

**Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA**  
**HIGHLIGHTS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2006**

By Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

The Board met at the University Inn in Santa Cruz, location of next year's PCR Convention. Board members present were President L.E. "Gene" Mayer, Vice-President Dave Connery, Treasurer Larry Altbaum, Secretary Rich Kolm, Directors Doug Wagner (Daylight), Kermit Paul (Coast), Jim Long (Sierra), and Gus Campagna (Redwood Empire). Also present were Bob Ferguson, Director on the NMRA Board, and various Department Managers and Committee Chairpersons.

- **Where are the volunteers?** An obvious thread running through many of the reports to the Board is the difficult, and often impossible, task of getting members to run for office or to do the jobs necessary to keep the organization going. Those who do volunteer, at both the Regional and Division levels, often find it necessary to take on more than one office or job. This is a serious problem because the operation of the organization is completely dependent on volunteers. Director Gus Campagna hopes that the Region or the national organization can help in the recruitment and training of Division staff. PCR conducted a leadership and training program in October 2003, which was well received but needed follow-up, he said.

- **Hawaiian Division is beginning to stir.** The Board approved the election of Eric Minton as the new Director for the Hawaiian Division. He lives in Honolulu and wants to revive and encourage Division activities in the islands. PCR's Hawaiian Division has been inactive for many years. Then, in the election of Division Directors last spring, write-in candidates appeared on a few ballots. At its May 3 meeting, the Board delayed declaring a winner until this meeting, while the candidates were checked for qualifications and availability.

- **Budget is approved.** Treasurer Larry Altbaum presented a Budget for FY 2007, which the Board approved. He reported that the finances of the Region have returned to a more stable state, reflecting the changes brought about by the NMRA single dues system. He believes NMRA needs to fix an inequity in rebating dues to the regions for NMRA-mandated programs—the rebates for non-actuarial life members is at a level only one quarter that of actuarial life and year-to-year members.

- **Long term funding for the Region.** Vice-President Dave Connery expressed concern about subsidiary income sources for long-term funding. Current sources include sales of merchandise, sales of model railroad equipment from estate bequests to PCR, and rental of PCR equipment to other railroad and model groups. He recommended that the Region develop and manage an endowment fund using the Region's assets to produce greater returns. All of this takes volunteer work on the part of members to avoid higher membership fees in the future.

- **Membership program.** Doug Wagner, the new Manager of the Membership Department (and Daylight Division Director), reported that he and Ron Plies, the new Membership Promotion Committee Chairperson, are beginning to work on the problems of membership recruitment and retention. They encouraged input from PCR members.

- **Regional news and information for all members.** The importance of communications with all members on a regular basis is an ongoing topic of Board discussion. The Jan-Mar issue

of the *Branch Line* goes to all members, but only subscribers get it the rest of the year. On May 3 the Board specified that the Publications Department provide two pages of Regional news and information to each Division newsletter editor four times per year with a request that it be included the Division newsletter. Gus Campagna, Manager of the Publications Department (and Redwood Empire Division Director), reported some logistical and workload problems in trying to comply with that Board directive.

- **Sharing the Region's NMRA dues rebate with the Divisions.** The Board reaffirmed its May 3 decision to share with the Divisions 50 percent of the annual dues rebate that PCR receives from NMRA. However, the Board removed its May 3 stipulation that required each Division to publish and distribute Regional news and information to all members in the Division three times per year. PCR currently gets \$2.00 per year for each year-to-year and actuarial life member and \$0.50 for each non-actuarial life member.

- **PCR Conventions.** Dennis Stokely, Manager of the Convention Department, introduced the presentations. **2006 Convention "River City Express" at Sacramento:** Chairperson Bob Warner's final report was submitted to the Board. **2007 Convention "Suntan Special" at Santa Cruz, May 2-6:** Chairperson Kevin Hurley summarized the status of arrangements being made. He said the banquet is included with the registration and will be a round-trip train ride to Roaring Camp in Felton for a barbecue. **2008 Convention "Sierra Memories" at Fresno:** Chairperson John Houlihan described the planning that's underway. He is asking members to donate past convention cars to be displayed during the Convention. **2009 Convention:** Dennis Stokely said he is working on recruitment of a Convention Chairperson in the Coast Division.

- **Non-Rail Activities.** Mary Moore-Campagna, Manager of the Non-Rail Activities Department, said funding for activities at the 2007 Convention in Santa Cruz is very limited and she is looking for alternative funding sources. Also, she would like feedback on possible non-rail activities in the Santa Cruz area.

- **NMRA 2011 Convention.** NMRA awarded the 2011 national convention to Sacramento. The Board endorsed in principal a plan outlined by NMRA Director Ray deBlieck for the convention. He proposes that the convention be sponsored by a consortium of SIGs (special interest groups) and the PCR. He will be the General Chairman and will organize the core convention committee in spring 2007.

- **Layout Design and Operations SIGs meeting.** As in past years, PCR will co-sponsor the joint LDSIG and OpSIG meeting in Santa Clara on Feb. 10-11, 2007.

- **The next Board Meeting** will be on Wednesday, May 2, 2007, in Santa Cruz during the "Suntan Special" Convention. **The Annual Business Meeting** for members of PCR will be at the end the Convention, on Sunday morning, May 6. The agendas will be posted on the PCR website prior to the meetings.