoming train shows and related events. The deadline to register for the show will be in mid-February.

Old Business: Richard T.:

The January 1st operating session was a success with visitors arriving from Charleston, Huntington, Clarksburg and Cass WV, as well as Pittsburgh, PA. A total of 18 people attended, with 48 trains run and few glitches. The member-only session in December also went well and was a useful warmup for the New Year's Day session.

New Business:

Eloquence hosts an indoor flea market on January 24th. The membership response to the suggestion that the Society open during the event was positive. Rich will circulate an email announcement about the single day open house from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, January 24th.

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge : (Rich H.)

No work was done since the Holiday Open House. Progress should resume in a week or so, depending on the weather.

HO Scale: (Richard T.):

Recent progress on the HO layout includes completion and painting of rock faces, and application of scenic vegetation. The Valley Crossing bridge / viaduct complex will be ready for installation soon. This installation will be non-trivial and requires the closure of significant portions of the layout, especially the branch line leading to the upper level. The new siding for a gas tank car loading facility is working and ready for scenery application.

N Scale Layout: (Max M.):

Nothing to report.

For the Good of the Order:

Eric H. has Atlas O scale rail joiners with bolt detail ordered by mistake. Contact him if you're interested in buying them.

Keith D.: Materials in the back room behind the workshop must be claimed by Tuesday, January 20th. Otherwise they will be discarded. Rich H. suggested that his old donated computer equipment be sent to e-Cycle.

Richard T. has unwanted lichen material for free if anyone wants it.

Rich H. included an article by Gary D. in the January newsletter relating a childhood memory of a railroad themed calendar.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Eric H., 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>

From the Desk of Gary Deavers

The United Transportation Union (UTU) was formed in 1969 through the merger of four railroad operating unions: The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, The Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen, and The Switchmen's Union of North America.

The inclusion of "The Engineers" in the UTU resulted in this rendering featured in February. I never saw an engineer seat with a wide luxurious back like that, but otherwise the detail is pretty good. The painter must have looked at the window of a Globe / Athearn F7 in that the gentle curve of the glass is missing. As a five-year-old kid, that went unnoticed by me. I supposed the big window allowed the visual of a train approaching on an opposite track, but by 1970 the vertical box of a Geep window was becoming much more common.

