

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
**PCR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 26, 2002**

By Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

*Your PCR Board of Directors meets twice a year—one meeting is at the PCR Annual Convention in the spring and the other, like this one, is at a selected location within the Region in the fall. These meetings are open to PCR members.*

The Board of Directors met at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento, California, on Saturday, October 26, 2002. President and Trustee Ray deBlieck presided over the 3-hour meeting. Around the table were Vice-President L.E. “Gene” Mayer, Directors Jack Wall from Coast Division, Brewster Bird from Daylight Division, Ron Plies from Redwood Empire Division, and Bob Mountjoy from Sierra Division, and Secretary Rich Kolm. Also present were Jim Long, Bob Ferguson, Norman Morris, Harold Mentzer, Mary Campagna, Gus Campagna, and Dave Connery.

**Treasurer’s report.** Treasurer Larry Altbaum’s written report pointed out the continuing trend of lower revenue from dues and interest along with higher expenses. The issue of reduced membership, and hence revenue, continues to warrant attention and he urged the Board to consider promotional activities using the funds budgeted for that purpose. The report concluded that in all the Region is fiscally sound.

**Declining membership.** Bob Ferguson, Chairperson of the Member Services Committee, described the continuing decline in PCR membership from 1,359 members in mid-1994 to only 951 members today. This is an issue addressed in PCR’s Long Range Plan (see below).

**New standing committees.** The Board approved amendments to the Manual of Operations, which were recommended in a report presented by L.E. “Gene” Mayer, Chairperson of the By-Laws and Manual of Operations Committee. These amendments in Section 6 clean up the organization of subsections as related to special committees and establish three new standing committees:

- Honors Committee, to monitor and keep the records for PCR’s program of awards recognizing meritorious service (but not actually selecting the awardees).
- Education Committee, to make and maintain contact with outside organizations that provide educational programs related to model railroading and to serve as a resource to such programs.
- Special Interests Coordination Committee, to be responsible for effective coordination between the programs and activities of PCR and the various organizations and groups set up to serve special interests related to model railroading.

**Reorganization of committees into departments.** The Board concurred with President deBlieck’s proposal to reorganize PCR committees into seven departments to improve operations. This requires amendments to the By-Laws and the Manual of Operations as recommended in the By-Laws and Manual of Operations Committee report. The Board directed that the By-Laws amendment be submitted to the membership for approval at the Annual Business Meeting in Pleasanton next April. In the meantime, details of the reorganization will be circulated for review. After membership approval of the By-Laws amendment, the Board’s amendment of the Manual of Operations will establish the structure of the departments, which has been proposed as follows:

- Administration Dept. – Managed by the President – includes Budget and Finance, By-Laws and Manual of Operations, Nominating, Ballot, and Honors Committees.
- Membership Dept. – Manager (new position) – includes Member Services, Membership Promotion, Member Aid, Education, and Special Interests Coordination Committees.
- Publication Dept. – Manager (current Chairperson position) – includes Publisher, Editor of the *Branch Line*, Circulation Manager, and Webmaster.
- Convention Dept. – Manager (current Chairperson position) – includes Convention Committee and Convention Host Committees.
- Contest Dept. – Manager (current Chairperson position) – includes Division Contest Chairpersons.
- Achievement Program Dept. – AP Manager (current position) – includes Division AP Chairpersons.
- Non-Rail Activities Dept. – Manager (current Chairperson position) – includes staff and committees as needed.

**Nominations for President and Vice-President.** The Board certified that the candidates in the upcoming election are L.E. “Gene” Mayer for President and Dave Connery for Vice-President. The ballot will appear in the *Branch Line*. The President and Vice-President will serve a two-year term beginning at the Annual Business Meeting in 2003.

**PCR Conventions.** Jim Long, Convention Committee Chairperson, reported on the status of upcoming conventions.

2003: “Tri-Valley Zephyr” will be hosted by Coast Division, April 23-27, 2003 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pleasanton. Dennis Stokely is the Chairperson and Jack Wall is the Registrar, who is accepting registrations.

2004: “Napa Valley 04” will be hosted by Napa Valley Railroaders and the Redwood Empire Division at the Embassy Suites in Napa. Harold Mentzer is the Chairperson.

2005: The Board accepted the bid of the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society to host the 2005 convention in Concord, contingent upon successful negotiations with the Sheraton Concord Hotel. Bill Swindell is the Chairperson and Bob Ferguson is the Registrar and Treasurer.

2006: The Board accepted the proposal of Sierra Division to hold the 2006 convention in Sacramento, that being the 25th anniversary of the California State Railroad Museum. The co-hosts with Sierra Division may be the Sacramento Modular Railroaders and the Sacramento Model Railroad Club. Convention dates will be selected to coincide with the expected Museum celebration, provided it takes place in April or May of 2006. A joint convention with PNR or PSR may also be considered.

Jim Long said a new Convention Handbook is being put together based on an earlier draft prepared by Bob Clark, and will soon be finished.

Norman Morris, Chairperson of “Shasta Daylight 2002” at Redding, reported that the 2002 PCR Convention was very successful and a net surplus of \$8,680 was shared by PCR, Sierra Division (Host Committee), and Bay Area NTRAK.

**Long Range Plan.** L.E. “Gene” Mayer, Long Range Planning Committee Chairperson, submitted the Committee’s Final Report with a Long Range Plan for PCR. He said the Plan is a consensus of committee members based on 2-1/2 years of work and is valid whether NMRA goes to single membership or not. The report is available by e-mail from him or Secretary Rich Kolm. The Plan includes recommendations for programs at the Divisions for improving member retention and attracting new members. President deBlieck asked the Committee to develop an implementation program. In

connection with this, the Board authorized printing additional copies of the first issue of the *Branch Line* in 2003 to be mailed to all non-PCR members of NMRA in PCR territory.

**Unfinished Business.** Consideration of new programs and projects of benefit to PCR members, as related to revenue from the 21st Century Limited convention account, was continued to the next meeting. The future of the Hawaiian Division, which is currently inactive, is a problem that will need attention. The creation of a new separate division in the northern part of the Sierra Division is an ongoing consideration by Dwayne Coate.

**Contest judging.** Under New Business, there was considerable discussion whether the contest room at PCR conventions should be open or closed during judging. The Board adopted a policy that contest judging shall be in open contest rooms beginning with the 2004 PCR Convention and optional with the 2003 PCR Convention.

**The next meeting** of the PCR Board of Directors is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2003 at the PCR Convention in Pleasanton.

RLK 11/11/02