

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

March, 2026



EDITORS NOTE

The March 15 Train Show is only two weeks away! Most of the tables have been reserved. We need as many members at the show as we can get. We will need people inside the Society to run the HO layout and cover the O & N layouts. Then we need people outside to assist vendors & guests. An email will go out, Please Help!

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 will be appointed at the March business meeting. They will report at the April business meeting. Please think about running for an office. Election results will be reported at the May business meeting. New officers will take their places on July 1st, 2026.

I know the business end of the Society doesn't appeal to many, but without it there would be no Society!

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the February 5, 2026 Business Meeting

Call to order by President Richard T. at 7:01 pm with 10 members and 6 officers, for a total of 16 attending.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Gary D. moved to approve the minutes as published in the February newsletter, seconded by Rich H. Motion approved unanimously with no discussion.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)

Income exceeded expenses for the month of January and the Society remains solvent and continues to meet its financial obligations.

Publicity: (Rich H.)

Rich H. posted Mountaineer Train Show flyers to multiple FaceBook pages. Meanwhile, FB followers are up to 1,582, up 23 from last month. Layout construction photos continue to generate enthusiasm in the form of likes and shares.

Fundraising:

Nothing new to report.

Membership (Rich H.):

The last of the expected dues checks are trickling in. Following a brief introduction, Kevin H., a WVU college student in chemical

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**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**

**July 2, 2026
Business Meeting**



Minutes continued from Page 1

engineering was presented as a candidate member. Ken C. moved to accept with a second from Keith D. Approval was unanimous.

Donations: (Rich H.):

Jeff Lane donated a considerable amount of HO equipment and may be offering some books and magazines.

Facilities:

Nothing reported.

Train Show:

Keith D. reported table reservations are now up to 18. The T-Track layout is coming, per Richie and Kevin of Division 2. The cutoff for reserving a table is March 1st. Max M. has a possible line on more tables if they're needed. A rail theme painting vendor plans to attend.

Old Business: Richard T.:

Coordination with the Eloquence indoor flea market on January 24th proved successful for the Society in donations and sales.

New Business:

Richard T. expressed the need to resolve issues with the concourse O gauge layout. The fact that the layout doesn't operate reflects poorly on the Society as our name is on attached signage. Richard suggested the club become more actively involved, and switch to updated technology to possibly include alternative payment types.

The board members will meet following the business meeting to set a date and time for the annual board meeting.

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

Rich applied more Sculptamold and added trees. He will call for a Sunday work session in the near

future.

HO Scale: (Richard T.):

Scenery work continues, with ballasting in the switch plant and on the upper and lower levels at Sand Run and North Bend, respectively. Rock and vegetation installation and painting is wrapping up in the gorge east of the tunnel. Mike H. continues to make progress on the Valley Crossing bridge – viaduct.

N Scale Layout: (Max M.):

A loop and scenery are in the planning stages along with work to the staging area.

For the Good of the Order:

Gary D. created a form for tracking styrene stock by part numbers and dimensions. This form may be of great use to others.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Rich H. with multiple seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric H., MVRHS Secretary



Board of Director's Meeting

Financial Matters:

Three hard copy handouts were circulated:

1. 2025 end of year financial report
2. Financial expenses and income for 2025
3. Proposed budget for 2026

The Board discussed finances and

marked up the 2025 documents indicating expectations for 2026. Hard copy will be provided to the membership for their consideration at the March business meeting.

Estimated expenses: Rent was increased by \$300. Other expenses are anticipated to remain stable vis-a-vis last year.

Estimated income: The following categories are expected to increase over 2025: Dues (+ \$500); Public events (+\$700); Donations and sales (+\$1,000).

Physical plant improvements:

The Board discussed and agreed to a goal seeking grant funds for the development of workshop, storage and potential meeting spaces. The currently unused restroom may be suitable for use as a paint room, as long as the exhaust stack extends to daylight and will accommodate the appropriate flow rate. A new extractor fan will have to be purchased. Meanwhile, the unused water heater purchased for that restroom may be sold; a member has expressed interest.

The original water heater in the utility closet will be removed in order to create addition storage space. This requires a certified electrical contractor, per Mall management.

Society Goals for 2026:

- Continue progress on layouts
- Clean and organize back rooms in anticipation of future improvements; sort, store and discard as appropriate
- Develop plans for and write grant applications for funding physical plant improvements including back rooms and spare restroom
- Retain a contractor for installation of new lighting in updated spaces
- Step up general housekeeping efforts to keep the entire space

- neater
- Complete shelving above current sales space
- Work together for a successful Mountaineer Train Show (March 15th)
- Expand operating sessions to a quarterly schedule
- Focus Society attention on repair and maintenance of the concourse O gauge layout
 - Request transport of concourse layout to a location closer to the Society
 - Seek modern alternatives to broken coin activator
 - Consider alternative payment methods now or in future
 - Call for volunteers to help clean and update scenery and track

Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted,
Eric H., MVRRHRS 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://MVRRHRS.org>

**Our Society
facebook page:**
<https://www.facebook.com/MVRRHRS>

**From the Desk of Gary
Deavers**

MARCH

I vividly remember this one! The stylized sky - was it a stormy morning or placid evening? – made this memorable. The lantern was just like Grandpa’s “Star” electric. (Yes, it is in my collection and I still carry it on occasion.) There was always something cozy looking about a caboose.

