

**PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**A California nonprofit Corporation
Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

Friday, May 29, 2020, 1:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

- A. **QUORUM VERIFICATION AND CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 1:00 PM by President, Chris Palermo. A census of attendees revealed a quorum (at least 35 members) was present. Quorum attested by Chip Meriam, Board Secretary.
- B. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** – Motion by Chip Meriam with a second by Frank Markovich to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2019 Business Meeting. Motion carried.
- C. **OFFICERS' COMMENTS**
1. **President (Chris Palermo)** – Noted diminishing membership numbers and solicited ideas from all members to enhance membership recruitment and retention while noting a “strong total”. Noted that the 2020 convention volunteers have been formally recognized by a letter from the PCR President. Encouraged more participation in the Achievement Program. Reported that he and Vice President, Frank Markovich, had completed visits to all four divisions. Subsequent visits must remain on hold but will hopefully resume in 2021. Is continuing to support and bolster 100% NMRA clubs. Noted the PCR is represented at the National level vis-à-vis a seat on the National Advisory Council and participation in the development of the 2025 Strategic Plan.
 2. **Vice-President (Frank Markovich)** No comments but referred to his written report.
 3. **Treasurer (Robert Osborn)** – Treasurer not present but the Treasurer’s Report was displayed on screen and reviewed by Chris Palermo. Noted that the \$8.00 annual subscription fee may be curtailed.
 4. **Secretary (Chip Meriam)** – No report but relayed a message from the editor of the **Branch Line** reminding contributors that the submission deadline is June 10.
- D. **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**
- Coast, Daylight, Sierra and/or Redwood Empire Directors are invited to make remarks.**
- Lisa Gorrell, Coast Division** – Noted that Coast has been having meetings via ZOOM.
- Tom Van Horn, Sierra Division** – Noted that the February 2021 meet will likely include an OP session at SMRHS. Acknowledged the official visit from Chris Palermo and Frank Markovich. Noted that Sierra had two well qualified candidates that ran for Division Director.
- Daylight Division, Vacant at present**
- Steve Skold, Redwood Empire Division** – Noted that the incoming director, Giuseppe Aymar, was in attendance.
- E. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None
- F. **NEW BUSINESS** - Report on election process and election results; installation of new

directors. Lisa Gorrell, Coast Division, continues as Director after replacing Doug Smith in mid-term. Redwood Empire Division elected Giuseppe Aymar to succeed Steve Skold. Sierra Division elected Jim Collins to succeed Tom Van Horn. Daylight Division has not elected a new director, but Ed Merrin indicated a willingness to serve. Will likely be appointed by President, Chris Palermo, during the coming week.

G. CONVENTIONS

1. **Comments regarding the 2020 convention (*Earl Girbovan*)** – Thanks to volunteers, clinicians, and layout tour hosts. Thanks to veterans of previous conventions for their advice and support. Noted that, despite cancellation, the 2020 convention will break even.
2. **2021 Convention (*Doug Wagner*)** – Noted that eleven had already registered for the 2021 convention to be held April 22 through April 24. Read a written report from John Houlihan.
3. **2021 NMRA National Convention, Santa Clara (*Ray deBlieck*)** – Expressed a real need for volunteers. Noted there remains a great degree of uncertainty due to COVID – 19.
4. **2022 Regional Convention, and Future Regional Conventions** – General discussion. Noted that members are “burning out” on conventions. No 2022 convention committee has been formed to date.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **John Allen Award** – Presented by Dave Connery to Doug Wagner.
2. **President’s Award for Service to the Division** – Presented by Chris Palermo to Chip Meriam.
3. **Coast Division Member of the Year** – Presented by Lisa Gorrell to Ronnie LaTorres.
4. **Daylight Division Member of the Year** – Presented by Chris Palermo to Dave Grenier.
5. **Redwood Empire Division Member of the Year** – Presented by Steve Skold to Al Merkrebs.
6. **Sierra Division Member of the Year** – Presented by Tom Van Horn to Jim Collins.
7. **Next Business Meeting** – To be held in conjunction with the Saturday evening banquet of April 24, 2021.
8. **Other Announcements** - None

I. MEMBER COMMENTS (comments regarding matters not on the agenda) - Daylight Division may have found a new superintendent, Mike Obrien from GEHAMS. A survey of the membership will be conducted to determine preferred time frames for future conventions.

J. ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Frank Markovich with a second from Doug Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:11 PM.