

**PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, May 3, 2006**

DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, Calif.
PCR Convention "River City Express"

M I N U T E S

•• *These minutes are subject to change until approved by the Board of Directors* ••

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM by President L.E. "Gene" Mayer.

A. Quorum Verification. The following voting members of the Board were present: President Mayer, Vice-President Dave Connery, Daylight Division Director Doug Wagner, Coast Division Director Kermit Paul, Sierra Division Director Jim Long (appointed to replace Jesse Menefee, Jr., who resigned in November 2005), and Redwood Empire Division Director-proxy Gus Campagna (for Director Ron Plies). The other Board members present were Treasurer Larry Altbaum and Secretary Rich Kolm. Also present were NMRA Director Ray deBlieck and various Department Managers and Committee Chairpersons.

B. Adoption of the Agenda. Assumed without a vote.

C. Written Communications. President Mayer received an e-mail from Eric Minton, a member in the Hawaiian Division, regarding the Hawaiian Division.

D. Member Comments. None.

E. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Director-proxy Campagna and seconded...

THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on November 5, 2005 be approved.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

F. Officers' Reports

1. President Mayer summarized his written report, noting that Doug Wagner is the new Manager of the Membership Department and Ron Plies is the new Chairperson of the Membership Promotion Committee within that Department.

2. Vice-President Connery summarized his written report, explaining that the model railroad equipment from the Keith Heinsohn estate has been inventoried and those items of intermediate value will be sold at this Convention through a silent auction. High value items may be disposed of through e-Bay auctions and lower value items through the Coast Division auction. PCR Purpose and Objectives will be presented under Unfinished Business.

3. Treasurer Altbaum summarized his written report and submitted a proposed Budget for fiscal year 2006. With regard to the amount of annual dues rebated from NMRA, he pointed out the large disparity between the \$2.00 for year-to-year and actuarial life members and only \$0.50

for non-actuarial life members. The non-actuarial life members are treated like second-class citizens, he said. Even student members have \$1.00 rebated. It was suggested that President Mayer address this disparity through the Regional Advisory Council.

4. **Secretary Kolm** had no report.

G. Directors' Reports

1. **Daylight Division: Director Wagner** summarized his written report.

2. **Coast Division: Director Paul** had no written report, but announced that Jack Verducci and Marvin Costello are each receiving the Master Model Railroader award.

3. **Sierra Division: Director Long** had no report since he was recently appointed.

4. **Redwood Empire Division: Director-proxy Campagna** said a written report was submitted.

5. **Hawaiian Division:** No director, no report, and the Division is inactive.

H. Department Reports

1. Administration Department

• **Ballot Committee.** Chairperson Jim Providenza submitted a written report with the results of the election of Division Directors:

- Doug Wagner was re-elected in Daylight Division
- Kermit Paul was re-elected in Coast Division
- Jim Long was elected in Sierra Division
- Gus Campagna was elected in Redwood Empire Division
- Three write-in names for Director in the Hawaiian Division, each with one vote.

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President Connery and seconded...

THAT the report on the election of Division Directors submitted by Jim Providenza, Chairperson of the Ballot Committee, be accepted and all ballots, except those ballots from the Hawaiian Division, be destroyed.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

President Mayer said the question of a Director representing the inactive Hawaiian Division will be reviewed. The Board will need to know whether the three write-ins are valid candidates, whether they would serve if elected, and whether there are sufficient members with an interest in operating a Division program.

• **Audit Committee.** President Mayer said the Committee has not yet conducted an audit of the PCR financial accounts.

• **Storekeeper.** Steve Skold submitted a report with an inventory of PCR property.

• **Nominating Committee.** President Mayer said he will appoint an interim Chairperson to seek and evaluate potential candidates for President and Vice-President. A slate of candidates has to be reported to the Ballot Committee by December 1. [*Secretary's note: It was reported after the meeting that Bill Kaufman accepted the appointment.*]

• **Long Range Plan Implementation Committee.** Vice-President Connery said the former plan cannot be followed because of changes brought on by the restructuring of NMRA. The plan needs to be revised.

2. Membership Department. Doug Wagner is the new Manager of the Department. He said he will be looking at what needs to be accomplished.

3. Publications Department. Manager Gus Campagna looked into putting out a quarterly communication of PCR news and information through the Division newsletters. His report and proposal and the Board action are covered under Unfinished Business Item I.3 below.

4. Convention Department.

- **Status of Annual Conventions.** Manager Dennis Stokely reported on the current convention, “River City Express,” and the 2007 convention in Santa Cruz, “Sun Tan Special”. He said he is looking for chairpersons and proposals for conventions in Coast Division in 2009 and in Redwood Empire Division in 2010. The proposal for 2008 will be presented by John Houlihan (see below).

- **Promoting Convention Attendance.** Manager Stokely proposed that there be a discount for first-time convention attendance, with the amount of the discount covered by PCR. This stimulated Board discussion about how the conventions are promoted, especially to new members of PCR. The issue is how to attract members who normally do not attend the conventions. One thought was a special clinic for first time attendees to explain how to get the most out of a convention. This issue is tied in with membership promotion in the Membership Department. In the discussion it was pointed out that (1) the PCR already carries the risk of financial loss from a convention, and (2) the Convention Host Committee for Santa Cruz next year can set its own pricing policy for registration. There was no Board action on Manager Stokely’s proposal.

- **2008 Fresno, “Sierra Memories”.** John Houlihan, Chairperson of the Convention Host Committee, presented his proposal for the convention. He went over the details, distributed a handout, and responded to questions from the Board. The convention will be at the Ramada Inn University in Fresno, April 30 to May 4.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Campagna and seconded...

THAT the proposal for the 2008 PCR Convention in Fresno be accepted.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

5. Contest Department. Manager Bill Scott presented his proposed changes to the Contest Directory for Board approval. He distributed a handout and explained that these changes are necessary to make the Directory consistent with the amendments to the Manual of Operations last year.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Long and seconded...

THAT the proposed changes to the Contest Directory be approved.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

6. Achievement Program Department. Not present, no report.

7. Non-Rail Activities Department. Not present, no report.

I. Unfinished Business

1. Develop PCR Purpose and Objectives. Vice-President Connery presented a statement of Purpose and Objectives for Board consideration. He pointed out that the Region needs a guide as it moves forward under the new NMRA Regulations. The intent is to have a strong

program of activities to retain members, which in turn will support an organized effort to bring in new members.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Long and seconded...

THAT the statement of PCR Purpose and Objectives be accepted and added to the Manual of Operations.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

2. Disposition of Heinsohn estate items. Vice-President Connery covered this in his report under Item B.2.

3. Plan to send Regional news to all members at least quarterly. The first issue of the *Branch Line* each year is sent to every PCR member, and the other three issues go only to members who subscribe through their NMRA dues. Region contact with all members at least four times per year is very important.

Gus Campagna, Manager of the Publications Department, presented a comprehensive plan to send PCR news to all members through the Division newsletters. The Publications Department would send Division editors two pages (one sheet, two sides) ready for publication during each of the last three quarters of the year. He proposed funding from PCR with one first class postage stamp per member for each issue. He recognized that the newsletters are on different schedules and some can use electronic copy and others need hard copy. The program should be voluntary—if a Division doesn't want to do it then the Publications Department would publish and mail it to members in that Division. In the discussion it was pointed out that the original proposal was to send the two pages only to those who are not *Branch Line* subscribers. Manager Campagna pointed out that his recommendation is an easier approach and there would be differences between the content of the Division-level two pages and the *Branch Line*. The Board considered creation of the program and its Division-level funding in separate motions.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Long and seconded...

THAT the Publications Department provide two pages of Regional news and information to each Division newsletter editor four times per year and ask each editor to publish it with the Division newsletters.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

In the discussion of funding it was argued that the Division-level publication should be only three times per year, excluding the first quarter of each calendar year when all PCR members receive the *Branch Line*.

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President Connery and seconded...

THAT the PCR allocate 39 cents per member three times per year (\$1.17) to each Division if they publish the regional news and information provided by the PCR Publications Department and send it to all members in the Division.

MOTION FAILED on a vote of 1 in favor and 5 opposed.

It was argued that instead of the 39-cent postage stamp approach, Divisions that publish the Regional news and information should receive half of PCR's annual NMRA dues rebate.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Long and seconded...

THAT PCR provide funds to each Division in an amount equal to 50 percent of the dues rebate that PCR receives from NMRA for members within the Division each year, with the stipulation that two pages of regional news and information be published and distributed to all

members in the Division three times per year, not including the first calendar quarter, such regional content to be furnished by the PCR Publications Department.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

4. Model contest alternatives. Ron Plies was not present.

J. New Business

1. Elected Division Directors assume office. Acknowledged by President Mayer.

2. Proposed purchase of laptop computers. Three reconditioned laptop computers were purchased by John Marshall for use at convention clinics, with a recommendation that they be purchased by PCR. President Mayer proposed an alternative, that the Convention Host Committee purchase the laptops and sell them after the convention. There was no Board action to purchase the laptops.

3. Proposed lower convention registration fee for first-time attendees. This was covered in Item H.4, Convention Department report (“Promoting Convention Attendance”).

4. Regional services for members in the Hawaiian Division. Not discussed. (See President Mayer’s comments regarding the Hawaiian Division under Item H.1.)

K. Budget. Treasurer Altbaum presented a proposed Budget for fiscal year 2006, which will be adjusted with the addition of funding to the Divisions for publication of Regional news and information and interest income from the 21st Century Convention account (as proposed at the November 5, 2005 Board meeting).

MOTION: It was moved by Director Long and seconded...

THAT the Budget proposed by Treasurer Larry Altbaum for fiscal year 2006 be approved with the Treasurer’s addition of two items: (1) distribution of funds to the Divisions for publishing PCR news three times per year, and (2) interest income from the 21st Century Convention account.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

L. Announcements. The next Board of Directors meeting will be at 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 18, 2006 in Santa Cruz (not on October 21 as originally discussed).

M. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Kolm
PCR Secretary

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, May 3, 2006

WRITTEN DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD

Listed by Agenda Item:

- C. • E-mail from Eric Minton regarding Hawaiian Division
- E. • Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on Nov. 5, 2005, Gus Campagna
- F. • President's Report, L.E."Gene" Mayer
 - Vice-President's Report, Dave Connery
 - Treasurer's Report, Larry Altbaum
- G. • Daylight Division Director's Report, Doug Wagner
 - Redwood Empire Division Director's Report, Ron Plies
- H.1. • Ballot Committee Report, Jim Providenza
 - Storekeeper Report, Steve Skold
- H.2. • Membership Dept. Report, Doug Wagner
- H.3. • Publications Dept. Report, Gus Campagna
- H.4. • Convention Dept. Report, Dennis Stokely
 - 2008 Convention in Fresno, Proposal from the Daylight Division, John Houlihan
- H.5. • Contest Dept., Proposed Changes to the Contest Directory, Bill Scott
- I.1. • PCR Purpose and Objectives (*see Vice-President's Report*)
- I.2. • Disposition of Heinsohn estate items (*see Vice-President's Report*)
- I.3. • Plan to send Regional news to all Regional members at least quarterly (*see Publications Dept. Report*)
- J.1. • Proposed purchase of laptop computers, John Marshall
- J.2. • Proposed lower convention registration fee for first time attendees (*see Convention Dept. Report*)
- K. • Proposed Budget for FY 2006 (*see Treasurer's Report*)

Rich Kolm
PCR Secretary