

HIGHLIGHTS
PCR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2003

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 California School for the Deaf in Fremont, California, at 1:05 p.m. on Saturday, October 25, 2003. President L.E. “Gene” Mayer talked about his search for members to fill several vacant positions. Vice-President Dave Connery went over the next steps in implementing PCR’s Long Range Plan. Part of that was the very successful PCR Leadership Conference which began in the morning the same day and location as this Board meeting. Treasurer Larry Altbaum’s written report said the assets of the Region remain very healthy; however, the bulk of operating expenses revolve around publication of the *Branch Line*, which have exceeded the budget. Directors Jack Wall (Coast Div.), Brewster Bird (Daylight Div.), Ron Plies (Redwood Empire Div.), and Bob Mountjoy (Sierra Div.) went over current activities in each of their Divisions.

Trustee Ray deBlieck talked about the proposed NMRA Regulations that will be voted on by the membership next year to replace the existing Constitution and By-Laws. He recommends adoption of the Regulations, saying they are not perfect but NMRA needs to move forward. Later in the meeting he added that PCR needs to determine what needs to be done, and at what expense, to accommodate the NMRA changes. President Mayer will appoint a committee to look into PCR’s relationship to the future of NMRA.

Bob Ferguson, Member Services Chairperson, said a Membership Promotion Chairperson and committee are needed to contact members who are delinquent with their dues. To fill that void, he has been sending out letters to those who do not renew, inviting them to comment; he received no comments. President Mayer said he is working on filling the vacant chairperson position.

Gus Campagna, Publication Department Manager, commented about changes in the mailing permit for the *Branch Line*, which should result in lower mailing costs. With regard to the number of pages in the *Branch Line*, Editor Bill Kaufman said his central philosophy is to include interesting articles along with the administrative stuff and announcements so the membership will want to read it. The Board recognized that this is the PCR’s principal communication tool, especially for promoting the annual convention. Later, in the discussion of next year’s budget, Manager Campagna said an average of about 40 pages per issue would be within the budget.

Jim Long, Convention Department Manager, reported on the status of upcoming conventions.

- 2004 in Napa at the Embassy Suites Hotel, April 29 to May 2. “Napa Valley 04” will be hosted by Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society and the Redwood Empire Division. Harold Mentzer is the Convention Chairperson.

- 2005 in Concord at the Sheraton Concord Hotel, May 11 - 15. It will be hosted by the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society. Bill Swindell is the Convention Chairperson.
- 2006 in Sacramento at the Double Tree Sacramento Hotel, May 3 - 8. It will be hosted by Sierra Division, Sacramento Model Railroad Club, and Sacramento Modular Railroad Club. Gene Mayer is handling things until a chairperson is appointed.
- 2007 will be in the Coast Division and the Santa Cruz area is under consideration. Kevin Hurley and Dave Loveless are working on it.
- 2008 will be in the Daylight Division and the Fresno/Clovis area is under consideration. John Houlihan will act as Convention Chairperson.

Mary Moore-Campagna, Non-Rail Activities Department Manager, presented the objectives and goals of her department for programs at the divisional and regional levels. A working committee of Non-Rail personnel will be established to assist with planning for division meets, if requested, and to work with the Convention Department in planning Non-Rail programs for conventions.

The Board authorized the purchase of two digital projectors for not more than \$1,400 each plus spare bulbs. These will be financed from the PCR convention fund and will be available to the Convention Committee and Divisions. This decision was based on Jim Long's report and recommendations. The Board discussed the pros and cons of purchasing projectors versus renting them. The issues of security, damage in handling, use at Division meets, potential for renting to other model railroad related events, and replacement of bulbs were also considered. President Mayer appointed a special committee including Jim Long, Gus Campagna, and John Marshall to develop procedures for storage and use of the projectors.

The Board authorized up to \$2,000 for application to the IRS to change PCR's non-profit tax status to Code Section 501c3. The Board approved PCR's joint sponsorship of the Layout Design and Operations SIGs meet on February 7 and 8, 2004.

Treasurer Altbaum presented a proposed PCR budget for fiscal year 2004 in his written report. The Board adopted the budget with the additional expenditures approved during the meeting.

The next meeting of the PCR Board of Directors is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2004 at the PCR Convention in Napa.

RLK 11/14/03