

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**October 27, 2007 - Regular Meeting
Ramada University, 324 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, Calif.**

MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by President Ron Plies.

A. Quorum Verification. The following voting members of the Board were present: President Plies, Vice-President Pat LaTorres, Directors Mary-Moore Campagna (Sierra Div.) and Nolan Alexander (Redwood Empire Div.), and Director-proxy John Houlihan for Doug Wagner (Daylight Div.). The other Board member present was Secretary Rich Kolm. Also present were various Department Managers and Committee Chairpersons.

B. Adoption of the Agenda.

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President LaTorres and seconded . . .
THAT the Agenda 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 Moore-Campagna and seconded . . .
THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on May 2, 2007 be approved.
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President LaTorres and seconded . . .
THAT the Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting on May 6, 2007 be approved.
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

F. Officers' Reports

1. President Plies commented on his July 13, 2007 report to NMRA Secretary Bob Gangwish who had requested input for the NMRA Board meeting in Detroit, Mich. on July 20, 2007. President Plies said the hobby is drastically changing because hobbyists have different needs than in the past. The NMRA needs to take a realistic look at what this means to the organization and how it can right-size itself to stay in sync with the new hobby demographic. Other (non-NMRA) model railroad groups are successful in meeting the needs of their members, especially for younger modelers that are the key to the future of the organization. One concern is the cost of attending conventions.

His report to NMRA Secretary Gangwish also described the success of the "show-and-tell" approach to model contests at the PCR Convention in Santa Cruz and at Coast Division

meets. There is no judging and no big write up; everyone simply enjoys, and learns from, each others' work. He believes the old NMRA style contests served their purpose in the past, but are or should be on their way out.

On a policy matter, he expressed concern that the NMRA has not produced on-line access to membership data that was promised when the new NMRA Regulations were voted in 2004.

Jim Long represented President Plies at the annual meeting of NMRA's Regional Advisory Council (RAC) during the NMRA Convention in July. Of the 17 regional presidents, Jim Long and one regional president were the only ones who showed up, along with NMRA Director Bob Ferguson who represents the RAC on the NMRA Board of Directors.

Jim Long reported that the NMRA Board increased the annual rebate to regions for non-actuarial life members from \$0.50 to \$2.00, thanks to NMRA Director Bob Ferguson. Also, the NMRA Board changed its fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year. Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, the cost of a *Scale Rails* subscription will increase to \$15, but the NMRA annual dues of \$36 will remain the same. The total for a PCR member, including \$6 for the *Branch Line*, will be \$57.

2. Vice-President LaTorres discussed his written report. He is starting to make progress in coordinating the activities of the PCR, the Divisions, NMRA, SIGs, clubs and other model railroading events in an attempt to minimize scheduling conflicts. He'll be working with Division Superintendents on this. He'll also work with the PCR Membership Manager to help the Divisions get access for membership tables at model railroad related events in their local areas.

He pointed out an ambiguity between the national and local application forms for NMRA's one-time 6-month Rail Pass. It would be in the best interests of PCR to cover the cost of the *Branch Line* during the 6 months (two issues), *See motion under Item J.3.*

3. Treasurer Altbaum submitted his written report prior to the meeting with a financial statement and proposed Budget for FY 2008. The finances of the Region have remained stable since the changes brought about by the NMRA single dues system. *See Budget approval under Item K.1.*

4. Secretary Kolm. No report.

G. Directors' Reports

1. Daylight Division: Director-proxy Houlihan handed out Director Wagner's written report about recent and upcoming events. Suzie Paff will take over as Chief Paymaster/Clerk.

2. Coast Division: Director Paul was not present. No report.

3. Sierra Division: Director Moore-Campagna summarized her written report about recent and upcoming events. The Division has been pleased that many PCR members are attending other Divisions' events, which is an excellent trend. She said she would like to see the PCR re-institute leadership training for members who are willing, but might be hesitant, to step into leadership roles at the Division level. This could be a clinic at a PCR convention.

4. Redwood Empire Division: Director Alexander's written report commented that a very small cadre of active members regularly attend meetings and do the necessary jobs. His main subject was the PCR convention that the Division should be hosting in 2010, but is unable to present a bid. *See Convention Department report under Item H.4.*

5. Hawaiian Division: Director Minton was not present. No report.

H. Department Reports

1. Administration Department

• **Budget and Finance Committee.** The Board discussed the various financial accounts and assets maintained by PCR, with a concern that too much money is sitting in low-interest or no-interest accounts. One suggestion was that PCR have only one checking account, which would be tied-in to the various savings accounts.

The need for a separate checking account for each convention was discussed, noting the difficulty in setting them up. There was a recommendation that there be two permanent checking accounts for conventions, alternating use of the accounts from year-to-year. Discussion touched on the funds from the NMRA 2000 Convention. There was a comment that PCR has no claim on that money, which is held by a separate non-profit corporation.

The Board did not want to take action on any this until it can be discussed with the Treasurer. Director-proxy Houlihan argued that action should not wait until the next Board meeting because there is interest to be earned, which led him to make the following motions.

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

THAT the Officers of PCR meet and (1) decide what changes are prudent with regard to PCR's financial accounts and investments considering the concerns and ideas discussed by the Board, (2) implement their decision, and (3) report back at the next meeting what action they have taken.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

SECRETARY'S NOTE: This motion (above) appears to be directed to the Budget and Finance Committee, consisting of the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, which is responsible for financial planning.

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

THAT the Officers of PCR propose a By-Laws amendment to create two checking accounts for conventions, which would be alternated in use from year-to-year.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

SECRETARY'S NOTE: This motion (above) is also directed to the Budget and Finance Committee, which would forward any proposed amendment to the By-Laws and Manual Committee for review. The Chairperson of the By-Laws and Manual Committee would submit the Committee's recommendation to the Board of Directors. Such operating detail would normally be in the Manual of Operations, not in the By-Laws.

• **Honors Committee.** No report.

• **Storekeeper Steve Skold** submitted his written report (inventory of PCR property).

• **Audit Committee.** Chairperson **Dennis Stokely** said he will followup and conduct the required audit of the PCR financial accounts.

2. Membership Department.

• **Education Committee.** Chairperson Chuck Mitchell summarized his written report saying that many things can and should be done. He will be seeking assistance and guidance from the Board.

3. Publications Department. No report. Director Moore-Campagna said Department Manager Gus Campagna is preparing a breakdown of costs of publishing the Branch Line and maintaining the website.

4. Convention Department. Manager Dennis Stokely handed out his written report and presented an overview of upcoming conventions, followed by individual reports.

• **2007 Convention “Suntan Special” at Santa Cruz:** Chairperson Kevin Hurley submitted his final report to the Board and described the special features that made it a unique event. There were 49 first-timers. The trainride/banquet, included with the registration, was a real plus. They found it very important that the convention website be kept up-to-date. Manager Stokely described the convention as a “roaring success.”

• **2008 Convention “Sierra Memories” at Fresno:** Chairperson John Houlihan provided an update on planning and preparations for the convention at the Ramada University in Fresno, April 30 to May 4, 2008.

• **2009 Convention at Fremont:** Dennis Stokely presented a proposal for a convention at the Marriott Hotel in Fremont, sponsored by the Coast Division. Chuck Mitchell is the Chairperson of the Convention Host Committee and has already recruited most of the committee members.

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

THAT the proposal for the 2009 PCR Convention at the Marriott Hotel in Fremont, April 15-19, 2009, as presented by Convention Department Manager Dennis Stokely, be approved.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

• **2010 and 2011 Conventions:** Redwood Empire Division cannot find a reasonable convention facility nor a chairperson, and will not be submitting a proposal for 2010. Manager Stokely said alternatives are being explored. Maybe switch with Coast Division (scheduled for 2011) and then do a stripped-down convention in 2011 just ahead of the NMRA Convention in Sacramento. There is also some interest in a joint convention with PNR in Oregon which could involve Redwood Empire Division’s support.

5. Contest Department. Manager Bill Scott reported that they are working on being able to fill out contest forms online.

6. Achievement Program Department. No report.

7. Non-Rail Activities Department. Manager Mary Moore-Campagna said planning for the 2008 Convention in Fresno is well underway. She plans to continue to offer a quality convention program to attract new people. Sally Bird will be in charge at Fresno.

I. Unfinished Business

1. **PCR website.** Director Alexander reported on a review of the PCR website and its links to the Division websites. Improvements and updating need to be considered. An ad-hoc committee will continue the review and bring back a list of options and alternatives to the next Board meeting.

J. New Business

1. LDSIG & OpSIG Meeting, Santa Clara, Jan. 26-27, 2008. In September, Seth Neumann requested that PCR co-sponsor the joint Layout Design SIG and Operations SIG Meeting in Santa Clara, January 26-27, 2008. PCR has done this for several years.

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

THAT the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA co-sponsor the Layout Design and Operations SIGs Meeting at Santa Clara, January 26-27, 2008.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

2. Boy Scouts railroad merit badge. Brewster Bird described a Boy Scouts railroad merit badge program to be offered at the PCR convention.

3. NMRA Rail Pass memberships and the *Branch Line*. Vice-President LaTorres explained that NMRA's one-time 6-month Rail Pass includes membership in the PCR but does not include the *Branch Line*, which is important for informing these new members and encouraging them to continue as a regular member and to subscribe to the *Branch Line*. He proposed that Rail Pass memberships include two issues of the *Branch Line* paid for by PCR.

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

THAT each Rail Pass membership in the region receive two issues of the *Branch Line* financed by PCR during the 6 months.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

K. Budget

1. Budget for FY 2008. Treasurer Larry Altbaum submitted a proposed budget for FY 2008 prior to the meeting. There was discussion of some budget items and the Board was hesitant to approve the budget without first getting answers to their questions. Because the fiscal year begins prior to the next Board meeting, the Board decided to conditionally approve it.

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

THAT the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008 be approved as presented and may be adjusted if necessary at the next Board meeting.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

L. NMRA 2011 Convention. No report.

M. Announcements.

1. The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at 1:00 PM, at the Ramada University (hotel) in Fresno, during the "Sierra Memories" Convention.

N. Adjournment. On a motion by Director Moore-Campagna, President Plies adjourned the meeting at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, October 27, 2007

WRITTEN DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD

Listed by Agenda Item

- E. • Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, May 2, 2007, Rich Kolm*
- Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, May 6, 2007, Rich Kolm*
- F.1. • President's report to the NMRA Board, July 2007, Ron Plies
- Report on the RAC meeting in Detroit, July 2007, Jim Long (representing Ron Plies)
- F.2. • Vice-President's Report, Pat LaTorres*
- F.3. • Treasurer's Report, Larry Altbaum*
- G.1. • Daylight Division Director's Report, Doug Wagner*
- G.3. • Sierra Division Director's Report, Mary Moore-Campagna
- G.4. • Redwood Empire Division Director's Report, Nolan Alexander
- H.1. • Storekeeper's Report, Steve Skold*
- H.2. • Education Committee Report, Chuck Mitchell*
- H.4. • Convention Department Report, Dennis Stokely
- Report on 2007 Convention, "Suntan Special", Kevin Hurley
- H.7. • Non-Rail Activities Dept. Report, Mary Moore-Campagna

* Distributed prior to the Board meeting