

HIGHLIGHTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 18, 2008

By Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

The Board met on October 18 at the Fremont Marriott Silicon Valley Hotel in Fremont, the location of the PCR 2009 Convention “Rails Across the Bay.” The meeting began in remembrance of Don Cabrall who passed away on October 15.

Board members present were President Ron Plies, Vice-President Pat LaTorres, Treasurer Larry Altbaum, Secretary Rich Kolm, and Directors John Houlihan (Daylight), Rod Smith (Coast), Mary Moore-Campagna (Sierra), and Carol Alexander (Redwood Empire). Various Department Managers, Committee Chairpersons, and Division Superintendents were also present. The Agenda is posted on the PCR website.

• **Regional activities.** President Ron Plies said things are going very well in the PCR, attendance at meetings is up, enthusiasm is running high, and the contest rooms are full. He extended his thanks to everyone who works to make things happen in the PCR.

Vice-President Pat LaTorres noted that he plans to work with the Regional and Divisional membership chairpersons to focus more on membership retention, while at the same time seeking new members. He said publicity for the PCR activities is really at the Divisional level.

• **Finances.** Treasurer Larry Altbaum’s report included current financial statements and a proposed FY 2009 Budget. He said finances continue to be stable, although reduced revenue from BranchLine subscriptions and lower interest rates are having an effect. The PCR can weather a year or so until the economy improves. The assets of PCR should not be used for ongoing operating expenses, but are available for one-time projects worthy of Region support, such as purchase of additional digital projectors and underwriting some convention costs.

Dennis Stokely, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, reported that the books and bank statements of the PCR were examined and found to be in good order.

• **PCR Conventions.** Dennis Stokely, Manager of the Convention Department, presented an overview of the status of PCR conventions.

— **2008 Convention “Sierra Memories.”** Chairperson John Houlihan thanked the convention staff that “did all the work” in putting on an excellent convention. The accounting report was submitted, with financially positive results.

— **2009 Convention “Rails Across the Bay.”** Registrations are now being accepted for this next convention hosted by Coast Division at the Fremont Marriott Silicon Valley Hotel in Fremont, April 15 to 19, 2009. Chuck Mitchell is the Chairperson. The convention program, registration, and hotel information is on the website www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009.

— **2010 Convention “Silver Rails.”** The Board gave final approval for a convention to be hosted by Sierra Division at the Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nevada, April 28 to May 2, 2010. Raymond Rich is the Chairperson and Jim Long is Vice-Chairperson.

— **2011 Convention.** The Board approved a downsized convention to be hosted by Redwood Empire Division in Santa Rosa, May 12 to 15, 2011. There will be meeting space, but no formal convention hotel. Steve Skold is the Chairperson.

— **2012 Convention.** Manager Stokely said they are still working with Pacific Northwest Region on a joint convention, probably in Medford, Oregon. This would be run with combined staffing without a PCR “host” division.

- **Non-Rail Activities.** Mary Moore-Campagna, Manager of the Non-Rail Department, said the art and craft contest at PCR conventions is open to both non-rails and rails alike. Such participation is encouraged. Additional financial resources is not an immediate need.

- **NMRA 2011 Convention at Sacramento.** The Convention Host Committee, chaired by Ray deBlicek, has been moving ahead with plans for the 2011 Convention since approval in principle by the PCR Board of Directors in November 2006. It is expected to take a different approach than recent NMRA conventions, to broaden its appeal. The Host Committee is the function of 21st Century Limited, Inc. which produced the NMRA 2000 Convention at San Jose for the PCR and continues as its representative for this convention. The Board of Directors authorized President Plies to advise the NMRA by letter that 21st Century Limited, Inc. is the representative of the PCR for the convention, and that any related fiduciary responsibilities will be arranged between the PCR and its representative. The Board also directed execution of an agreement reaffirming its relationship with 21st Century Limited, Inc.

- **Additional “power point” digital projectors.** The Board authorized Storekeeper Steve Skold to purchase two new projectors with shipping cases and shipping cases for PCR’s two existing projectors.

- **The next Board of Directors Meeting** will be at the PCR 2009 Convention in Fremont on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. The **Annual Business Meeting** for members of PCR will be at the end of the Convention, on Sunday morning April 19. Breakfast that morning will be underwritten by the PCR. The agendas will be posted on the PCR website prior to the meetings.

RLK 11/30/08