

**PACIFIC COAST REGION  
OF THE  
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
A California nonprofit Corporation**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 1:00PM  
Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society – Library Room  
1364 No. McDowell Blvd  
Petaluma, California

**Call to Order-** Dr. Merrin called to order at 1:01PM.

**Adoption of Agenda** – Agenda was adopted with no questions.

**Approval of Minutes from Board of Directors Meeting** – Mr. Markovich moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Skold seconded. There was no discussion and the minutes were adopted by unanimous voice vote.

**Approval of Minutes from Business Meeting**

**Officers' Reports**

1. President Ed Merrin

Dr. Merrin discussed vacancies in positions of PCR. He noted that an Auditor is needed. He discussed the process of audit, review and compilation and noted that it has been done by a non-CPA member in the past without paying an outside firm. He noted that a Branch Line editor needed and that Gus Campagna is filling in temporarily; a template is available to follow. Pursuing articles is the main work. A Non-Rail chairperson is needed. For the Build-a-memory project, Frank has been doing it for 6 years, and the Board needs someone in a different Division. An ElectionBuddy operator is needed. And, a Convention Chair is needed as Ray will be phasing out his duties.

2. Vice President Carol Alexander  
No material items were reported.

3. Treasurer Bob Osborn

Mr. Osborn provided a report. He noted that the Region suffered an operating loss on the 2017 convention, but the region has considerable cash reserves. He said that the region needs to pursue other streams of revenue. He suggested moving some of the cash reserves into a 1-year CD. He suggested investing a portion of funds in a 6-month or 1-year CD. (See below)

4. Secretary Chris Palermo

Mr. Palermo noted that to support electronic voting, a new round of changes on the Operating Manual were needed. A draft was provided.

**Directors' Reports**

1. Daylight Division Dave Grenier  
See printed report.
2. Coast Division Frank Markovich

See updated printed report. There were 90 persons at the last meet and the Division made \$1,000. It is doing 2 special clinics per year. The Auction is unfortunately dealing with several estates. Need new editor for Coast Dispatcher. Locations for meets are good through end of 2018 but prices continue to go up. Considering change in auction rules.

3. Sierra Division Tom Van Horn  
See written report.
4. Redwood Empire Division Steve Skold  
See written report.

### Department Reports

1. Administration Ed Merrin
2. Membership Doug Wagner

A member suggested adding Russ Shields (grandson of a NWP locomotive engineer who offered photos and memorabilia to the 2018 Convention) and Don of NWP as new members. The Board noted that the conversion rate for RailPass has been too low.

3. Publications Gus Campagna

Need newsletter editors around the Region. Requested sending a mass email via Constant Contact to solicit editors. Discussed logistical problems associated with opting out of getting Branch Line.

4. Convention Ray de Blicek

- 2017 (Daylight)—in Mr. de Blicek's view, the results were similar to the National convention in Orlando. Bakersfield came within 65 persons of break-even. Hotel food & beverage minimums and guarantees are the main issue.
- 2018 (Redwood Empire)—Written report provided by Giuseppe Aymar.
- 2019—No commitment for host hotel at this time; the requested food and beverage guarantee is too large in the one bid that was received.
- 2020—No discussion.
- 2021 National (Coast – Santa Clara, CA)—No discussion.

Need to start looking outside hotels for convention sites. Social halls? Fairgrounds? Veterans Memorial Hall in Santa Rosa? Adding a train show to the public, and/or vendor shows may help recoup costs. And, people want hotels close by.

5. Contest Guiseppe Aymar

The issue of whether a paid lunch for contest judges is required in a convention was discussed and several strongly different views were expressed. The Board concluded that existing Operating Manual and Convention Manual processes mandate continuing it.

6. Achievement Program Jack Burgess  
No report.
7. Non-Rail Activities (vacant)  
No report.

## Old Business

1. Convention Manual Update - Carol Alexander, Ray de Blicek

This has been condensed and moved to a PDF file.

2. New PCR logo - Carol Alexander

Carol reported that she has exhausted ideas for a new design and that design problems have arisen because of the need for reproducibility in shirts and other things. She is taking an online course on logo design and if that does not yield results, she plans to contact a graphic designer. She checked with Dave at Daylight Sales on embroidery issues and he recommended limiting the number of colors as the main constraint.

Dave Grenier suggested talking to George Pisching who formerly taught graphic design in college.

3. Electronic Balloting
  - a. Set up someone to run next election – Ed—Ed is willing to do so. No longer eligible for reelection. Requested a volunteer within a week.
  - b. Manual of Operations amendments - Chris Palermo – Updated revisions to be circulated by e-mail to Board.
4. Build a Memory - Frank Markovich—This was a national program, and maybe a dozen layouts were built nationwide, but NMRA has dropped the national program. The project is to build a small, portable layout to use at shows as a membership recruitment tool. Transporting it and showing it at shows, shopping centers. A request was made for a new project lead on this.
5. Photo racks for contests – Ed, Giuseppe, Carol –Discussion of options. Mr. Markovich moved to buy three (3) Displays-to-Go Counter Art Display Grid with 3 base legs and 5 boxes of Gridwall Utility Hook for Grid Panel Display hooks. Mr. Skold seconded. Motion passed on voice vote.
6. Cosponsoring Sacramento Narrow Gauge Convention – Frank Markovich Mr. Markovich moved that PCR cosponsor the 2019 National Narrow Gauge Convention. Mr. Skold seconded. The motion passed on unanimous voice vote.
7. PCR booth at 2021 National Train Show – Frank Markovich – Deferred.

## New Business

1. Moving money to CD.—Mr. Osborn recommended retaining \$20K in bank account and moving \$40K in portions into 6-month, 1-year and 2-year CDs, to achieve 1% to 2% interest and then check every 6 months about cash needs to determine whether to change the arrangement. He noted that this should yield \$500 in interest per year. He recommended putting \$5K in a shorter term CD and \$35K in longer term CDs. Ms. Alexander moved the Board to accept the recommendation of the Treasurer to redistribute existing funds in savings and move them to investment accounts to earn higher revenue. Mr. Skold seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
2. Vacancies in committee positions and others – Ed Merrin. Mr. Merrin requested using Constant Contact email to solicit volunteers to apply for positions. Short descriptions of duties needed.
3. Groups on Yahoo or other social media that are not “owned” by current NMRA members or that include former members as participants – Frank Markovich. Mr. Markovich noted that Bill Kaufman “owns” and runs the PCR group on Yahoo and he (Frank) owns the Coast group. Owners need to watch groups to note when deceased members drop out as there have been complaints about emails going to discontinued accounts.

4. Constant Contact email service – Mr. Palermo requested to spend \$378 to renew the 1-year subscription when it comes due for renewal on February 14, 2018 – There was discussion and the Board approved both reimbursement for 2017 and renewal in 2018, a total expenditure of about \$766.
5. Co-sponsoring regional SIG meet (Alameda, January 24-28, 2018) – Dave Grenier – Mr. Grenier Noted that Board had previously voted to sponsor on an ongoing basis and requested the Board to correct the minutes to reflect this.
6. NWPHS Library – Gus Campagna. Mr. Campagna thanked the Board for coming to the NWPHS Archive. He briefly described the Society's 5-year history of using the space and pointed out artifacts of interest.

#### **Announcements**

Annual verification that elected officers of Divisions are NMRA members will be coming soon and it is important for Division directors or superintendents to return it.

#### **Date of Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at 1:00pm – DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Markovich moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Grenier seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:04PM.