

PACIFIC COAST REGION - NMRA

**HIGHLIGHTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2003**

By Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

The Board of Directors met at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pleasanton on Wednesday, April 23 at 10:00 AM. Around the table were President and Trustee Ray deBlieck, Vice-President L.E. "Gene" Mayer, Treasurer Larry Altbaum, Secretary Rich Kolm, Coast Division Proxy Jim Long for Director Jack Wall, Daylight Division Proxy Bill Scott for Director Brewster Bird, Redwood Empire Division Director Ron Plies, and Sierra Division Proxy Dick Witzens for Director Bob Mountjoy.

President's report. President Ray deBlieck reported on the model railroad equipment bequeathed to the Pacific Coast Region by the late Keith Heinzman. The equipment is in storage and will be inventoried, but nothing will be done with it until the estate is settled. Disposal of the equipment will be considered by the Board of Directors at future meetings.

Trustee's report. Trustee Ray deBlieck reported that the NMRA appears to have bottomed out in declining membership and the trend may be turning around. It also appears that NMRA is financially in the black, but we'll know more later this year. The Board of Trustees approved a Long Range Plan for NMRA---copies are available and will be posted on the NMRA website. Along with the proposal for single membership, the Trustees are considering the addition of a regional component to the NMRA dues, which could be on the order of \$3.00 per year. Then each region would have to determine what additional revenue has to be generated locally to fully cover operating expenses. Under single membership PCR would end up with twice as many members to support, which would have a significant impact on PCR operations.

PCR membership levels. Bob Ferguson, Chairperson of the Member Services Committee, reported that there are 1,487 NMRA members in the territory of PCR, but only 770 are actually members of PCR. Another 123 PCR members do not live in the Region.

Contest Committee. Chairperson Ken Lunders reported that he has resigned and this was his last meeting. President deBlieck extended his appreciation for all of Ken's efforts with the PCR contests.

New PCR departments. The Board approved amendments to the Manual of Operations for reorganization of PCR committees into departments, contingent upon approval of amendments to the By-Laws by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting on April 27. (*The table of new PCR departments is posted on the PCR website, at www.pcrnmra.org, as are the By-Laws and Manual as amended.*)

Election of President and Vice-President. Ballot Committee Chairperson Jim Providenza reported the results of the recent PCR election: L.E. "Gene" Mayer was elected President and Dave Connery was elected Vice-President. They take office at the Annual Business Meeting on April 27.

Publication Committee. Chairperson Gus Campagna requested funding for the PCR website and generated a discussion about the cost of publishing the *Branch Line*. It is recognized that improvement of paper and printing quality would cost significantly more than the current expense. The Board left it to the Chairperson to deal with keeping costs in line.

PCR Conventions. Jim Long, Convention Committee Chairperson, reported on the status of upcoming conventions:

2004 in Napa: "Napa Valley 04" will be at Embassy Suites, hosted by the Napa Valley Railroaders and the Redwood Empire Division. Harold Mentzer is the Chairperson and Gus Campagna is the Registrar.

2005 in Concord: This one will be at the Sheraton Concord Hotel, hosted by the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society. Bill Swindell is the Chairperson and Bob Ferguson is the Registrar.

2006 in Sacramento: L.E. "Gene" Mayer said there is still no word whether the California State Railroad Museum will have a 25th Anniversary celebration that year. Convention plans and dates may have to be firmed up regardless of the museum's plans.

John Allen Award. Chairperson Ray deBlieck reported that the Honors Committee will administer the award for the Coast Division, but the Coast Division will remain the sponsor.

PCR Long Range Plan Implementation. L.E. "Gene" Mayer, Chairperson of the Long Range Planning Committee, reported that the members of the Committee have agreed to stay on as the new Long Range Plan Implementation Committee, which will be headed by Dave Connery. The last issue of the *Branch Line* was mailed to all NMRA members in the PCR territory. PCR leadership training, for region and division officers, will be offered in conjunction with the mid-year Board meeting on Saturday, October 25.

Purchase and storage of PCR equipment. Director Plies initiated a discussion of whether PCR should purchase and store equipment, such as digital ("power point") projectors, for use by convention committees and divisions. President deBlieck created a special committee to study the matter and report back at the next Board meeting.

Question about joint activities with PSR. A member of PCR asked the Board to consider entering into discussions with Pacific Southwest Region (PSR) about joint activities because both regions are affected by declining membership, reduced participation at regional conventions, and increased costs. PSR was part of a larger PCR until the split in the early 1980s. Trustee deBlieck and President-Elect Mayer agreed to take this question under advisement and report back to the Board.

PCR Budget. Treasurer Larry Altbaum presented a Budget for FY 2003, which was approved by the Board with revisions discussed during the Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Saturday, October 25, 2003, at a location to be determined.