

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Regular Meeting • Wednesday, April 30, 2008  
Ramada University, 324 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, Calif.  
PCR Convention “Sierra Memories 2008”

**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 by President Ron Plies at 1:10 pm.

**A. Quorum Verification.** The following voting members of the Board were present: President Ron Plies, Vice-President Pat LaTorres, and Directors Mary Moore-Campagna (Sierra Div.), Carol Alexander (Redwood Empire Div.), and Kermit Paul (Coast 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 Director Moore-Campagna and seconded  
THAT the Agenda be adopted.  
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote

**C. Written Communications**

- Email from Director-elect Rod Smith: He is not able to attend the Board meeting and Director Kermit Paul will serve as his proxy.
- Email from Director Eric Minton: He is not able to attend the Board meeting.

**D. Member Comments** (comments regarding matters not on the agenda)

None.

**E. Approval of the Minutes**

MOTION: It was moved by Director Alexander and seconded  
THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on October 27, 2007 be approved  
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote

**F. Officers' Reports**

**1. President Plies** commented about his written report and especially noted the effort of the non-rail leaders.

**2. Vice-President LaTorres** handed out his written report and noted that communications within the organization have been very good.

**3. Treasurer Altbaum** submitted a written report prior to the meeting, which includes financial statements and minor adjustments to the FY 2008 Budget adopted at the October 27, 2007 Board meeting. His report states that PCR is financially healthy, and by continuing sound financial

planning will continue to be so.

He noted that there is still room in the budget and in the Region's assets for any one-time projects worthy of Region support. All Division Directors are encouraged to continue discussions of this with Division officers and all other members.

His report also includes responses to the discussion of financial accounts and investments at the October 27, 2007 Board meeting. No changes are proposed except to increase the amount of convention funds tied up in a certificate of deposit. Director Alexander commented that the Treasurer's reasoning makes sense, but he believes options other than a certificate of deposit should be investigated.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Alexander and seconded...  
THAT the Treasurer's Report be accepted.  
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

#### 4. Secretary Kolm. No report.

### G. Directors' Reports

**1. Daylight Division: Director Wagner** submitted his written report prior to the meeting, which covers recent and upcoming events.

**2. Coast Division: Director Paul** handed out his written report about recent and upcoming events.

**3. Sierra Division: Director Moore-Campagna** said they are trying to include more members in the Division activities, especially focusing on outlying areas. An example of this was the Jamestown meet last August.

**4. Redwood Empire Division: Director Alexander** said they have moved Division activities to Saturday, instead of Sunday. This has resulted in a slight increase in attendance. The Division is looking for more model railroads to share, even if the owner is not a PCR member. She also said the Division is prepared to make a proposal to host a short PCR convention in 2011 (covered under Item H.4 below).

**5. Hawaiian Division: Director Minton** submitted a report prior to the meeting asking for any suggestions for "encouraging/waking up the Division." There are only 20 members in Hawaii, and 8 of them voted in the recent election of Directors, which is an encouraging sign.

### H. Department Reports

#### 1. Administration Dept.

• **Budget and Finance Committee.** The status of financial accounts and assets were covered under Treasurer's Report (Item F.3 above).

• **Ballot Committee: Chairperson Jim Providenza** submitted his report prior to the meeting, which covers the ballots received in the election of Division Directors.

- **John Houlihan** was elected Daylight Division Director
- **Rod Smith** was elected Coast Division Director
- **Mary Moore-Campagna** was re-elected Sierra Division Director
- **Carol Alexander** was re-elected Redwood Empire Division Director
- **Eric Minton** was re-elected Hawaiian Division Director

They will assume office as the first item under New Business later in this meeting.

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

THAT the report of the Ballot Committee Chairperson on the election of Division Directors be accepted and that the ballots be destroyed.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

• **Honors Committee: Chairperson Ray deBlieck** said it's time to reorder John Allen awards (small harp switchstand). He said the 21st Century Limited funds could be used for this purpose. After a discussion of options and costs there was a motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Director Paul...

THAT the PCR authorizes \$2,500 from the 21st Century Limited funds for purchase of 25 John Allen awards.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

• **Storekeeper Steve Skold** submitted his written report prior to the meeting, which covers the current inventory of PCR property.

• **Audit Committee: Chairperson Dennis Stokely** said the audit of financial accounts will be done.

## 2. Membership Department

• **Member Services Committee: Chairperson Bob Ferguson** said the NMRA has switched over to its new membership data base system after running in parallel with the old system for six months. Some problems are being resolved; report any problems to him. Members' records of achievements are being reloaded into the new program after being removed a few years ago.

**3. Publications Department: Manager Gus Campagna** said the *Branch Line* and website are moving right along. Many members are pleased with the color photos in the online version of the *Branch Line*. Format and instructions for the PCR ballot in the *Branch Line* will be resolved.

## 4. Convention Department: Manager Dennis Stokely

handed out his written report.

• **2008 Fresno, "Sierra Memories."** The current convention hosted by Daylight Division has started with 140 pre-registered attendees. Chairperson John Houlihan gave a brief report.

• **2009 Fremont, "Rails Across the Bay."** The 2009 convention hosted by Coast Division will be at the Marriott Hotel in Fremont. The Chairperson is Chuck Mitchell. The hotel contract is signed, the host committee is in place, and the convention is accepting registrations. The guest room rate is \$89 per night. A room night guarantee of 175 is needed for use of the meeting space without charge. It is important that PCR members who need to stay in a hotel are encouraged to use the convention hotel.

• **2010 Reno/Sparks.** Sierra Division proposes to host the 2010 Convention to be held in the Reno/Sparks area in late April or early May. Raymond Rich will be Convention Chairperson and already has a core of five committee members in Reno. Jim Long will be Vice-Chairperson and the lead for the "west side of the mountains" committee members. There is a proposal from the Nugget Hotel in Sparks which is being considered along with possible hotel venues in Reno. A two-step Board approval is requested—approve the Reno/Sparks location at this meeting and then approve the dates, hotel, and rates at the mid-year Board meeting.

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

THAT the location of the 2010 PCR Convention shall be in Reno/Sparks with specific dates, hotel, room rates, etc to be submitted to the Board for approval at its mid-year (fall 2008) meeting.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote

• **2011 Convention.** The Convention Department has been considering several options because 2011 is the NMRA National Convention in Sacramento and Redwood Empire Division has been unable to propose a full PCR convention. The option recommended by Manager Stokely would have Redwood Empire Division host a downsized convention May 13 through 15 with only meeting space and no formal convention hotel. This is similar to what was done in 2000 when the NMRA National Convention was in San Jose. The Annual Business Meeting would be part of the banquet. The joint convention that was being discussed with Pacific Northwest Region (PNR) would have to be moved to 2012 (see below). There was no vote, but the sense of the Board discussion was to proceed with developing this option.

• **2012 Convention.** A joint convention with Pacific Northwest Region (PNR) was being considered for 2011. Ed Liesse of PNR (present at the Board meeting) was asked to talk to the PNR leadership about moving the joint convention to 2012, which he said he would do. He said their preferred location is Medford, Oregon (Klamath Falls was also a consideration). The plan is for Board meetings and an evening social event on Wednesday, clinics and tours on Thursday and Friday, and Annual Business Meetings and the banquet on Saturday. The Train Show would be run by a separate group, not the regions. Sunday would be a travel day. PCR would be the joint sponsor, not one of the Divisions.

**5. Contest Department: Manager Bill Scott** said he is looking for some way to change the website for changes in the Contest Manual made 3 years ago. Gus Campagna said he would do it.

Director Alexander talked about the contest data base, which he offered to furnish to the Contest Department pro bono provided its use is limited to that specific purpose.

**6. Achievement Program Department: Manager Jack Burgess** had no report.

President Plies noted that he is expecting to receive his MMR at the NMRA Convention.

**7. Non-Rail Activities Department. Manager Mary Moore-Campagna** said she is trying to move non-rail activities out into the Divisions. She also said the Department needs another source of funding besides the convention registrations each year.

## **I. Unfinished Business**

**1. Audit of financial accounts.** See Item H.1, Audit Committee, above.

**2. PCR website options and alternatives.** Director Alexander said she will continue to work on this, and in particular will be talking to the Division webmasters.

**3. Review of financial accounts and investments for prudent changes and a proposal to create two checking accounts for conventions.** Treasurer Altbaum responded to this in his written report, which was accepted by the motion approved under Item F.3 above.

## **J. New Business**

**1. Elected and re-elected Division Directors assume office.** See list of Directors under Item H.1 above. Director Rod Smith was represented by Director-proxy Kermit Paul, and Director Eric Minton was not present.

**2. Hawaiian Division status.** There is no Division organization nor activity. There was a short discussion of the current status --- 20 members scattered over several islands and most are in their 60s or older.

**3. Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM).** President Plies said he would like to build bridges with the RPM. He suggested providing a room for their meeting at PCR conventions, on Saturday.

RPM is not a formal organization, just a loose knit group of modelers. The issues are having to register for the PCR convention and NMRA insurance coverage.

**4. Improving the PCR logo.** Bill Scott, Contest Department Manager, asked the Board to approve getting a good computer-based graphic rendition of the PCR logo, particularly for use on awards. He was advised to get more information on who might do this and the cost, and bring it back to the Board.

## **K. Budget**

**1. Further consideration of the Budget for FY 2008.** Treasurer Altbaum's report, which includes minor adjustments to the FY 2008 Budget, was accepted by the motion approved under Item F.3 above.

Vice-President LaTorres suggested a meeting between the Budget and Finance Committee and the people responsible for the 21st Century Limited funds to discuss use of the funds for non-recurring, one-time costs for special projects.

## **L. NMRA 2011 Convention**

**1. Status of organization and planning.** Ray deBlicke, General Chairman of the Convention, reported that he is close to a contract with NMRA. The Convention Committee has been formed and has met. PCR is not a party in sponsoring the convention, but individual members of PCR are involved.

## **M. Announcements**

**1. The next Board of Directors meeting** will be on Saturday, October 18 at 1:00 pm at the Marriott Hotel in Fremont.

### **2. Other announcements.**

• **Convention car collection.** Director John Houlihan is trying to get a convention car collection started. Storage and carrying case(s) are needed. He asked if PCR will accept the collection. This will be on the Agenda for the next Board Meeting.

• **Special Projects Challenge.** Vice-President LaTorres challenged each PCR Officer and Director to bring a proposal to the mid-year Board Meeting for a special project to benefit PCR, involving a one-time, non-recurring expenditure.

• **NMRA Scale Rails.** NMRA Director Bob Ferguson said the NMRA Board of Directors is considering whether Scale Rails should be a separate subscription, as it is now, or a member benefit.

## **N. Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, April 30, 2008

WRITTEN DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD

Listed by Agenda Item

E. • Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, October 27, 2007, Rich Kolm\*

F.1. • President's Report, 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.2. • Coast Division Director's Report, Kermit Paul

G.5. • Hawaiian Division Director's Report, Eric Minton\*

H.1. • Ballot Committee Chairperson's Report, Jim Providenza\*  
• Storekeeper's Report, Steve Skold\*

H.4. • Convention Department Report, Dennis Stokely

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\* Distributed prior to the Board meeting