

PACIFIC COAST REGION  
Of the National Model Railroad Association

**Highlights**  
**PCR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Board of Directors met at 1 PM Saturday, October 24, 2009 at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nevada. In attendance were President Ron Plies, Vice President Pat La Torres, Redwood Empire Division Director Carol Alexander, Daylight Division Director John Houlihan, Sierra Division Director Mary Moore-Campagna, Coast Division Director Rod Smith. Others present were Membership Chair Doug Wagner, Sierra Div. Superintendent Jim Long, Daylight Div. Superintendent Dave Grenier, Coast Div. Chief Clerk Darrell Dennis, Silver Rails 2010 Convention Chairman Ray Ritch.

**Vice President** Pat La Torres mentioned an event done by another region where a model railroad was built during a train show and given or raffled off to an attendee or worthy institution. Divisions interested in doing this would need to submit proposals to the Board for review and approval.

**Finances.** Treasurer Larry Altbaum reported that the finances of the Region continue to be somewhat stable. BranchLine subscription revenue has increased over the 2008 six month period and further reductions in interest rates are having a real effect. PCR has realized an operating deficit for the first six months exceeding \$850, \$300 greater than the same period last year. He expects this situation to continue into next year, as reflected in the \$2180 projected operating deficit. This results from increased BranchLine costs (both printing and postage) and reduced revenue from interest on capital assets. That said, in spite of his firm conviction that operating costs should be covered each year by current year income, he believes we can weather an additional period of this until the interest market improves. He noted that PCR has significant assets in convention funds.

**Conventions.** The 2010 Silver Rails convention plans are proceeding on schedule. Trips are planned to Portola's WP museum and Carson City's V&T museum as well as a Saturday barbecue and trip on the newly opened V&T line from Carson City to Virginia City. Due to the Saturday activities, contest judging will be held on Friday evening. The 2011 convention will be held May 13-15, 2011 in Santa Rosa. Planning is well along. The mid year Board of Directors meeting will be held October 23, 2010 at the venue of the Finley Center where some convention activities will be located. For 2012 Jim Long has been in touch with Pacific Northwest Region President Jack Hamilton, who is enthusiastic about the idea. Planning is proceeding with an anticipated venue in the Ashland Oregon area.

**Contests.** A number of changes were approved for the contest rules. Most of these were housekeeping, eliminating reference to slides and how color prints were to be printed, as well as specifying requirements for the popular vote contest and that ballots be put in the registration packet.

Non-Rail. Chair Mary Moore-Campagna noted the department is adequately staffed with active participants for the first time in years.

**NMRA 2011 National Convention** planning is proceeding well and everyone is encouraged to register NOW. The convention hotel will be the Sheraton Grand in Sacramento. There was a brief discussion of differences of past NMRA convention models as compared with the 2011 plans.

**Manual of Operations Revisions.** – Changes to Section 10 – PCR Awards and Section 6-C Membership were approved. The most significant changes to the Awards was the inclusion of the John Allen Award in Section 10, and some amplification of the Member Services Committee responsibilities, ensuring that the Membership Department has the most recent NMRA data and that each Division has a Membership chair.

**Tug of War Contest.** The Board decided to dispose of the Tug of War contest, as it has not been used in years. An attempt to revive it at a Coast Meet was unsuccessful.

**Membership.** Membership Chair Doug Wagner circulated a draft for a brochure titled “An Introduction To The Pacific Coast Region and the National Model Railroad Association”. The intent is to aid in attracting new members at train shows and other venues. He further noted he has been forwarding membership information received from NMRA headquarters on a regular basis to membership chairs in each division. Vice President La Torres suggested we should consider a “please come back” letter from the PCR Secretary to members who have let their membership lapse. He based this idea on the success achieved by the 2009 convention registrar to encourage attendance at that convention. He also passed out some CD’s of pictures to use at Train Shows if a computer is available.

**Convention Car Display.** Daylight Director Houlihan showed the assembly a display case (one of two) containing the collection of convention cars. The Board agreed to pay for and accept the displays.

**VGA cords for the LCD Projectors.** The Board approved the purchase of a 25 foot VGA extension cord be acquired for use with LCD projectors so clinicians can locate their computer at a more convenient location.

**Next Board of Directors Meeting.** The next Board of Directors meeting will be held at 1 PM on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at the Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nevada.