

**PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 2, 2007 - Regular Meeting

**University Inn & Conference Center, 611 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, Calif.
PCR Convention "Suntan Special 2007"**

M I N U T E S

•• *These minutes are subject to change until approved by the Board of Directors* ••

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM by President L.E. "Gene" Mayer.

A. Quorum Verification. The following voting members of the Board were present: President Mayer, Vice-President Dave Connery, Directors Doug Wagner (Daylight Div.), Kermit Paul (Coast Div.), Mary-Moore Campagna (Sierra Div.), and Nolan Alexander (Redwood Empire Div.), and Director-proxy Jim Long for Eric Minton (Hawaiian Div.). The other Board members present were Treasurer Larry Altbaum and Secretary Rich Kolm. Also present were various Department Managers and Committee Chairpersons and, briefly, NMRA Director Ray deBlieck.

B. Adoption of the Agenda. Assumed without a vote.

C. Written Communications. President Mayer mentioned an e-mail from a PCR life member now living in Washington state who asked about receiving the *Branch Line*. It was referred to Membership Department Manager Doug Wagner.

D. Member Comments. None.

E. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President Connery and seconded...

THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on Nov. 18, 2006 be approved.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

F. Officers' Reports

1. President Mayer commented about his written report.

- The Region's financial condition looks good.
- He sent a report to the NMRA Board of Directors that expresses the concerns that he and Vice-President Connery have about the relationship between the national organization and the regions. In particular, NMRA should be sharing more of the dues with the Region.
- The report he received from John Roberts (NMRA past president) indicated the proposed move of the Howell Day Museum and NMRA Library to Sacramento is several years away. President Mayer said the headquarters building in Chattanooga is a financial burden.

2. Vice-President Connery handed out his written report.

- He said there are things PCR should be doing to better prepare us for the future. (a) Take the initiative to make e-mail address information in the NMRA membership database as complete and correct as possible, since NMRA has been slow to develop a functional database with promised regional access under its new Regulations. (b) Develop coordinating meetings

between the Region, Divisions, SIGs, and clubs to share calendars, plans, and joint promotion of activities, and to identify areas where increased cooperation would be mutually beneficial. (c) Determine what activities members support, how members want to be communicated with, and ways PCR can better serve them and enhance their model railroading experience. (d) Seek opportunities to hold a joint convention with PSR or PNR. (e) Treat the Hawaiian Division as a “mission” and provide added support and help to rejuvenate it.

- He met with officers of the 2000 NMRA convention corporation. Because it is a 501c(7) corporation it can fund other 501c(7) corporation activities, which PCR falls within.
- He continues to sell items from the Heinsohn Estate for the benefit of PCR.

3. Treasurer Altbaum commented about his written report. The finances of the Region continue to be more stable, reflecting the change in structure brought about by the NMRA single dues system. The sale of Heinsohn Estate items has had a very positive effect, but cannot be considered in the Region’s long-term financial planning. The *Branch Line* does not pay for itself and is subsidized by other income sources of the Region; however, under NMRA’s single dues the Region no longer has some of the past expenses, like trustee travel, mailing labels, etc. There is still room in the budget and in the Region’s assets for any one-time projects worthy of Region support. Division Directors are encouraged to continue discussions of this with Division officers and all other members. The bottom line is that PCR is financially healthy considering income, expenses, and assets, and by continuing sound financial planning will continue to be so.

Vice-President Connery suggested that PCR may want to sponsor a small layout at the future new museum in Sacramento to showcase the hobby and its history and development.

4. Secretary Kolm asked if the distribution of agendas, minutes, reports, and other documents as PDF files attached to e-mails was working okay. Board members had a positive response.

G. Directors’ Reports

1. Daylight Division: Director Wagner handed out his written report. In February, Pat Boyle, who was Interim Superintendent, was elected Superintendent and Terry Taylor was elected to a second term as Chief Clerk/Paymaster. Director Wagner said he may be filling in as interim Chief Clerk/Paymaster for Terry Taylor. The next Division meets will be May 19 at Gary Siegel’s in Santa Barbara and August 18 at Hilding Larson’s in San Luis Obispo.

2. Coast Division: Director Paul handed out his written report. The next quarterly meetings will be June 3 at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View and September 9 at Buchser Middle School in Santa Clara. Coast has added “Show and Tell” sessions, which are less formal and easier to prepare than formal clinics. The Division is planning to restart its Home Layout Tours program and to revive its In-Home Clinic program.

3. Sierra Division: Director Moore-Campagna commented that the next Division meet will be August 11 at Railtown in Jamestown. It’s open to members of all Divisions. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, but bring something to share like a salad (pot luck). The October 6 meet will be at Paradise where layouts will be open. International Railfair will be November 10-11 at the fairgrounds in Roseville.

4. Redwood Empire Division: Director Alexander commented that active members are getting older and dropping out or are going to special interests. There are only 6 to 8 active people in the Division. The next meet will be May 19 in Santa Rosa. The Division’s annual summer picnic will be August 18 at the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista Junction. They

are running out of affordable places to meet. He noted that people want more to do at meets than just getting together to socialize. They are looking at partnering with SIG meets to broaden the interest.

Jim Long said there is a need to coordinate the dates of meetings among the Divisions. Gus Campagna pointed out that the Redwood Empire Division website maintains a broad-based calendar of events, but the information has to be submitted to be posted.

5. Hawaiian Division: Proxy Director Long said Director Eric Minton reported that the Hawaiian members don't feel a connection with PCR. The Division has not been active because it has only a few members scattered over several islands. Director Minton thinks the *Branch Line* should be mailed to all 20 members, not just the 12 who already receive it. [*See the Board motion under Item K.1.*]

Apart from the Agenda...NMRA data base...

President Mayer commented that some NMRA life members who have died are still on the NMRA books. Apparently, NMRA will remove a deceased's name only when notified by a family member, and some of them don't know or don't bother to contact NMRA. Vice-President Connery suggested life members be sent a return post card to update their postal address and to send PCR their current e-mail address. If the post card isn't returned, then followup with a phone call. Jim Long said NMRA hired an outside contractor to develop its new database. Apparently the contractor is not doing anything. It is two years later than when NMRA promised regional access to a common database. The situation appears to be dysfunctional. Nolan Alexander (a systems designer) said it should have been done in a month or two.

Returning to the Agenda...

H. Department Reports

1. Administration Department

- **Ballot Committee. Chairperson Jim Providenza** was not present, but his written report certifies that Ron Plies was elected President and Pat LaTorres was elected Vice-President. Only 62 ballots were cast.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded...
THAT the Ballot Committee report be accepted.
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded...
THAT the ballots be destroyed.
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

- **Storekeeper Steve Skold** submitted his written report (inventory of PCR property).
- **Audit Committee. Department Manager Mayer** said the PCR financial accounts have not been audited, but will be done by a reconstituted committee under his successor Ron Plies.

- **Long Range Plan Implementation Committee. Chairperson Dave Connery** said what could be done has been done under the NMRA reorganization. This special committee will be disbanded.

2. Membership Department. Manager Doug Wagner handed out his report. He has been receiving requests from members for membership status and change of address. He has to forward these to NMRA headquarters by e-mail. He prefers that members with such requests contact the NMRA directly by e-mail or telephone, and will indicate this in the next *Branch Line*.

3. Publications Department. Manager Gus Campagna commented that he receives extra copies of the *Branch Line* from the printer, which are available upon request. He is pleased with the comments he receives that the *Branch Line* is a first rate, quality publication. Printing and content are excellent.

4. Convention Department. Manager Dennis Stokely handed out his written report and did a brief overview of upcoming conventions, followed by individual reports.

- **2007 Santa Cruz, “Suntan Special.” Chairperson Kevin Hurley** summarized the status of registrations and the program for the convention that begins today.

- **2008 Fresno, “Sierra Memories.” Chairperson John Houlihan** provided an update on planning and preparations for the convention. He commented about difficulty in trying to open a bank account.

- **2009 (Coast Division).** Dennis Stokely said there is no commitment yet for a chairperson. One-third of the host committee is already recruited. He is looking at Pleasanton and the Fremont/Milpitas area. The same hotel in Pleasanton (2003 convention, Crowne Plaza) wants us back again. The Board gave him an informal okay.

- **2010 (Redwood Empire Division).** Director Moore-Campagna said they haven’t been able to find a hotel in that area that is reasonable and available with space for a convention like PCR. Dennis Stokely said there are two alternatives that may have to be considered: Exclude Redwood Empire Division from the cycle of convention locations or locate the convention outside of the Division’s territory.

5. Contest Department. Manager Bill Scott commented that he needs to update the Contest Directory, which exists only as a PDF file.

6. Achievement Program Department. Not present, no report.

7. Non-Rail Activities Department. Manager Mary Moore-Campagna commented that it would be desirable for the arts and crafts contest to be a family activity.

I. NMRA 2011 Convention. General Chairman Ray deBlicke arrived at the meeting in time to say there is nothing new to report. The core convention committee has not yet been organized. He assured the Board that PCR will have no financial obligation for the convention. He is working to make the Convention sponsored and operated by SIGs (special interest groups). At the same time, PCR would be a major player and may be responsible for outside tours, the non-rail program, and providing volunteers. He said the NMRA Board of Directors is looking at the structure of conventions, and may make changes which could affect the 2011 convention.

J. Unfinished Business

1. Financial problem created by NMRA’s inequitable rebate of only 50 cents for non-actuarial life members while rebating \$2.00 for actuarial life and year-to-year members. President Mayer said this was handled in the report he sent to the NMRA Board of Directors (see Agenda Item F.1 above).

K. New Business

1. Branch Line to all members in Hawaii. Vice-President Connery said Hawaii is a unique situation [*see his comments under Item F.2 above and Director Minton's comments under Item G.5 above*]. Vice-President Connery said we need to include Hawaiian Division content in the *Branch Line* and there should be a letter reflecting what we are doing. The initial consideration was to send every issue from now on, but that was modified to send only the next four issues and evaluate the response.

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President Connery and seconded...

THAT the Publications Department include all Hawaiian Division members on the mailing list for the Branch Line for the next four issues.

MOTION IS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

L. Announcements. The date, time, and place of the next Board of Directors meeting will be set by the new PCR President, Ron Plies. The meeting will probably be in Fresno on the last weekend in October, with the Daylight Division meet in Fresno rescheduled to that same weekend.

M. Adjournment. President Mayer adjourned the meeting at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

Attachment

ATTACHMENT A

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, May 2, 2007

WRITTEN REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD

Listed by Agenda Item:

- E. • Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, November 18, 2006, Rich Kolm

- F. • President's Report, L.E. "Gene" Mayer
 - Vice-President's Report, Dave Connery
 - Treasurer's Report, Larry Altbaum

- G. • Daylight Division Director's Report, Doug Wagner
 - Coast Division Director's Report, Kermit Paul

- H.1. • Ballot Committee Report, Jim Providenza
 - Storekeeper's Report, Steve Skold

- H.2. • Membership Department Report, Doug Wagner

- H.4. • Convention Department Report, Dennis Stokely

RLK 5-20-07