

HIGHLIGHTS PCR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

By Dave Connery, Acting Secretary

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday afternoon, April 15 on the opening day of the PCR “Rails Across the Bay” Convention in Fremont, CA. In attendance were President Ron Plies, Vice-President Pat laTorres, RED Director Carol Alexander, Daylight Director John Houlihan ,Sierra Director Mary Moore-Campagna, Coast Director Rod Smith, Treasurer Larry Altbaum, Acting Secretary Dave Connery, Convention Dept. Chair Dennis Stokely, Contest Dept. Chair Bill Scott, Membership Chair Doug Wagner, Publications Chair Gus Campagna, NMRA Director Bob Ferguson, 2011 Convention Chair Ray deBlieck, Daylight Superintendent Dave Grenier.

* **Finances.** - Treasurer Larry Altbaum noted that we had an operating short fall of \$840 in the past fiscal year and he is projecting a shortfall of just over \$1000 for the coming fiscal year. These are directly traceable to the economic environment – lower interest on our investments accounts and lower return from the sale of hard assets than budgeted.. In addition we are seeing increases in cost of printing and paper and have an increase in postal rates coming up soon. Still the Region remains very solvent as we use our retained assets to get us through these hard times. We had an expenditure of over \$3,000 that was taken from retained assets to fund the purchase of added digital projectors and cases. The 21st Century Limited Corporation has agreed to fund the purchase of John Allen Awards and will reimburse PCR for this expense when their current CD’s mature. NMRA Director Ferguson reported that at NMRA there is a team effort just getting underway to review NMRA finances – which appear to be a bit perilous. PCR has the lowest subscription rate and the finest newsletter in ;the NMRA.

* **Officer Election.** - Ballot Chairman Jim Providenza reported that Ron Plies and Pat laTorres were both re-elected to their positions of President and Vice-President respectively with no write-in votes.

* **Membership.** - Chairman Doug Wagner is working on a brochure for promoting local Division and Region activities to use in membership recruiting. He will make arrangements to get membership reports from Membership Services Bob Ferguson and will contact the Division Superintendents to get someone in each Division working on membership retention and using these reports.

* **Convention.** - Chairman Dennis Stokely reviewed the Conventions. Planning for the 2010 Convention in Sparks, NV is going very well and registrations are now on sale. In 2011 there will be a down-sized convention in Santa Rosa with the BOD Meeting on Friday, Clinics and Layout tours on Saturday and an Awards Breakfast on Sunday. In 2012 we are seeking a joint Convention with PNR, probably in the Southern Oregon area. In 2013 the normal rotation will return the Convention to Coast Division and in 2014 in Daylight.

* **Contest** - Chairman Bill Scott is thrilled with the support for the contest in recent years. Director Moore-Campagna reminded everyone there is no “Non-Rail” contest – it is the Arts and Crafts categories that are open to all attendees. NMRA Director Ferguson noted that the Contest and Achievement Departments at NMRA are

working on changes to revamp the contest to give more credit to kit-bashing with a reduction in scratch building emphasis.

* **2011 NMRA Convention** Chairman Ray deBlieck reported this convention is planned around a very inclusive arrangement with SIG's and Historical Societies and Sacramento is an ideal location to do this. While not sponsored by PCR it will take a lot of effort by many PCR members to produce a great National Convention.

* It was determined that **PCR and 21st Century Limited** are two separate 501 (c)7 legal entities within the laws of the State of California. Each has control over their own separate assets and each takes care of their own separate tax filings.

* **The Mid-year Board of Directors Meeting** will be held at 1 PM on October 24, 2009 at the Sparks Nugget Hotel.