

MRHTS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2025

The meeting was conducted at The Depot, Salem, IN at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order by: Don Toon at 1:05 p.m.

Members Present: Don Toon, Jim Craig, George Lortz, Rick Dreistadt, Jamie Stewart, Joe Crnkovich, Ron Simunic, Frank Van Bree, Steve Long and John Butler.

Members Absent: Mike Benham and Dave Morrison

Guests Present: Wayne Zeman, Amy Butler, Mike Van Bree, Bill Van Bree and Frank E. Van Bree.

President's Report: Discussion was led by Don Toon. Don reported that:

- The Society outlook was very positive – the previous administration provided strong financial leadership.
- There were long-term revenue gains by: 1) sharing revenue on business car #2 donated to HVRM and 2) short-term final payments from NKP Express on caboose #81528.
- There was strong attendance at the Annual Convention.
- There was a strong showing in finding new members to replace older members.
- *The Hoosier Line* and calendar are bringing back old members and attracting new members.
- Don stated his personal goals as the new MRHTS President were:
 - a) Initiate corporate outreach to museums and historical societies on the contact list he developed along the traditional Monon geography for recruiting corporate memberships.
 - b) Complete a “canned” Monon history presentation in PowerPoint and an audio/visual version for Board use and Web outreach.
 - c) Convene a Board or sub-committee to prepare a 5 – 10 or longer strategic plan – What can or do we want to be as membership ages?
 - d) Understand the grant process or partner with an experienced partner to secure funding to replace the flatbed scanner to 2025 standard versus 1995 and potentially hire a part-time staff person to scan documents.
 - e) Find marketable products for Stores newer “wearables” and evaluate what digital inventory is sellable on thumb-drive without compromising *THL* materials or user agreements.
 - f) Monon.org has almost unlimited storage capacity, same as above, evaluate what materials we can use to enhance membership with access to more in-depth materials that are watermarked and protected.
- A motion was made by Jamie Stewart to approve the report was seconded by Steve Long. The motion passed by 10-0-0.

Secretary's Report: Discussion led by George Lortz.

- George reported that the July 29, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes will be posted on the MRHTS website.
- A motion was made by John Butler to approve the minutes and seconded by Frank Van Bree. The motion passed 10-0-0.

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

- Don presented the Financial Report as of 11/07/25. (**Attachment #1**).
- A motion was made by Ron Simunic to approve the report and seconded by Rick Dreistadt. The motion passed 10-0-0.

Old Business.

- **2025 Annual Convention Recap: Discussion led by on Simunic.** Ron reported that:
 - The cost to hold the 2025 Convention was higher than expected.
 - The convention went as planned and plans are already in progress for the 2026 Convention.
- **2026 Annual Convention Planning: Discussion led by on Simunic.** Ron reported that:
 - The current thought is to use Munster as the site of the convention headquarters.
 - A CSS tour trip from Dyer to Hammond with a transfer to South Bend is being considered with a private car for a meal.
 - The possibility of a shorter convention (one-nighter) with a separate Annual Meeting on Friday night was discussed.
 - A motion was made by Rick Dreistadt to approve the report and seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 10-0-0.
- **2026 Board Election Update: Discussion led by Don Toon (substituting for Dave Morrison).** Don reported that:
 - There were no contending nominations for Board offices so no election was held at the Annual Meeting. However, there were not enough nominations to fill all the open Board positions and one position was not filled at that time.
 - It was decided that the open position would be filled by a special election at the current Board meeting.
 - Amy Butler, Steve long and Wayne Zeman were nominated for the open position.
 - A ballot vote of the Board members present was conducted with Wayne Zeman being elected to fill the open position.
 - A motion was made by Ron Simunic to accept the results of the special election and was seconded by Frank van Bree. The motion passed 10-0-0.
- **Society Membership: Discussion led by Jamie Stewart.** Jamie reported that:
 - The MRHTS currently has 434 members in all classes. **(Attachment #2).**
 - The Society has received 2 new members since the July report.
 - A motion was made by Wayne Zeman to accept the Membership Report and was seconded by Frank Van Bree. The motion passed 10-0-0.
- **Stores and Product Sales: Discussion led by Jim Craig and Don Toon.**
 - Jim and Don reported on the current status of: 1) convention T-shirts, 2) wide-vision cupola caboos models and 3) station model kits. **(Attachment #3).**
 - The calendars, T-shirts, box cars, and Rick Dreistadt's new book were added to the Stores website.
 - Train shows where Society members will be involved in selling include Indianapolis, Louisville, Danville, LaPorte, Lebanon and possibly Griffith.
 - Other possible future models discussed were business car #2 and an autorack.
 - A motion was made by Wayne Zeman to accept the Store and Product Sales 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 provided a handout of the report supplied by Steve Dolzall. **(Attachment #4).**
 - The February 2026 *THL* been submitted for layout and submission to the printer.
 - There is a preliminary plan in place for the May 2026 *THL*.
 - A motion was made by Ron Simunic to accept *The Hoosier Line/Annual Calendar* Report and seconded by Wayne Zeman. The motion passed 10-0-0.

- **Photo Archives and Photo Databases: Discussion led by Don Toon.**
 - Don provided a handout describing a CZUR ET Series book scanner that he proposed The Society purchase for use in scanning books, documents and photos. **(Attachment #5).**
 - The listed price of the scanner is \$663.00
 - A motion was made by Wayne Zeman that The Society purchased the scanner and seconded by Jamie Stewart. The motion passed 10-0-0.

- **Paper Archives: Discussion led by Rick Dreistadt.** Rick reported that:
 - He is continuing work on organizing the Paper Archives.
 - He suggested that duplicate timetables be sold maybe initially to Society members only. A policy may be needed to cover this.
 - A suggestion was made that a subcommittee be formed to work on Paper Archives sales.
 - A motion was made by Wayne Zeman to accept the Paper Archives Report and seconded by Ron Simunic. The motion passed 10-0-0.

- **Status of HVRM 81532 Restoration Project: Discussion led by Jim Craig.** Jim reported that:
 - The project manager, Kevin Norman has a new job and has moved to Grand Rapids.
 - HVRM president, Todd Flanigan, will address the ongoing work issue.
 - There is currently \$8,638.14 left in the 81532 Restoration Fund.
 - A motion was made by Wayne Zeman to accept the 81532 Restoration Report and seconded by Ron Simunic. The motion passed 10-0-0.

New Business.

- **Conflict of Interest Document: Discussion led by on Toon.**
 - Don provided a Conflict of Interest Policy document and explained the need for all Board members to agree to and sign the document. **(Attachment #6).**
 - The policy will become part of The Society's standard documentation and all Board members present and future will be asked to sign.
 - The Board members present signed individual copies of the document.

- **Future Board Meeting Dates: Discussion led by Don Toon.**
 - Don reported that the 2026 Board Meeting dates had not yet been determined and he will notify Board members as soon as they are.

- **Electronic Board Meeting Options: Discussion led by Don Toon.**
 - Don reported that he is considering the possibility of The Society conducting Board Meetings through electronic (on-line) options.

Other Suggestions.

- **Disposition of large printer** – Don; Jim Craig, Frank van Bree proposed vote?
- **New Member Survey** – To allow for personal contact; Don to work on it.
- **Society Personnel Directory** – Maintained and distributed by George unless there are objections.
- **Society Donations Committee** – To accept Society donations; John and Amy will staff.
- **Photo Archives Planning Committee** – George will work on it.

Meeting Adjourned:

A motion was made by Ron Simunic to adjourn the meeting and seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 10-0-0. The meeting was adjourned by Don Toon at 3:27 p.m.