

# ***TRAIN OF THOUGHT***

## **MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.**

### **October, 2026**



#### ***EDITORS NOTE***

Fall is definitely here, cool mornings & warm days. I really like this time of year. Our next open house will be on November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> for National Model Railroad month. Please try to set aside some time for the event.

Work continues on all three model railroad layouts. Come check it out and give us a hand. These are your model railroads that members are building for your enjoyment. Please think about helping out where ever & when ever you can. Building them is half the fun!

We have had a couple of members only Operating sessions and I think they are working out well. Check your email as to when the next one will be.

We have two new members, both college students. Welcome to Jeremy F. And Parker F.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

*Rich Henderson, Editor*



#### ***Minutes of the September 3, 2026 Business Meeting***

**Call to order** by President Richard T. at 7:00 pm with 10 members and 6 officers, for a total of 16 in attendance.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**  
Wally V. moved that the minutes of the August 6<sup>th</sup> business meeting be approved as published in the September 2026 newsletter; second by Roy S. Motion approved unanimously with no discussion.

**Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)**  
The Society remains financially sound with income exceeding expenses for the month.

**Publicity: (Rich H.)**  
Facebook followers now stand at 1,741. Photos published on Facebook continue to elicit likes and shares.

**Fundraising: (Richard T.):**  
The recent Your Community Foundation (YCF) grant was received and deposited.

**Membership (Rich H.):** Keith D. moved that the Society accept three new college student members: Drew M., Jeremy F. and Parker F. Wally V. provided a second and the motion passed with unanimous support of the membership present.

#### **SCHEDULE of EVENTS**

**October 1, 2026  
Business Meeting**

**November 5, 2026  
Business Meeting**

**National Model  
Railroad Month  
Open House  
November, 7&8, 2026  
**Workers Needed****

**December 3, 2026  
Business Meeting**

**Holiday Open House  
December 12 & 13, 2026  
**Workers Needed****



**Donations (Rich H.):**

Retired railroad operator / clerk Joe Layman donated two boxes of HO structures for sale at the November and December open houses. Ken C. donated a transformer that was sold. Wally V. obtained a chest of drawers which he will repair and modify for storage of museum items. Roman C. donated some O gauge trains.

**Facilities:**

(Jon H.): Planning and clean up is underway on the back space in preparation for possible expansion. A replacement breaker was purchased in order to have a faulty one replaced. The front museum display cabinet is being cleared out to facilitate final construction details. Max M. reports that the glass doors and shelves for the back display cabinets have been shipped. Lobby lighting needs improvement.

**Museum Committee (Wally V.):** Wally found an appropriate chest of drawers for storing museum items to which he will add a lock bar. Meanwhile, he recently circulated a draft museum donation form, photographed approximately 100 items and is developing a database structure.

**Concourse Layout (Richard T.):** Richard contacted Mall management about moving the concourse layout and was assured that it is "on the list."

**Train / Railroad Show: (Richard T.):** The membership discussed table length: 6 feet vs. 8 feet. The Society seeks to obtain 30 to 40 of the preferred 8 foot length over the next few months.

**Old business:**

Gary D. reported that the August 10<sup>th</sup> operating session went well and the next session is scheduled for Labor Day (September 10<sup>th</sup>). Richard T. suggested a half-hour

overview session prior to operations.

**New business:**

Keith D. recommended that the Society purchase several additional new DCC throttles for the HO layout. Rich H. moved to authorize the purchase, seconded by Keith D. The membership present provided unanimous approval. There should be some plug panels still remaining. Bad order throttles and / or cables should be taken out of service and placed in a designated box.

Keith also reported that he and others continued cleaning the back room for future planning. Richard T. mentioned removal of the third partition in order to create a single, large space. New drywall on remaining walls as well as ceiling tiles and lighting updates are expected. The Mall management will remove the old restaurant furniture to their storage area. Meanwhile, there are a couple of tables set up with model railroad items that need to go. Members: Please browse and select what you want and make an appropriate donation. According to Keith, Morgantown Code Enforcement will be involved with updating exit signs and the like. The old hot water heater was finally removed recently by Dave E. and Max M. Thank you!

**Goal (Richard T.):** Finish back room renovation by March Division 2 meeting.

Keith D. suggested moving the sale tables to the back. Jon H. countered with the suggestion that the right side of the O gauge / N scale room can be better organized with shelving, etc.

New MVRHRS logo apparel order deadline for group shipment to reduce shipping charges: September 30<sup>th</sup>, per Jon H. Visit [www.shop.mvrrhs.org](http://www.shop.mvrrhs.org) to browse and select your preferred logo

garments. Club logo stickers and enamel pins are additional promotional options. Wally V. pointed out that logo items may be considered as souvenirs or advertising / promotion.

Rich H., after a brief discussion, moved that the National Model Railroad Month and Holiday open house events be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The motion was seconded by Wally V. and passed unanimously.

Pure Collectables will host a trading card show on September 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM. The Society will plan to open on Saturday, 9/26.

**LAYOUTS:**

**O Gauge :(Rich H.)**

More vegetables were added to the farm scene. The pond is nearly ready for the application of clear "water" material, and additional ballast was laid.

**HO Scale:**

Richard T.): Progress continues on trees and signals. Gary D. requires a dedicated table for final control panel assembly.

**N Scale Layout:**

(Max M.): Progress was made during August on electrical systems, track and switches, including problem solving issues that have come up. Scenery planning is underway. Richard T. stated that he's "very impressed with progress."

**Concourse O Gauge Display:**

(Richard T.): The layout is hard wired into the Mall electrical grid and will require an electrician to disconnect and reconnect in its new location.

**For the good of the Society:** Bill H. provided details for his daughter's funeral on September 7<sup>th</sup> in Masontown, PA.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Rich H., second by Gary D. Meeting adjourned at 7:41

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

***From the Desk of Gary  
Deavers***

**October**

I kind of remember this one. I still remember Grandpa pulling off Merchant Street and onto the brick drive between the apartment building and Honda (motorcycle) shop to show me a switch stand on the Monongahela railroad. Over the next eight or nine years I think I took note of that switch stand every time we went by there, and it was a sad day for me when the tracks were pulled up and the red and white MRY switch banner went away. (I found one like it at North Fairmont in reasonable condition that I (ahem) appropriated with a hacksaw after the track was out of service.)



**united transportation union**  
**THE SWITCHTENDER**

| SEPTEMBER 1970 |    |    |    |    |    |    | NOVEMBER 1970 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1              | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 1             | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8              | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 8             | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15             | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 15            | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22             | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 22            | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29             | 30 |    |    |    |    |    | 29            | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

**OCTOBER 1970**

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
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| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |