

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**November 18, 2006 - Regular Meeting**

**University Inn & Conference Center, 611 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, Calif.**

**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 1:02 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, and Redwood Empire Division Director Gus Campagna. The other Board members present were Treasurer Larry Altbaum and Secretary Rich Kolm. Also present were NMRA Director Bob Ferguson and various Department Managers and Committee Chairpersons.

**B. Adoption of the Agenda.**

MOTION: It was moved by Director Long and seconded...  
THAT the Agenda for this meeting be adopted.  
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

**C. Written Communications.** None.

**D. Member Comments.** None.

**E. Approval of the Minutes**

MOTION: It was moved by Director Campagna and seconded...  
THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on May 3, 2006 be approved.  
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President Connery and seconded...  
THAT the Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting on May 7, 2006 be approved.  
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

*Move ahead to Item I.1...*

**I. Unfinished Business**

**1. Hawaiian Division Director – Decision regarding write-in votes on ballots in early 2006.** At its May 3, 2006 meeting the Board accepted the report on the election of Division Directors submitted by Jim Providenza, Chairperson of the Ballot Committee. PCR’s Hawaiian Division has been inactive for many years; however, write-in candidates for Hawaiian Division appeared on three ballots. The Board delayed declaring a winner until this Board meeting, while President Mayer reviewed the qualifications and availability of the candidates. One candidate was not a resident of Hawaii nor PCR and another could not be contacted. Director Long met with candidate Eric Minton in Hawaii, who was qualified and available to serve. He lives in

Honolulu and wants to revive and encourage Division activities in the islands. President Mayer and Director Long recommended that Eric Minton be declared the winner of the election.

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

THAT the election of Eric Minton as Hawaiian Division Director is approved, and that the ballots from the Hawaiian Division be destroyed.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

Director Minton was not present at the meeting, but he immediately assumed office.

*Return to the order of the Agenda...*

## **F. Officers' Reports**

**1. President Mayer** talked about attending the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meeting in Philadelphia during the NMRA Convention. He said it was disappointing that only four RAC members (regional presidents) were able to attend, along with several NMRA representatives. They discussed a number of concerns, especially NMRA dues and the amount of the annual dues rebates returned to the regions for NMRA-mandated programs and activities.

**2. Vice-President Connery** referred to his written report. Of particular concern is subsidiary income sources for the long-term funding of PCR. Current sources include sales of merchandise, sales of model railroad equipment from estate bequests to PCR, and rental of PCR equipment to other railroad and model groups. He recommended that the Region develop and manage an endowment fund using the Region's assets to produce greater returns. All of this takes work on the part of members to avoid higher membership fees in the future, which is essential in our volunteer organization.

**3. Treasurer Altbaum** commented about his written report which points out that the finances of the Region are now more stable. His proposed budget will be considered under Item K. He stressed the importance of communicating Region information with all members. Also, he believes the NMRA Board of Directors needs to fix the inequity created by NMRA rebating funds for non-actuarial life members at a level only one quarter that of actuarial life and year-to-year members.

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

## **G. Directors' Reports**

**1. Daylight Division: Director Wagner** summarized his written report. He pointed out that it is next to impossible to get members to volunteer for office and other positions. There is an ongoing recycling of a few members who do volunteer, with some people holding several jobs at the same time. Another problem that Daylight Division has to deal with is its geographic size and spread, from the east side of the San Joaquin Valley to the Pacific coast.

**2. Coast Division: Director Paul** reported that an ad-hoc committee is working on a plan to provide efficient transition for successors to positions in the Division. The concern is that some positions require specialization or involve detailed procedures which must be fully documented so successors can easily come up to speed in an unexpected or normal transition.

**3. Sierra Division: Director Long** reported that the next Division meet will be in January. They are having difficulty finding members willing to run for Superintendent. Most members

will not volunteer for an office or other position. He said former Director Jesse Menefee moved to Alabama and is not doing well. Apparently he's in and out of the VA hospital there.

**4. Redwood Empire Division: Director Campagna** handed out his report which focused on the lack of members willing to volunteer to help run the Division. He hopes that the Region or the national organization can help in recruitment and training of Division staff. PCR's leadership training program in October 2003 was good, but there was no follow-up. He included in his report a copy of his message to the Division in the recent *Callboard* newsletter. The membership wants the Division to continue to function, but they don't want to help fill positions nor take on the jobs that need to be done. It's not clear how to overcome this serious problem.

**5. Hawaiian Division: Director Minton** was not present but submitted an e-mail message.

## H. Department Reports

### 1. Administration Department

- **Nominating Committee. Interim Chairperson Bill Kaufman** reported, prior to the meeting, that he was unable to find any candidates for President. He said Pat LaTorres was willing to run for Vice-President. The Board discussed possible candidates, recognizing they need time to consider the question and respond. The ballot will be included in the Jan-Mar 2007 issue of the *Branch Line*, for which the deadline is December 12.

**2. Membership Department. Manager Doug Wagner** handed out his report and described the work he and **Membership Promotion Committee Chairperson Ron Plies** are doing to get started on the problems of membership recruitment and retention. Vice-President Connery pointed out that NMRA literature is focused on what NMRA provides and should put emphasis on the local Division level. It was reported that Dick Witzens produced a great handout for International Railfair explaining model railroading at the local level.

Ron Plies challenged everyone at the Board meeting to go out and bring in one new member. He also requested a testimony from each person reflecting such views as "why am I a member, why am I an officer, why am I still here, and what's in it for me." He asked that the testimonies be sent to him at Ron@RonPliesInsurance.com so he can use them in promotional materials. Other suggestions for membership promotion were discussed, including preparation of PowerPoint slides regarding membership for people to append to their presentations to non-NMRA groups, and supplying membership information to hobby shops.

**3. Publications Department. Manager Gus Campagna** handed out his report and described his effort to provide two pages of Regional news and information to Division newsletter editors as directed by the Board on May 3. Besides the additional workload, he found that some Divisions put out newsletters only "as needed" which creates a logistics problem. In August he discovered that *Branch Line* editor Stephen Johnson had vanished without publishing the Jul-Sep issue. Gus had to quickly put it together. Former editor Bill Kaufman returned to produce the Oct-Dec issue on a short deadline. *See the further discussion under Item I.3 below.*

**4. Convention Department. Manager Dennis Stokely** started with a brief overview of the upcoming conventions, followed by individual reports.

- **2006 Sacramento, "River City Express." Chairperson Bob Warner's** final report for the convention was submitted at the meeting. After all income and expenses, the net surplus was \$1,039 shared with the Region.

- **2007 Santa Cruz, "Suntan Special." Chairperson Kevin Hurley** summarized the status of arrangements being made. The banquet, included with the registration, will be a round-

trip train ride to Roaring Camp for a barbecue. He said two issues with the University Inn are being worked on: the hours that the coffee shop will be open and the limited parking.

- **2008 Fresno, “Sierra Memories.” Chairperson John Houlihan** summarized the status of planning. The convention hotel is the Ramada Inn, which has two stories without an elevator---he said you have to reserve early to get a first floor room. The committee will meet in February to establish a convention budget. Doug Wagner is the treasurer and registrar.

He is asking members to donate past convention cars, especially early ones, for display during the Convention. He said he may auction them off.

- **2009 (Coast Division).** Dennis Stokely said he is having difficulty recruiting a Convention Chairperson from Coast Division for 2009, but is still working on it.

The Board discussed the setup of accounts and format of the final report for a convention. They are different for each year’s convention. It was recommended that a standard format be included in the Convention Handbook. Dennis Stokely said he will set up a standard.

**5. Contest Department. Manager Bill Scott** commented on the status of contests. There was discussion about a “show and tell” type program as done in Coast Division. Pat LaTorres said the 2007 Convention will have a model contest “judged by your peers.”

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

**7. Non-Rail Activities Department. Manager Mary Moore-Campagna** said funding for the non-rail program at the 2007 Convention in Santa Cruz is very limited. She will be asking for help looking for alternative funding sources. Also, she would like feedback on the opportunities for non-rail activities in the Santa Cruz area.

## **I. Unfinished Business**

**3. Further discussion of NMRA dues allocations and regional communications.** At its May 3, 2006 meeting the Board adopted two motions:

*“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.”*

*“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.”*

In the Board’s further discussion, it was pointed out that the important issue is how to get Regional news and information to all members three times a year (in addition to the Jan-Mar issue of the *Branch Line* which goes to all members).

Director Campagna recommended that the requirement for publication of regional material be dropped for a Division to receive funds from PCR’s annual NMRA dues rebate. He said there are not enough volunteers available for the additional work required.

It was also pointed out that communications with members is not an NMRA-mandated program so the stipulation in the second May 3 motion is not appropriate. [*Secretary’s note: NMRA Regulations simply require that the Region transfer to each active Division an amount from the Region’s annual NMRA dues rebate to cover Division administration of NMRA-mandated programs and activities---NMRA Regulations Article IV, Section 4.E*].

IT WAS MOVED by Director Long and seconded...

THAT the second motion passed on May 3, 2006 be amended by deleting the words beginning "...with the stipulation that..." so that the motion now reads...

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.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

The first motion from May 3, 2006 regarding publication of Regional news and information in the Division newsletters remains in effect.

## **J. New Business**

**1. Layout Design and Operations SIGs Meeting at Santa Clara, Feb. 10-11, 2007.** Each year, the organizers of the Layout Design and Operations SIGs Meeting at Santa Clara request that PCR be a joint sponsor. President Mayer recommended approval.

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

THAT: The Pacific Coast Region co-sponsor the Layout Design and Operations SIGs Meeting at Santa Clara, February 10-11, 2007.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

**2. NMRA 2011 Convention at Sacramento.** NMRA awarded the convention to Sacramento. In mid-November, Ray deBlieck sent an e-mail to President Mayer and Vice-President Connery outlining his plan for the convention and requesting PCR's endorsement (see Attachment A). He proposed that sponsorship be a consortium of SIGs (special interest groups) and the PCR. Ray will be the General Chairman and PCR Liaison, at least for the time being. The core convention committee will be organized in the spring of 2007.

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

THAT the PCR endorses in principal the plan with regard to the NMRA 2011 Convention outlined by Ray deBlieck in his e-mail to President Mayer and Vice-President Connery on November 14, 2006.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

**K. Budget for FY 2007. Treasurer Altbaum** summarized his proposed Budget for FY 2007 saying that it is "straight forward." (Also see his comments under Item F.3.)

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

THAT the Budget for FY 2007 proposed by Treasurer Altbaum be approved.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

**L. Announcements.** The next Board of Directors meeting will be at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at the University Inn in Santa Cruz, during the PCR Convention.

**M. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

Attachments

ATTACHMENT A  
Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, Nov. 18, 2006

**From:** RaydBCS@aol.com  
**Date:** November 14, 2006 3:41:55 PM PST  
**To:** GENEFWRR@aol.com, DEConnery@aol.com  
**Cc:** IronhorseK@comcast.net, emerbaum@msn.com  
**Subject:** 2011 NMRA Convention

Gene and Dave,

I wrote a while back regarding the 2011 convention and never heard back.

Since the beginning of discussions on 2011 within NMRA, I have said I wanted to put together a consortium of SIG groups to serve as the host. I would still like to see that goal realized and am ready to actively work on the formal organization of a host committee, which, at least for the time being, I will chair.

As for PCR's place in that, I am not sure. Ideally, I would like to see the entire program run by the SIG groups, but I have doubts that it will be possible for the SIGs to fill all roles, especially the onsite volunteers that will be required. Additionally, I am sure I will want to fill some positions from amongst the experienced pool of PCR members. However, it will probably be another two years or more before we have a feel for all needs.

As for finances and surplus splits, those rules have changed. The potential for a host committee to realize surplus in the tens of thousands no longer exists. I foresee very little issue with dividing what is available between the host and PCR.

I am asking that for now PCR endorse the plan as I have outlined it above and we can work out the details (including money issues) down the road. The core committee will have to be organized by sometime in the spring of next year.

One warning. NMRA will ask PCR to voluntarily sign an agreement that will include among other items, promises as to when PCR can or cannot hold a convention that year. I caution against signing that agreement right away. We need to have all the other SIG/Host terms worked out first. The convention has already been awarded to Sacramento and was done so with only my personal word on a host committee. I strongly recommend that for the time being, PCR not agree to anything that includes the placing of limits on PCR programs or events.

While the plan is for SIGs to take the lead, since PCR will undoubtedly be involved, I am asking that PCR endorse this plan. I am assuming a simple motion to endorse this concept will satisfy everyone. If not, let me know.

I will not be able to attend the PCR board meeting as I will be at my niece's wedding in Santa Rosa. The wedding is at 4 PM, and I will be available by phone earlier in the day if there are any questions. My cell is 510-693-7788.

Ray

## ATTACHMENT B

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, November 18, 2006

### WRITTEN REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD

Listed by Agenda Item:

- E.
  - Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, May 3, 2006, Rich Kolm
  - Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, May 7, 2006, Rich Kolm
  
- F.
  - Vice-President's Report, Dave Connery
  - Treasurer's Report, Larry Altbaum
  
- G.
  - Daylight Division Director's Report, Doug Wagner
  - Coast Division Transition Report, Kermit Paul
  - Redwood Empire Division Director's Report, Gus Campagna
  - Hawaiian Division Report, Eric Minton
  
- H.1.
  - Nominating Committee Report, Bill Kaufman
  - Storekeeper's Report, Steve Skold
  
- H.2.
  - Membership Department Report, Doug Wagner
  
- H.3.
  - Publications Department Report, Gus Campagna
  
- H.4.
  - Convention Department Report, Dennis Stokely
  - Final Report, 2006 Convention "River City Express" at Sacramento, Bob Warner
  
- I.3.
  - Background report -- NMRA dues allocations and regional communications
  
- J.2.
  - Background report -- NMRA 2011 Convention at Sacramento

RLK 11-29-06