

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

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:00AM  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom



**Call To Order** The meeting was called to order at 11:03 AM by President Chris Palermo. All officers and directors were present, and the Secretary declared a quorum had been achieved. Others present were Dave Connery, Tom Crawford, Earl Girbovan, Phil Edholm, Chuck Hakkarinen, Denni Baumer, Mike O'Dorney, Dave Grenier, Paul Weiss, Al Merkebs, and Mike O'Brien

**Adoption of Agenda** – The agenda was adopted without modification.

**Approval of Minutes** – A motion from Chris Palermo and a second from Frank Markovich to approve the minutes from the two previous meetings, November 20, 2020 and February 6, 2021, as submitted, was passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report** The Treasurer's Report was previously distributed to the Board Members. Treasurer, Bob Osborn, noted there had been a positive cash flow for the first time in several years. There was some discussion about the wisdom of building a cash "reserve" when current operating needs might be better funded. The balancing concern was the potential loss of future revenue from the National subscription fees. Regarding the proposed budget, Bob noted three new expense categories: Promotion, Operations, and Membership. A motion from Chris Palermo and a second from Frank Markovich to approve the Treasurer's report and proposed budget as submitted was passed unanimously.

#### **Officers' Reports**

**President, Chris Palermo** – The President's written report was previously distributed to officers, directors, and committee chairs. Chris, citing a relocation to Austin, Texas, officially tendered his resignation effective May 6, 2021.

**Vice President, Frank Markovich** – The Vice President's written report was previously distributed to officers, directors, and committee chairs. Frank noted we should begin discussions on "post-pandemic" operations, inclusive of a "hybrid model" for future conventions.

#### **Directors' Reports**

**Daylight Division, Ed Merrin** – The Daylight Director's written report was previously distributed to officers, directors, and committee chairs. Ed commented that all the "prominent members" of Daylight Division were busily preparing for the virtual convention to be held two days hence.

**Coast Division, Lisa Gorrell** – The Coast Director's written report was previously distributed to officers, directors, and committee chairs. Lisa noted a loss of a long-time venue was the impetus for ongoing discussions about how to operate as a division going forward. In response to the ending of the pandemic, Coast has formed a "Back to Normal Committee".

**Sierra Division, Jim Collins** - The Sierra Director's written report was previously distributed to officers, directors, and committee chairs. Sierra Division has been "surviving" on ZOOM since October of 2020. Recently, the division has arranged for a loaner program whereby division members can share the use of a set of Fast Tracks turnout & crossing fixtures.

**Redwood Empire Division, Giuseppe Aymar** - The Redwood Empire Director's written report was previously distributed to officers, directors, and committee chairs. Giuseppe noted a new division superintendent was in the process of being elected.

### **Department Reports**

**Conventions, Tom Crawford** – The 2021 (Host: Daylight) virtual convention will be held April 24, 2021. Tom noted the platform (ZOOM) will be pushed to its limit and should be "very interesting". The 2022 (Host: RED) is well under way. The committee is getting better deals on venue and accommodations than in previous years. The 2023 (Host: Sierra) has not yet formed a committee or started planning.

A general discussion about offering PCR merchandise for sale resulted in a likely agreement that the vendor(s) of such items as cups, hats, shirts, and patches could be called upon to provide online sales without the need for divisions to stock their own inventory. Denni Baumer noted that Daylight Sales would be doing just that for the 2022 convention.

**Nominations & Election, Dave Connery** – Dave referred to previously published results and Jim Providenza's official report. A motion by Jim Collins and a second from Lisa Gorrell to accept the report from Jim Providenza was passed unanimously.

**Membership, Doug Wagner** – Membership Manager's written report was previously distributed to officers, directors, and committee chairs. It was noted that all NMRA regions had experienced declines in membership.

**Publications, Gus Campagna** – No report.

**Contest, Earl Girbovan** – The Contest Manager's written report was previously distributed to officers, directors, and committee chairs. Earl will be working with Frank Markovich and Giuseppe Aymar on some minor changes to the contests.

**Achievement Program, Jack Burgess** – No report.

**Non-Rail Activities, (vacant)** – No report.

**Storekeeper, (vacant)** – No report.

### **Old Business**

**Convention Manual Update – Tom Crawford** – Tom reported that nothing has happened recently but that most of the important work had been completed. Ensuing discussion revealed that portions of the current manual remained outdated and needed to be amended or discarded. The 2022 convention co-chair will be working with Tom to make needed revisions.

**Future Region Virtual Programs – All Board** – Chris Palermo explained that this agenda item was included as a reminder to continue to consider region-sponsored virtual programs. As examples, Chris cited the virtual tour of Jim Providenza’s Santa Cruz Northern and Frank Markovich’s Weathering Clinic.

## **New Business**

**Allow an extension (past the two-term limit) for Division Superintendents when no other volunteers step forward – Giuseppe Aymar** – A motion by Giuseppe Aymar and a second by Lisa Gorrell to require PCR Board approval for extensions of Division Superintendent’s tenure beyond two terms was withdrawn – as was the second. In its place the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors has received New Business item 1 submitted by Mr. AYMAR and has no objection to a Division allowing an incumbent superintendent to serve in or be elected for more than two consecutive terms.

**Redrawing District Boundaries. Possibly trim down to three divisions to lessen the burden of filling positions for which volunteers are few – Giuseppe Aymar** – Following a general discussion about smaller membership census versus wider geographical dispersion, no action was taken by The Board.

**Changes to §12.B of the M.O.O. – Tom Crawford** A general discussion and agreement that non-members would be allowed to attend NMRA sponsored conventions subject to the NMRA “Three Strike” rule. However, the board could not agree on the logistics of tracking non-member attendees or what to do about non-members wishing to continue to attend despite the “Three Strike” rule. Tom Crawford and Dave Grenier will work together to resolve the logistics issues and report to the board at a future meeting. No other action was taken on this item.

**CSRM Exhibit Maintenance – Chris Palermo** Chris listed the seven members of the Exhibit Maintenance Committee: Chris Palermo, Lou Anderson, Dave Putnam, Lawrence Domansky, Paul Paoli, Dick Witzens, and Walter Mizuno. As Chris departs for Texas, a new committee chair will be needed. Chris recommended Dick Witzens as his replacement.

**Discount Membership Offer – Chris Palermo** To date, only one new member has taken advantage of the discount program. With the departure of Chris, a new administrator must be found.

**Review New National NMRA Expectations of PCR – Chris Palermo** A recent gathering of all the NMRA Region Presidents revealed three key areas of focus: Establishment of Regional Education Committees, Membership Recruitment and Retention, and Modeling With The Masters.

**Succession Plan For President – Chris Palermo** As PCR Vice-President, Frank Markovich will assume the office of President, serving in interim, on May 6. The Board will then have 60 days to determine a permanent successor.

**Support of 2021 National Convention (virtual) July 6-10 – Chris Palermo** Chris solicited Board and membership support and volunteers for the July 2021 National Convention.

**Manual Update – Frank Markovich** Frank asked for help with the manual update. Earl Girbovan offered his help.

**New Name For “Non-Rail” (*Model Railroad Partner?*) – Frank Markovich** There was general agreement that “Non-Rail” should be replaced with a better name. Suggestions included “Passenger” and “Guest Program”. No action was taken.

**Photos of Board and Committee Members in the *Branch Line* – Frank Markovich** There was general discussion about placing photos in the *Branch Line* as well as on the website. Much of the discussion was centered around security and access. Chip Meriam will work on placing photos in the *Branch Line* and Dave Grenier will handle the website.

**What Can We Do to Serve More During This Time? – Frank Markovich** Frank will distribute some of his ideas to the board members.

**Digitizing Board Meeting Archives – Chip Meriam** Chip asked the board to consider authorization to digitize past BOD Agendas and Minutes, and to destroy the paper records. Chip was asked to determine the cost of such an endeavor. No other action was taken.

**Tentative Date of Next Board Meeting**

October 2, 2022 – 1:00 PM – Virtual via ZOOM.

**Adjournment** A motion by Chris Palermo with a second by Frank Markovich to adjourn the meeting was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Charles M “Chip” Meriam, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Meriam", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

DRAFT