

HIGHLIGHTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

By Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

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

President L.E. “Gene” Mayer called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 6 at the Concord Hotel in Concord. Present were all officers and directors, the trustee, and a few department managers and committee chairpersons. The agenda is available at the PCR website. (The “Concord Hotel” is the site of the PCR Annual Convention in May 2005, formerly the Sheraton Concord, and then briefly the Raddison Concord, and soon to be some other franchised name.)

Vice-President Dave Connery, Chairperson of the By-Laws and Manual of Operations Committee, presented proposed amendments to the By-Laws. The current PCR membership categories and dues will be replaced by those established by NMRA under its single dues structure, which may become effective September 1, 2005. PCR will receive a small portion of the single national dues and possibly some optional subscription fees, but those are yet to be determined by NMRA. The office of Trustee will disappear when the new NMRA Board of Directors takes office in July 2005. The new NMRA Regional Advisory Council (RAC) is already functioning (President Mayer is PCR’s representative). The Board accepted the proposed amendments and directed that they be presented to the membership for approval at the PCR Annual Business Meeting on May 15, 2005. Connery said the proposed amendments will be summarized in a future issue of the *Branch Line* and will be posted on the PCR website.

Vice-President Connery also presented proposed amendments to the PCR Manual of Operations. These changes elaborate on PCR’s representation on the Regional Advisory Council, revise the sections on dues and fees, eliminate the Trustee position effective next July, and modify the role of the Membership Services Committee when single dues become effective. Connery said we should expect more changes next year as the NMRA further develops the new organization, membership classes, dues structure, and fees. The Board approved the amendments to the Manual of Operations, which take effect immediately.

Trustee Ray deBlieck reported on activities at NMRA, moving ahead with the Long Range Plan and reorganization of NMRA now that the new Regulations are in place. More details will come out of the Board of Trustees meeting in January.

The nominations of L.E. “Gene” Mayer for President and Dave Connery for Vice-President were received and certified to the Ballot Committee. The election ballots will be mailed with the *Branch Line* early next year.

Harold Mentzer, Convention Chairperson for “Napa Valley 2004” last April, reported that the convention is expected to break even financially. Treasurer Larry Altbaum pointed out that

registration was lower than expected, but Mentzer and his committee did a good job of adjusting the program to balance with the finances.

Bill Swindell, Convention Chairperson for “Devil Mountain 2005” in Concord (May 11-15, 2005), reported that the convention, hosted by the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, will have some unusual features. The Convention will end on Sunday with a midday barbecue in the park next to the Walnut Creek club, which is included with the registration.

L.E. “Gene” Mayer, Treasurer for “Overland Limited 2006” in Sacramento (May 3-8, 2006), talked about the convention being planned for the DoubleTree Sacramento Hotel, hosted by the Sierra Division, Sacramento Model Historical Society, and Sacramento Modular Railroad Club. Bob Warner will be the Convention Chairperson.

Director Ron Plies said he would like to begin a dialogue regarding model contests and how they are conducted. He wants find a way to encourage more modelers to enter the contests and will make a proposal at the next Board meeting to consider some different approaches.

Bob Ferguson, Membership Services Committee Chairperson, reported that he had to furnish NMRA a list of the more than 1800 Zip Codes in the PCR territory. These will be used in NMRA’s new membership data base.

The Board approved an amendment to the Manual of Operations creating the position of Storekeeper to prepare a computer-based inventory of PCR physical property, which is stored in many different places. The Storekeeper will provide ongoing administrative control and assure that the storage of the physical property is suitable and secure.

Treasurer Larry Altbaum presented the proposed FY 2005 Budget, explaining that the PCR is in good financial shape. There is uncertainty about PCR’s future revenues under NMRA’s new operating philosophy as the details are yet to be determined. The proposed Budget is based on continuing to operate as in the past, but can be updated when more is known six months from now. The Board approved the Budget for FY 2005.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm. The next regular Board Meeting will be on May 11, 2005 at 1:00 pm, in this same hotel.