

HIGHLIGHTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2004

By Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

Your PCR Board of Directors meets twice a year—one meeting is in the fall and the other, like this one, is at the PCR Annual Convention in the spring.

The Board of Directors met at 1:15 pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Napa. Board members present were President L.E. “Gene” Mayer, Vice-President Dave Connery, Secretary Rich Kolm, Directors Jack Wall (Coast) and Ron Plies (Redwood Empire), and Director-proxies Doug Wagner (Daylight) and Dick Witzens (Sierra).

President Mayer talked about several ongoing matters. He particularly noted receiving the Special Committee report on PCR’s situation with respect to the NMRA (see below). He appointed Bill Swindell, Al Rowe, and Dave Turner to the Audit Committee, and Rich Kolm to the By-Laws and Manual of Operations Committee. He is still looking for volunteers to fill a number of PCR department and committee vacancies.

Vice-President Dave Connery talked about implementation of PCR’s Long Range Plan, explaining that some things can only be implemented at the Division level. He distributed letters to Directors and Division Superintendents explaining the implementation strategy.

Treasurer Larry Altbaum’s written report said the assets of the Region remain healthy; however, he pointed out that *Branch Line* costs are exceeding budgets by a significant amount. Board members commented that costs need to be controlled, but to stay with the 40 pages as understood at the previous Board Meeting. A budget deficit will continue until we know what NMRA is doing regarding dues.

The recent voting for Directors resulted in the election of Doug Wagner in Daylight, Kermit Paul in Coast, and Jesse Menefee, Jr. in Sierra, and re-election of Ron Plies in Redwood Empire Division. The new Directors took office later in the meeting under New Business.

Gus Campagna, Publication Department Manager, reported that his application to the USPS for a non-profit bulk mailing permit for the *Branch Line* was denied. The existing permit is still valid, and he was told that the *Branch Line* can include paid advertising under that permit.

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

- 2005 in Concord: “Devil Mountain 2005” will be at the Sheraton Concord Hotel, May 11 - 15, hosted by the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society. Bill Swindell is the Convention Chairperson and Bob Ferguson is the Registrar.
- 2006 in Sacramento at the Double Tree Sacramento Hotel, May 3 - 8. It will be hosted by Sierra Division, Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society, and Sacramento Modular Railroad Club. Gene Mayer is handling things until a chairperson is appointed.

- 2007 will be in the Coast Division. Locations in the Santa Cruz area are under consideration. Kevin Hurley and Dave Loveless are working on it.
- 2008 will be in the Daylight Division. Locations in the Fresno area are under consideration. John Houlihan is the Convention Chairperson.

The Board directed that negotiations continue with Pacific Southwest Region on possible joint conventions in the near future. Jim Long announced his resignation, but will stay on until a new Convention Department Manager is appointed.

Two digital projectors have been purchased as authorized at the previous Board meeting. These were financed from the PCR convention fund and are available for use by the Convention Host Committees and the Divisions. They are currently stored with John Marshall and Gus Campagna. A procedure will be set up for renting the projectors to other model railroad related organizations.

Stephen Johnson described the report of his Special Committee appointed by President Mayer to evaluate PCR's position with respect to the NMRA. The Committee concluded that PCR benefits from being part of a vibrant national organization; separation from NMRA would have no guarantee of success; and there is a concern as to whether NMRA's organizational problems and financial conditions will be corrected. The Committee recommended that the PCR Board of Directors periodically assess the operational and financial conditions and establish a set of actions should it have to respond to significant changes at the NMRA. Board members commended Johnson for his thorough report and noted that there is nothing for the Board to do right now, until the results of the vote on the proposed NMRA Regulations are known and then seeing what the NMRA does from there.

On a motion introduced by Vice-President Connery from his Long Range Plan Implementation Committee, the Board requested that the NMRA develop and carry out a training program for all regional officers, directors, managers, and committee chairpersons.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm. The "mid-year" Board Meeting will be on November 6, 2004 at 1:00 pm at the Sheraton Concord Hotel.

RLK 5/13/04