Attachment B

MRHTS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2026

The meeting was conducted at The Depot, Salem, IN at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order by: Don Toon at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Don Toon, Jim Craig, George Lortz, Jamie Stewart, Joe Crnkovich, Ron Simunic, Frank Van Bree, John Butler, Mike Benham and Dave Morrison.

Members Absent: Rick Dreistadt and Wayne Zeman.

Guests Present: Amy Butler, Bill Van Bree, Frank E. Van Bree and Shirley Benham

President's Report: Discussion was led by Don Toon. Don reported that he has investigated many options for continuing to establish new revenues and improve access to the Society's functions, digital and printed resources by providing access and visibility.

- **New Member & Life Member Surveys** – Monon.org and the Monon Facebook page were the biggest positive contributors. The best value is the *THL*. They would like easier and quicker access to photos, plans, etc. especially the modelers, who are the majority. New northern members are excited about a north end convention.

  Some of these options will be covered in more depth in committee reports to follow.

  The first piece of information relates to exploring Qualified Charitable Contributions (QCD's) to market to members. Many of our members are retired. My thought is to develop a program that communicates our willingness to partner with them to reduce their taxable income when they are age 73 or older. Under current law, people older than 73 are required to make Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's). By utilizing a QCD to 503C nonprofits, the funds can be "donated" to the qualified group (i.e. MRTS). The funds reduce the taxable income by satisfying a portion of the RMD and the Society receives the funds instead of the IRS.

  We can create projects to designate those funds or endow projects like the caboose.

- **THL Back Issue Thumb Drive** – Don is researching selling PDF's on thumb drives like other societies. Possibly for $75.00.

  The same methods could be used for previous projects on CD or other printed materials.

- **Improving Community Outreach** – Don has started discussions with a few museums and historical societies - are interested in presentations, potential memberships.

- **Purdue Railroad Club** – Don will present a Society show on the Lafayette area at 11:00 a.m. on April 18th during Purdue Railroad Day concentrating on Shops and people with historical overviews.

- **Photo & Documentation Archives** – OMEKA.NET trial example NYCSHS Archives – open source.

  Can host Monon.ORG or on OMEKA.NET – expensive depending on feature set.

Will evaluate vs. SmugMug that the Lake States Historical Society uses.

- **Decision on Calendars** – Membership inclusion vs. pre-order vs. straight sale. We are off-writing more value than ever in *THL* for issues of 32+ pages. Discussion will be held during committee report.

- **Donations** – Thanks to Tom Pinnick for donations of brand new Walthers HO cars and buildings with eBay value of $450.00

  $500 cash donation from Chuck Stewart for BOD uses.

  Red Devil MRHTS reproduction drum head from Vic Paynter. Don is having an LED enclosure built to use at Salem in meetings, presentations and train shows.

- **2026 Annual Convention** – The Annual Convention and Business Meeting will be held on August 28 – 30, 2026 at Hyatt Place in Munster, IN. More information will be available during the Committee Meeting report. Meeting room reservations were confirmed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Secretary's Report: Discussion led by George Lortz.

- George reported that the March 28, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes will be posted on the MRHTS website.
- A motion was made by Ron Simunic to approve the 3/28/26 meeting minutes and seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 10-0-0.
- George requested that it would be helpful if digital copies of all committee reports be emailed to him after each Board Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion was led by Don Toon (substituting for Dave Morrison).

- Don presented the Financial Report as of 12/31/25. **(Attachment #1)**.
- A motion was made by Jim Craig to approve the report and seconded by Ron Simunic. The motion passed 10-0-0.

Old Business.

- **2026 Annual Convention: Discussion led by Ron Simunic and Don Toon.**
  - It was reported that the 2026 Annual Convention planning was underway with a number of decisions still to made. More information will be available at the next Board Meeting. **(Attachment #2)**.
  - A motion was made by John Butler to approve the report and seconded by Dave Morrison. The motion passed 10-0-0.

- **Society Membership: Discussion led by Jamie Stewart.**
  - Jamie reported the MRHTS membership as of 3/28/26 was 448, which included all classes. **(Attachment #3).**
  - There are 21 new members since the November meeting and 2 new Lifetime Members – David Terdich and Charles Celula.
  - Jamie provided a list of recent members who had not renewed their membership and recommended that the Board members split up the name list and contact them personally. **(Attachment #4).**
  - A motion was made by Ron Simunic to approve the report and seconded by Jim Craig. The motion passed 10-0-0.

- **Status of HVRM 81532 Restoration Project: Discussion led by Jim Craig.**
  - Jim reported that the HVRM restoration Project Manager, Kevin Norman has kept the caboose inside and that restoration work was planned to start again this spring. **(Attachment #5).**
  - The current balance in the restoration project fund is $8638.00.

- A motion was made by George Lortz to approve the report and seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 10-0-0.

- **Stores and Product Sales: Discussion led by Jim Craig.**
  - Jim reported that the 3D wide-vision caboose is selling very well. The first 25 have sold out and we have received 25 more. **(Attachment #6).**
  - Sales of the 40-foot boxcars have been slower than expected.
  - MRHTS members have been attending train shows selling the Stores products.
  - A motion was made by George Lortz to approve the report and seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 10-0-0.

- ***The Hoosier Line*/Annual Calendar: Discussion led by Don Toon (substituting for Steve Dolzall).**
  - Don reported that the May issue of THL is complete and in final review stage. The content of the August issue has been determined. **(Attachment #7).**
  - The November issue will be an issue-length coverage of the "Monon in Monon (Indiana)" and will include four articles.
  - A selection of photos has been identified for the 2027 Calendar.
  - A motion was made by Dave Morrison to approve the report and seconded by Ron Simunic. The motion passed 10-0-0.

- **Photo Archives and Photo Databases: Discussion led by Don Toon and George Lortz.**
  - Don reported that Rick Berg provided photos of the Ash Grove wreck and the plan is to rescan them at a higher quality. **(Attachment #8).**
  - A set of 1946 EMD Shop paint drawings was purchased through eBay and have been scanned for the database.
  - The existing large format flat-bed scanner is not working. Jim and Don are working on obtaining a replacement.
  - The Society has obtained a CZUR Page/document scanner, which allows for scanning of bound documents.
  - George reported that he has received several requests for Monon Society photo images primarily from Indiana communities and Society members creating Monon presentations.
  - A motion was made by John Butler to approve the report and seconded by Jim Craig. The motion passed 10-0-0.

- **Paper Archives:** No Report.

- **Status of Monon Milepost Project: Discussion led by George Lortz**
  - George reported that he is creating a spreadsheet that contains detailed information about the Monon mileposts. He is still collecting information and plans to have the spreadsheet completed by year end.
  - Thanks to Jim Craig, Rick Dreistadt and Tom Rankin who have already submitted a significant amount of milepost information.
  - A motion was made by Jamie Stewart to approve the report and seconded by Jim Craig. The motion passed 10-0-0.

New Business.

- **Monon Board Q&A Discussion: Discussion led by Don Toon.**

- Don reported that the THL Committee has decided not to continue including the Q&A article in future *THLs*. If we want to continue this membership activity, we will need to develop different approach to implementing this function.
- One suggestion is to use the MRHTS Facebook account to provide this service.

- **Smart Label Trial for Archives:** Tabled for future discussion.

Other Suggestions.

- **Next Board Meeting**: Don reported that the next Board Meeting would be held in Arcadia, IN on July 17, 2026.

Meeting Adjourned:

A motion was made by John Butler to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Frank Van Bree. The motion passed 10-0-0.