

**Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA**  
**HIGHLIGHTS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**MAY 11, 2005**

By Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord. Board members present were President L.E. “Gene” Mayer, Vice-President Dave Connery, Secretary Rich Kolm, Directors Kermit Paul (Coast), Ron Plies (Redwood Empire), and Jesse Menefee, Jr. (Sierra), and Director-proxy Bill Scott for Doug Wagner (Daylight).

The Agenda included several items related to the new NMRA Regulations. On September 1, when single dues take effect, all NMRA members within PCR will automatically become members of PCR, roughly doubling the current membership. Also, NMRA allows each region to set a subscription fee for its regional newsletter (in lieu of regional dues) with payment of the fee an option when members renew their NMRA dues. At the same time, each region has to provide communications to all NMRA members in the region.

The Board approved amendments to the PCR Manual of Operations, as recommended by the By-Laws and Manual Committee. Changes were made throughout the Manual to clarify and update various provisions. The more significant changes (a) re-defined the *Branch Line* as a subscription-based quarterly newsletter, (b) established a second publication referred to as the *annual official communications* to be sent to all NMRA members in the Region, which may be combined with one issue of the *Branch Line*, and (c) updated and improved the nominating processes for President and Vice-President and for Division Directors.

Amendments to the PCR By-Laws, adopted by the Board on November 6, 2004, are on the May 15 Business Meeting agenda for membership approval. The Board adopted additional wording changes in Article 1, to be included in those amendments.

There was considerable discussion of two different proposals for the *Branch Line*, based on review of costs and PCR finances by the Publications Department and the Finance Committee. The first proposal was to provide the *Branch Line* to all NMRA members within the PCR for at least one year with no subscription fee, and then re-evaluate the costs of printing and mailing. While quarterly communications with all members are desirable, there were concerns about financing the cost over the longer term. This proposal was not adopted by the Board. The second proposal, which was adopted by the Board, establishes a subscription fee for the *Branch Line* at \$6.00 per year to be billed along with the NMRA dues. The *Branch Line* will continue to be available on the PCR website.

The Board approved combining the *annual official communications* into the first issue of the *Branch Line* each calendar year; this will be sent to all NMRA members in the Region. Besides the usual articles, the issue will carry the election ballot, information and registration for the annual convention, information related to the annual business meeting, a financial summary, and corporate notices, if any.

The Board approved conversion of all current PCR memberships to *Branch Line* subscriptions effective September 1; Regular and 5-Year Members will have a subscription until the end of their term of membership and Life Members will become life subscribers. It was recognized that there will be an additional cost to each Division to print and mail its newsletter to all NMRA members in the Division. To deal with that, the President is appointing a committee to gather and analyze data and make recommendations to the Board at the fall meeting. The Board directed that PCR no longer offer life memberships, consistent with the new NMRA membership structure.

Treasurer Larry Altbaum submitted a proposed revised Budget for fiscal year 2005, taking into account the loss of revenue from discontinued Regional dues, the new optional \$6.00 subscription fee for the *Branch Line*, and a \$2.00 per member allocation to be received from NMRA for administrative expenses. The Board approved the revised Budget.

The Ballot Committee reported that President Gene Mayer and Vice-President Dave Connery were re-elected for second terms. The new Storekeeper, Steve Skold, reported his initial effort to establish a computer-based inventory of all physical property of the PCR; if you have PCR property, please contact him.

It was announced that Bob Ferguson has been elected by the NMRA Regional Advisory Council to be the Director representing them on the new NMRA Board of Directors. Ferguson submitted his final report as Chairperson of the Member Services Committee. The job he has been doing for so many years is being superseded by the new NMRA organization.

There is still a need for interface between PCR and NMRA regarding the membership data base, The Board authorized President Mayer to spend up to \$400 to get a new Member Services function operating to include printing of labels for the Region and Divisions and publication of member lists for Officers, Directors, Division leaders, and Department Managers who need them.

Chairperson Bob Warner submitted a status report for the 2006 PCR Convention in Sacramento ("River City Express"). Chairperson Kevin Hurley presented Coast Division's proposal to sponsor the 2007 PCR Convention in Santa Cruz ("Suntan Special"), which was accepted by the Board. Chairperson John Houlihan commented on the 2008 PCR Convention in Fresno.

Director Ron Plies made a proposal related to model contests: (a) That PCR promote the displaying of models at conventions, even when they are not entered for judging nor for AP evaluation, and (b) that PCR provide a venue for the modelers to share their modeling techniques with the people attending the convention, suggesting one or two time slots in the clinic schedule. This will be developed with the Contest Department Manager.

The next Board meeting will be on November 5, 2005, probably in the Sacramento area.