

PACIFIC COAST REGION
Of the National Model Railroad Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, April 15, 2009 - Regular Meeting
Fremont Marriott Silicon Valley Hotel, Fremont, CA

MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by President Ron Plies

The meeting began in remembrance of members who have passed away in the past year Charlie, Piggott, Jim Martin, Frank Beavers, Don Cabrall, Clyde Lippincott and most especially our Secretary Rich Kolm.

A. Quorum Verification. The following voting members of the Board were in attendance President Ron Plies, Vice-President Pat LaTorres, RED Director Carol Alexander, Daylight Director John Houlihan, Sierra Director Mary Moore-Campagna, Coast Director Rod Smith. The other Board members present were 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.

B. Adoption of the Agenda.

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President LaTorres and seconded
THAT the Agenda be adopted,
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

C. Written communications. None received.

D. Members Comments. None

E. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President LaTorres and seconded
THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on October 18, 2008 be approved.
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

F. Officers Reports:

- 1. President Plies** submitted a written report
- 2. Vice-President LaTorres** submitted a written report.

3. **Treasurer Altbaum** reviewed highlights of written report. Receipts are down as a result of lower interest on our CD's. Expenses are up as costs of paper and printing have increased and postage rates are about to increase. 21st Century Limited reported they have approximately \$61,000 in a CD at 2 1/3% which matures in August 2009 and they have agreed to reimburse PCR for the costs of the John Allen Awards (*See item under New Business*) We are fortunate to be in a strong financial position based on our past conservative financial management and can weather the economic down-turn for the next several years.
4. **Acting Secretary Connery**. No Report.

G. Directors' Reports:

1. **Daylight Division Director Houlihan** submitted a written report.
2. **Coast Division Director Smith** submitted a written report.
3. **Sierra Division Director Moore-Campagna** reported that Division elections will be held at the next Meet and the Division web site is up and running.
4. **RED Director Alexander** submitted a written report
5. **Hawaiian Division Director Minton** was not present. No Report. President Plies commented it was great seeing some information coming out of Hawaii and praised the work Director Minton was doing in face of some really difficult physical restraints.

H. Department Reports:

1. Administration Department

Ballot Committee. 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.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Moore-Campagna and seconded **THAT** the results of the election be accepted and the Ballot Committee be authorized to destroy the ballots.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

2. **Membership Department. Membership Chair Doug Wagner** is working on a brochure for promoting local Division and Region activities to use in membership recruiting. There was a question of how much of the non-renewals was due to the passing of members vs. non-renewal. Dave Grenier indicated it was possible to track how many people are visiting the Branchline on-line and down loading it. Doug will make arrangements to get

membership reports from Bob Ferguson and will contact the Division Superintendents to get someone in each Division working on membership and using these reports.

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.

3. Publications Department. Publications Chair Gus Campagna reported the Branch Line and Web Site are both up to date and healthy. He was requested to have some special reminders in the “annual” Branch Line issue that goes to all NMRA members in our Region to help them understand they are missing the other three great issues if they are not a PCR subscriber.

4. Convention Department Convention Chair Stokely distributed his written report and reviewed the Conventions.

2009 - There were 201 pre-registrations prior to the start of the convention, it looks financially solvent and there are great tours, clinics and activities planned for this week.

2010 - The planning for 2010 is going very well, they are very well organized and registrations are on sale at this convention.

2011 - There will be a down-sized convention at the Finley Center in Santa Rosa with the BOD Meeting on Friday, Clinics and Layout tours on Saturday and an Awards Breakfast on Sunday will be at a separate location..

2012 - We are still seeking a joint Convention with PNR, probably in the Southern Oregon area.

2013 - The normal rotation will return the Convention to Coast Division – looking for a sponsoring group and chairman.

2014 - Daylight is looking at Tehachapi, Santa Barbara and possibly trying to incorporate an event with PSR.

5. Contest Department. Contest Chair Bill Scott reported there was a suggestion of limiting the number of entries from a member in a single category. The board felt “Don’t fix what isn’t broken”. 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. Chair Scott and President Plies suggested a change in the Past Presidents Award, which will be incorporated into the Manual of Operations. There is a problem with some of the contest information on the Web Site and it appears due to out dated software initially used to create the material. It may need to be deleted and completely new material created to replace it.

6. **Achievement Program Department.** No report.
7. **Non-Rail Activities Department.** Non-Rail Chair Moore Campagna reiterated the use of the term Arts and Crafts for the Contest categories and reported there seems to be increased participation at both Region and Division level in non-rail and family involvement.

I. Unfinished Business:

1. NMRA 2011 Convention in Sacramento

(a). **2001 NMRA Convention Chair Ray deBlieck** reported he does not yet have a contract with NMRA but they have been going back and forth trying to hammer out an acceptable agreement. One of the issues is assuring PCR is isolated from any liability. He recently returned the contract with eight necessary changes. NMRA has appointed NMRA Director Charlie Getz to serve as an intermediary to iron out this agreement and deBlieck and the committee will be meeting with Getz this week. The 21 Century Limited corporation is being used as the legal entity to over see the 2011 convention and has amended its by-laws to stream line its Board to a more manageable size. deBlieck would still like a written agreement between the 21st Century Limited and PCR. President Plies will work with deBlieck on this. There is an effort to build this convention around a very inclusive arrangement with SIG's and Historical Societies and Sacramento is an ideal location to do this. One of the major hang-ups with the NMRA agreement is that for the first time the NMRA is trying to put a big part of the risk on the local group while NMRA is negotiating and signing the contracts that incur this risk.

(b). **President Plies** sent a letter to NMRA relinquishing to 21st Century Limited all of PCR's financial interest in the 2011 NMRA Convention.

2. Audit of financial accounts. **Audit Chair Stokely** indicated there was not time to audit the financial books between the end of the Fiscal Year on March 31st and the Annual Board Meeting. It was agreed the audit should be done in time for the Mid-year BOD meeting to allow enough time for the Treasurer to prepare the end of year reports and the Audit Committee to review the books.

3. PCR Web Site options and alternatives. **Director Alexander** explained some of the problems with our current Web pages in regards to being ADA compliant. Many pages are easy to correct but those in PDF format are problematical in being readable by sight-impaired equipment. Director Alexander, Dave Grenier and John Sing will be asked to get together – probably on-line, to work on this and try to get us as compliant as reasonably possible.

4. Written agreement with 21st Century Limited, Inc. – No report.

J. New Business:

1. **Monies held by 21st Century Limited. Inc.** 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.
2. **Confidentiality of PCR Board Meetings** The Board reiterated its desire to maintain its meetings in as open and transparent a fashion as possible. When questions concerning this arise they should be discussed by the parties involved.
3. **PCR Information Brochure** (*See Membership Report*)
4. **John Allen Award presentations.** It was agreed the John Allen Award presentations were a part of the Annual PCR Convention awards ceremony.
MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President LaTorres and seconded **THAT** the By-Laws committee be directed to modify the Manual of Operations to include the John Allen Award as an official PCR Award and that this award be administered by previous recipients of this award and the BOD recognizes past recipients.
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.
5. **Past Presidents Award.** The By-Laws and Manual of Operations Committee was directed to include a new description of the Past Presidents Award.

K. Budget

1. **Budget for FY 2009.** Treasurer Altbaum indicated that 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. After some discussion, the budget for FY 2009 was approved, realizing it will dip into reserved funds.

L. Announcements

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

M. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 PM on a motion by Vice-President LaTorres.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Connery

Dave Connery, Acting PCR Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, April 15, 2009

WRITTEN DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD

Listed by Agenda Item

- E. Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, October 18, 2009, Rich Kolm*
- F. 1. Presidents Report, Ron Plies *
- F 2. Vice-Presidents Report, Pat LaTorres *
- F 3. Treasurers Report. Larry Altbaum *
- G 1. Daylight Directors Report, John Houlihan
- G 2. Coast Directors Report, Rod Smith *
- G 4. RED Directors Report, Carol Alexander
- H 1. (a). Ballot Committee, Jim Providenza
- H 1. (b) Storekeepers Report, Steve Skold *
- H 4.(a) Convention Department Report, Dennis Stokely
- H 4. (b) Silver Rails 2010 Convention Report, Raymond Ritch

* Distributed prior to the Board meeting