

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

April, 2026



EDITORS NOTE

SUCCESS!! Our first Train Show in over 30 years was a Hugh Success. Reports show the dealers/vendors were happy with their sales and visitors were all a glow at the trains and accessories that were available to buy.

I want to personally Thank everyone who showed up to help set up the tables on Saturday & who worked the show both outside and inside the Society. I had a great time!

Membership dues. Members have a "grace period" til March 31, 2026 to pay. Please pay soon, and IF you have already paid, THANKS!

Election - A Nominating Committee was appointed at the March business meeting and will report a list of candidates for our election. This may not seem a very important event to many of you, but IF we don't have Officers/BOD members then we cannot continue as a Society. No officers, NO Society. No place to run trains and enjoy the friendly fellowship of other model railroaders.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the March 5, 2026 Business Meeting

Call to order by President Richard T. at 7:00 pm with 12 members and 5 officers, for a total of 17 attending. Birthday wishes to member Emmanuel!

Minutes of the previous meeting:
Richard T. pointed out that our new member, Kevin H., studies mechanical and aerospace engineering at WVU, not chemical engineering as indicated in last month's minutes. Rich H. moved to approve the February 5th minutes, as amended, seconded by Bill Q.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)
Expenses slightly exceeded income for February leaving the Society in solid financial condition.

Publicity: (Rich H.)
Facebook followers no stand at 1,604. Ads are out for the Mountaineer Train Show (March 15th), including multiple Facebook group pages, newspaper, radio and television. The Clarksburg Exponent Telegram posted an interview online. Keith D. mentioned an article that ran today in the Dominion Post.

Fundraising:
Nothing new to report.

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**April 2, 2026
Business Meeting**

**May 7, 2026
Business Meeting**

**June 4, 2026
Business meeting**

**July 2, 2026
Business Meeting**

**August 6, 2026
Business Meeting**

**Back to School
Open House
August, 2026 ??**



Minutes continued from Page 1

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

Donations (Rich H.): Roman brought a few O gauge items. Karen Lemelle, wife of late President Lou Lemelle, sent a letter of appreciation to Ken C. for the Society's support during Lou's illness and following his passing. She also sent a generous monetary donation.

Facilities: The glass door display cases in the very front of the lobby area are now essentially completed. Rich H. expressed the need for locks to be installed.

Train Show: (Moved down the agenda)

Old business: Richard T. repeated a request for signage advising visitors to look but not touch the layouts or equipment thereon.

New business:

Annual budget discussion (Richard T.): Handouts listing expected income and expenses were provided to the membership. The Society remains in good financial shape, with a steady increase in equipment sales and open house donations. The upcoming Mountaineer Train Show may provide additional income. Rent will likely increase, along with electric cost, following the installation of space heaters. Dues are up somewhat with additional members.

Keith D. moved to approve the 2026 budget as outlined in the provided handouts with a second by Steve K. The membership approved the motion unanimously with no further discussion.

Rich H. announced a planned 30-minute visit by a group of three to seven year old kids and parents from Kindermusik With Penni here

in the Mountaineer Mall on March 26th at 5:30 pm. Apparently the students have been learning railroad related songs. Meanwhile, seniors from the Village At Heritage Point retirement community will visit the Society layouts on Tuesday, April 28th at 1 pm.

Nomination of Officer

Candidates: The president requested volunteers to poll current officers and other members regarding their interest in serving as an officer, i.e., president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, membership director. Candidates will be presented at the April 2nd business meeting. Bill Q., Kevin H. and Andrew L. volunteered to serve on the nominating committee.

Train Show: President Richard T. undergoes eye surgery and will be unavailable for the few weeks including the train show. Other members will pick up the slack and carry on in his absence. Volunteers meet on Saturday, 3/14 to set up tables, which will be taken down immediately following the show. Tables belonging to the Senior Monongalians center will be returned and set up in their original places. Keith D. reported that 20+ vendors from as far away as Charleston, WV and Pittsburgh, PA reserved around 58 tables. The NMRA MCR Division 2 T-Track layout will be on display. Eric M. will represent Operation Lifesaver International, an organization dedicated to railroad safety, with an educational display. Packaged food, treats and beverages will be available from the new cafe near Centre Court. The Society will provide water for vendors. The final table count will take place in the last week before the show.

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

More painting on the mountain scene and spring, and the pond

bottom shading. More Sculptamold at the edge of the town scene.

HO Scale: (Richard T.):

Scenery work continues with additional ballast, backdrop painting, and rock outcrop coloring.

N Scale Layout: (Max M.):

Progress made on staging tracks and DCC outlets, hopefully ready for operation in time for the show.

For the Good of the Order:

Keith D.: Arrangements are in place with Mall management for the Society to take a greater role in maintenance of the concourse layout. Mall staff will move the layout closer to the Society space following the train show. Scenery will be refreshed and a new coin actuator installed.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Rich H., second from Frank B. Approval unanimous.

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.

*From the Desk of Gary
Deavers*

APRIL

I definitely remember this one. I turned six that month. For some reason, I always remembered this as “the brakemen and white birds”. I wonder how many air hoses my Grandpa laced over the course of 32 years.

**Mon Valley Railroad
Historical Society
OFFICERS**

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Richard Turton

Vice President

Kenton Colvin

Secretary

Eric Hopkins

Treasurer

Keith DeVault

Membership

Rich Henderson

Immediate Past President

Gary Deavers

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<https://MVRRHHS.org>

Our Society

facebook page:

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