

# ***TRAIN OF THOUGHT***

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

**August, 2019**



## ***EDITORS NOTE***

As you read this newsletter we are only three weeks out from our Back to School Open House. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, August 24 & Sunday, August 25, 2019. We need members to work the event. Members who can run trains on the main layout, greet visitors, point out details, answer questions about the layouts and our group.

This Open House is important for all of us. It will show our visitors what the Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society is all about. It will hopefully generate funds to help our financial situation. Right now we are OK on finances, but that could quickly change. We are trying to replace our lighting system, finish scenery, etc. With all your help we will get there.

Let's all work together to make our visitors experience a Great one! Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Happy Training,

*Rich Henderson, Editor*



## ***Minutes of the July 11, 2019 Business Meeting***

The June 2019 meeting was called to order by President Lou LeMelle at 7:30 with four officers and six members present. June business meeting minutes were approved by vote on a motion by Rich and second by Marty.

**Treasurer's Report:** Keith DeVault read his report; it was approved by vote on a motion by Greg and second by Rich.

**Modules:** Mike continues to work on ballasting. "The Main Line is pretty much done".

**Main Layout:** Rich added telephone poles in the area of Wilson's Mills. He continues to add grass and shrubs as well. A sign on the water tower was also added by Rich. Jim reported that no new work has been performed on the extension since the last report. Work is progressing on the station as the walls have been assembled and painted.

**Publicity:** Rich is preparing the publicity for the Back to School Open House. He has been in touch with someone from the city who offered August 1<sup>st</sup> as the date planned to re-open the garage.

*Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2*

## ***SCHEDULE of EVENTS***

**August 1, 2019  
Business Meeting**

**August 24 & 25, 2019  
Back to School  
Open House  
**Workers Needed!****

**September 5, 2019  
Business Meeting**

**October 3, 2019  
Business Meeting**

**October ???  
Mountaineer Week**

**November 7, 2019  
Business Meeting**



Minutes continued from Page 1

“Barring any unforeseen delays, publicity will start going out August 1<sup>st</sup>”. Facebook had 233 hits following the posting of the 4 new pictures, 533 Likes and 584 following with 20 new followers.

**Ad Cars:** Appalachian Prison Books sent in their check.

**Membership:** No new report was made except that Rich had updated the membership roster and distributed it as appropriate.

**Donations:** Brian Schuller donated HO Train equipment, cars, engines, scenery, buildings, etc...that are available for sale on a first come first serve basis. Donations should be placed in the caboose. Rich mentioned that Mr. Schuller had a 5x9 layout available to anyone interested. The cost is free, but those interested should contact Brian directly. Rich can provide his contact information.

**Old Business:** Keith hooked up throttle boxes and the new cars are on the layout. Discussion around a new control system changing over from Digitrak to NCE, was tabled to a later date. The cost of new lighting is still at \$6.70 each for a 4 ft. section. Dave continues to pursue better pricing.

**New Business:** The N&W Y6B #219 is back out for repair. Keith is following up and refiling our application for 501 (C)3.

**For the Good of the Order:**

Keith has been involved with conversation that may provide opportunity and new space for the Society. Discussion regarding potential air conditioning ensued. All agreed the issue was dependent on a number of other factors and was tabled to another time TBD.

Motion to adjourn by Keith seconded by Rich. The meeting Adjourned at 7:57 pm

Respectfully,

**Greg Malnikoff, Secretary  
MVRHS**



**Board of Directors  
Meeting  
June 27, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 1913 by President Lou Lemelle. In attendance were,

- Lou Lemelle: President
- Gary Deavers: Immediate Past President
- Keith DeVault: Treasurer
- Rich Henderson: Membership
- Greg Malnikoff: Secretary

Keith informed the board that our 501 (C) 3 renewal application to the IRS was rejected due to changes involved with the submittal process. A late fee of \$40.00 would be assessed with the resubmission of the application. The Board directed Keith to resubmit the application at the earliest possible opportunity and directed him to accompany the application with the appropriate fees. The Board to inform the general membership of this action at the next business meeting, Keith reported The Society remains “Financially Solvent”. Main Layout Goals were updated as follows:

**Main Layout Goals**

1. Finish the Farm scene above the “Old Helix” area. Add fencing, horses, farmer, tractor, maybe pigs & pig pen with water trough and food trough. Add some more trees and perhaps deer in the field.=**Complete**.
2. Add more people and animal

(deer, bear, etc...) to areas all over the layout to draw attention away from dead areas.=**Ongoing**

3. Add Railroad Crossing signs, etc. where needed.=**Ongoing**
  4. Finish the front edge of scenery at Wilson’s Mill.=**In Progress**
  5. Finish Water Tower and Graveyard scenery at Wilson’s Mill.=**Complete**
  6. Paint backdrop behind the “St. George Yard”. Mostly sky with a little grass and shrubs..=**Complete**
  7. Add appropriate buildings with details like loading docks, people, crates, etc.. to the St. George Yard.=**In Progress**
  8. Add bushes, grass, shrubbery, trees throughout the layout to cover bare spots and enhance existing scenery.=**In Progress**
  9. Replace Main Layout light where and when possible, as finances permit.=**In Progress**
  10. Install a Pole Line where appropriate.=**On Going**
  11. Install Phone Sheds.=**Start Delayed**
  13. Work on St. George Industrial area as a transitional area to the next scene or location.=**On Going**
  14. The **Signal Department**, will change the signal where needed to standardize signals throughout the layout.=**On Going**
- Additionally, new names were proposed for the coal mines. They are Blackwater Coal & Coke Company, and St. George, WV Mine #7.=**Complete**

**Main Facility Goals**

1. Finish painting the walls yellow with the green stripe. Do paint touch up where and when needed.=**75% Complete**
2. Identify all wall and ceiling areas where plaster is fall, flaking, and or missing. Patch the holes and paint as needed.=**Complete**

3. Check "Emergency" lighting, ensuring it works properly during an emergency.=**Complete**

4. Collect additional Railroad items to display around the Society. This is to enhance the Visitor Experience and build on the Railroad environment at the Society Meeting location.=**Ongoing**

5. Install new light fixture by the front door.=**Start Delayed**

6. Check items behind the wall storage area next to Gary's desk. The wall has been pushed out and become unstable or at least unsightly.=**Requires additional attention**

7. Complete the modular layout.=**Ongoing**

8. It was suggested we run a camera throughout the layout to identify additional cosmetic and functional needs.=**Start Delayed**

9. Attempt to conduct Operating Sessions once a quarter.=**Being Addressed**

A question was raised regarding the Back to School Open House and the completion and availability of the parking garage & lot. Rich volunteered to follow up with contact to someone in the municipal government/administration. The possibility exists that the Back to School Open House may need to be cancelled, pending Rich's findings.

We are also seeking information to determine dates for our December Open House and Mountaineer Week (if we are to participate)

The meeting was adjourned at 1944.

**Greg Malnikoff, Secretary**  
**MVRRHS**

## ***Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society***

### ***OFFICERS***

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#### **President**

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#### ***Our Society Website:***

<http://www.MVRRRC.org>

#### ***Our Society Yahoo site:***

[http://groups.yahoo.com/  
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#### ***Our Society***

#### ***facebook page:***

[http://www.facebook.com/  
MVRRHS](http://www.facebook.com/MVRRHS)