

**PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
A California nonprofit Corporation**

Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 1:00PM
Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society – Library Room
1364 No. McDowell Blvd
Petaluma, California

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Approval of Minutes from Board of Directors Meeting

Approval of Minutes from Business Meeting

Officers' Reports

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. President | Ed Merrin |
| 2. Vice President | Carol Alexander |
| 3. Treasurer | Bob Osborn |
| 4. Secretary | Chris Palermo |

Directors' Reports

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Daylight Division | Dave Grenier |
| 2. Coast Division | Frank Markovich |
| 3. Sierra Division | Tom Van Horn |
| 4. Redwood Empire Division | Steve Skold |

Department Reports

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Administration | Ed Merrin |
| 2. Membership | Doug Wagner |
| 3. Publications | Gus Campagna |
| 4. Convention | Ray de Blicek |
| • 2017 (Daylight) | |
| • 2018 (Redwood Empire) | |
| • 2019 (Sierra) | |
| • 2020 (Coast) | |
| • 2021 National (Coast – Santa Clara, CA) | |
| 5. Contest | Guiseeppe Aymar |
| 6. Achievement Program | Jack Burgess |
| 7. Non-Rail Activities | (vacant) |

Old Business

1. Convention Manual Update - Carol Alexander, Ray de Blieck
2. New PCR logo - Carol Alexander
3. Electronic Balloting,
 - a. Set up someone to run next election – Ed Merrin
 - b. Manual of Operations amendments - Chris Palermo
4. Build a Memory - Frank Markovich
5. Photo racks for contests – Ed Merrin, Giuseppe Aymar, Carol Alexander
6. Cosponsoring Sacramento Narrow Gauge Convention – Frank Markovich
7. PCR booth at 2021 National Train Show – Frank Markovich

New Business

1. Groups on Yahoo or other social media that are not “owned” by current NMRA members or that include former members as participants – Frank
2. Constant Contact email service – Request to spend \$378 to renew the 1-year subscription when it comes due for renewal on February 14, 2018 – Chris Palermo

Announcements

Date of Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 1:00pm – DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Adjournment

**PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
A California nonprofit Corporation**

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 1:00PM
DoubleTree by Hilton Bakersfield

MINUTES

Call to Order – Dr. MERRIN called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. All officers and directors were present. There were approximately 9 visitors.

Adoption of Agenda – The agenda reproduced herein was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes from Board of Directors Meeting. The minutes of the October 2016 Board meeting were reviewed and one correction was offered of an editorial nature. The corrected minutes were approved on motion by Mr. MARKOVICH and seconded by Mr. SKOLD. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Officer's Reports

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. President | Ed Merrin |
| 2. Vice President | Carol Alexander |
| 3. Treasurer | Bob Osborn |
| 4. Secretary | Chris Palermo |

PRESIDENT. Dr. MERRIN's report was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. He noted that at the Business Meeting on April 23, members were scheduled to vote on a change to the Bylaws to designate division superintendents as Directors.

VICE PRESIDENT. There was no written report and no substantive update on in-progress projects.

TREASURER. Mr. OSBORN reported that checks to Divisions are forthcoming. He noted that no budget has been proposed for FY2018 (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018). MARKOVICH moved and SKOLD seconded to use the FY2016 budget (for the year ended 03/31/2016) for FY2018. OSBORN further reported that checking account processes for conventions have been smoothed out. Annually he will add the convention Treasurers to PCR's main account. There was debate about whether to have multiple convention accounts open at the same time and whether to require convention host committees to use the PCR's subsidiary accounts.

SECRETARY. No report.

Director Reports

1. Daylight Division – Dave Grenier. Mr. GRENIER provided a written report which was previously distributed. Their March meet was at a terrific venue (Kingsburg depot restored) but only drew 9 members. Clinics were good.
2. Coast Division – Frank Markovich. MARKOVICH provided a written report which was previously distributed. 80 members attended the last Coast meet, which was in a wet

winter and thus affected by the weather (usually about 105 of 400 members attend). Large auctions are a feature of meets. Mr. DOUG SMITH was elected Superintendent and formerly had served as Chief Clerk. Pete BIRDSONG did an excellent clinic. There have been two hands-on clinics recently which were sold out.

3. Sierra Division – Tom Van Horn. Mr. VAN HORN provided a written report. Sierra has been offering field trips recently rather than indoor events. Visited James Rail Car services in Chico, CA and viewed repainting covered hoppers. Layout tours included Mike ANDREWS in Yuba City which features 36x85 foot O scale layout with many prototype scenes. First weekend in November featured a series of layout tours in northern Nevada. International Railfair was well attended by 1300 people. On Feb 11, Sierra members were guests of Tidewater Southern Historic Society in Stockton. Contests are regularly receiving entries. May 12 meet is in Stockton and field trip is to Sacramento Model RR Society with operating session. For August, they are planning on Virginia City, NV in connection with V&T. There are geographical challenges in setting up meets because a large portion of members are on other side of Sierra. They are considering a sub division setup or using video.
4. Redwood Empire Division — Steve Skold. Mr. SKOLD provided a written report. RED continues to have a free meeting venue. SMART trains (Sonoma Marin Area Rapid Transit) will be the feature of their next meet. Sturgeon's Mill near Sebastapol will be featured as one exclusive tour site for 2018 convention and has an 1850s steam engine on site. RED is the host for the 2018 convention and planning is already underway.

Department Reports

1. Administration — Ed Merrin. MERRIN reported on the ballot results. He was reelected with 55 votes, ALEXANDER was reelected with 50 votes. The election results have been certified, and ballots were available for 90 days for inspection. MARKOVICH moved to destroy the ballots and VAN HORN seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
2. Membership – Doug Wagner. WAGNER provided a written report but was unable to attend in person as he was running registration for the convention occurring at the same time as this meeting. Seven members were lost as of March 31, 2017, but five were deceased. MARKOVICH noted that Rail Pass signups rarely convert. BEN SEVIER (Guest, PSR member, NMRA National IT Manager) observed that at National, most of losses are death and non-renewal. National focus is on retention of existing members. CLARK KOONING (Guest, NMRA National VP Administration) recommended personal reach-out to Rail Pass buyers and invitations to meets. MARKOVICH observed that he and RONI LATORRES have done exactly that, and that contact in first 30-60 days is important. SEVIER observed that forthcoming IT system changes will cause sending emails about renewal 30 days before expiration. KOONING observed that National officers are aware of the need for greatest action and support at Division level.
3. Store Keeper — Ted Moes. MOES provided a written report in lieu of attending. PAT LATORRES received a box of DVDs of past clinics and other presentations that members can check out. SEVIER observed that these are available on the NMRA website. The HEINSOLM estate collection of 6-8 bankers' boxes was discussed, including disposition via eBay or Coast Division auctions; examples are Kato equipment from 1990s; a volunteer needed to dispose of it. The PCR Tabletop display is at LATORRES home.

4. Publications – Gus Campagna. CAMPAGNA orally reported that publications department is running smoothly. Has not seen Modern Litho contract for Branch Line but believes terms to be reasonable.
5. Convention – Ray de Blicek. DE BLIECK reported on multiple conventions in process.
 - 2017 (Daylight) – registration at 160, a little lower than usual. Financially it is expected to run in the black although some items are close calls.
 - 2018 (Redwood Empire) – convention committee is running well and is of high quality. Plans are well underway. Registration forms were distributed.
 - 2019 (Sierra) – 21st Century Limited is investigating co-sponsoring 2019 which will be the PCR 75th anniversary convention. Location will be settled by the mid-year Board meeting in October. Looking at South Bay location and possibly a Sacramento location.
 - 2020 (Coast) – Planning has not yet started.
 - 2021 National (Coast – Santa Clara, CA) – At Santa Clara Marriott Hotel and Convention Center next door. Should be well attended.
 - There was brief discussion of future National convention locations. 2017: Orlando. 2018: Kansas City and layouts look remarkable. Outreach to Rail Prototype Modelers has started. 2019: Salt Lake City. 2020: St. Louis. (CHECK) 2022 National Convention will be in Birmingham, England. 1-week pre-convention in Wales under planning. Post-convention week also under planning.
 - VAN HORN raised questions about costs of regional conventions and whether to use a venue other than a hotel. DEBLIECK advised that the decision had been made several years ago to offer registration fees that combine convention charge with meals. A Santa Rosa mini-convention was held outside a hotel over a 3-day weekend and used minimal rooms in a community center at no cost, under an unusual coincidence that permitted no payment, but it was cramped for contest etc. The main issue with not using hotels is that meeting space anywhere is no longer free and costs thousands to arrange for the typical convention.
6. Contest – Guiseppe Aymar MMR. AYMAR provided an oral report. Photo racks have become unusable because of size and storage issues. Too cumbersome. Looking for replacement solutions.
7. Achievement Program – Jack Burgess. No report.
8. Non-Rail Activities – Mary Moore-Campagna. MOORE-CAMPAGNA provided an oral report. She recounted the origination of non-rail activities and participation of non-rail attendees and described the current situation of same. She recommended retaining a non-rail program despite social changes among the membership. A Branch Line article to solicit a volunteer will be considered. SEVIER described non-rail experience in PSR. MOORE-CAMPAGNA tendered her resignation, which the Board regretfully accepted. She suggested that PCR should continue the program. MERRIN suggested changing the rostered position to VACANT. There was brief discussion of the proper designation for non-modeler participants such as Family Member, Co-Rail and so forth.

Old Business

1. Status of Convention Manual Update - Carol Alexander, Ray de Blicek
No progress on manual to report.

2. Status update on the new PCR logo - Carol Alexander. ALEXANDER said that drafts of a new PCR logo are done, and will be forwarded to reviewers in the next couple of months.

3. Update on Electronic Balloting - Ed Merrin. MERRIN reported on current evaluation and who would coordinate it. A volunteer is needed to operate the system once per year. There was discussion about the pros and cons of using the system. MARKOVICH moved that the Board adopt changes to the Manual of Operations to change references from mail to email for ballot communication and use the ElectionBuddy or a similar electronic voting system effective immediately; SKOLD seconded. There was discussion of who should be responsible for running online elections. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

MEETING RECESSED at 3:10PM.

4. Update on Build a Memory and other recruitment ideas - Frank Markovich. MARKOVICH is looking for volunteers to take over the project. He is planning a display at the Los Altos History Museum. So far, BAM has been handled only in the Coast Division and he is hoping that another division would take over.

5. Bay Area Prototype Modelers Meet. PAT LATORRES reported that PCR has been added to BAPM website home page. PCR is a co-sponsor of next BAPM. Members will be displaying models. Region will be showing a marketing display.

New Business

1. Constant Contact for e-mail campaigns – brief review of data from four (4) recent campaigns – Chris Palermo. PALERMO reported on use of CC for email with over 50% open rate and 85% open rate for self-selected participants (convention registrants) and 5% to 8% click rate. Could be used for meets, mid-year meeting, etc. Could possibly used for Branch Line. There was some discussion of cost issues.
2. Scratchbuilding Video Webinar – Chris Palermo. PALERMO reported briefly on initial efforts to do video webinar on wood structure scratchbuilding.
3. Photo racks for contests – Ed Merrin, Giuseppe Aymar, Carol Alexander. MERRIN, AYMAR, ALEXANDER reported on problems with existing photo contest display racks and suggested alternative display options including portable hook-and-loop display boards, easels. The Board informally agreed to discard the existing wood racks and to seek another solution between now and the 2018 convention. There was discussion of who would have custody of future racking between conventions. The Board requested AYMAR and ALEXANDER to provide proposals by the October meeting.
4. Tracking member status – Ed Merrin. MERRIN reported that certain people identified in insurance certificates and suggested for awards were no longer members. MERRIN asked all Division leaders to be alert for those who are seeking office or significant responsibility to check membership status.
5. Cosponsoring Sacramento Narrow Gauge Convention – Frank Markovich. MARKOVICH reported that this convention had requested co-sponsorship. NMRA logo would be displayed. September 2019. Staffing a table would be required.

MARKOVICH moved that the Board to co-sponsor the 2019 Sacramento National Narrow Gauge Convention. VAN HORN seconded. MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

6. PCR booth at 2021 National Train Show – Frank Markovich. MARKOVICH volunteered to act as leader of an effort to provide a recruitment booth while noting that he cannot work the entire time himself. DEBLIECK suggested that PCR members offer to staff the NMRA National booth. An initial call for volunteers was made.

Announcements

1. DON FOWLER of PSR addressed the Board. (a) He announced their membership drive contest in which a \$500 cash prize will be awarded to whoever in the Region brings in the most new members, with 10 minimum. Divisions will offer \$250 for similar recruitment in divisions. Goal is to increase membership by 50 persons. (b) PSR will offer grants on application for divisions to promote model railroad activities. Expected \$2500 level, receipts will be required. (c) For Ontario meet, PSR is doing a 4-part Intro to Model Railroading course for adults to provide guidance. ONTARIO MANIFEST, 13-16 September 2017 is their next convention.
2. STEVE SKOLD noted that the Rohnert Park room rates are \$169/night for pre-booking at hotel block. Rate is partly because the convention is over a weekend near wine country.

Date of Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017, 1:00PM.

[In June 2017 it was announced the location will be: Northwestern Railroad Historical Association, Hogarty Memorial Library and Archives, 1364 North McDowell Boulevard, Petaluma]

Adjournment

GRENIER moved to adjourn the meeting. MARKOVICH seconded the motion. Meeting ADJOURNED at 4:28PM.

Elections - Requirements for electionbuddy.com

People

- [Christopher Palermo <chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com>](mailto:chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com)
-
- Jan 24 at 1:34 PM

To

- [Edward Merrin](#)
- [Gus Campagna](#)
- [Carol Alexander](#)
- [Steve Skold](#)
- [Giuseppe Aymar](#)
- and 7 more...

CC

- [Jim Providenza](#)

Message body

The requirements to run an election with electionbuddy.com are:

1. Approve the cost. Cost is \$99 per election based on PCR's current size, plus \$0.09 per voter if we exceed 1,000 members/voters.
2. Decide who will be the account owner (election manager); that person would create an account in the system and would need to provide credit card payment and get reimbursed. This could be done with generic credentials (e.g. pcrElectionMgr@gmail.com + password) that 2 or 3 people could know and use.
3. Determine the type of election voting (choices are: plurality [most votes wins], preferential [top vote getters are ranked and top N vote getters win], approval [thumbs up/down per candidate]).
4. Determine the opening and closing dates and times for the election; enter these in the election data.
5. Import names, addresses and e-mail addresses for voters. Our existing rosters in Excel have this data and merely need to be edited to remove columns. For members who have not provided e-mail addresses, the ElectionBuddy can auto-mail a paper ballot.
6. Decide whether to run a call for nominations through the system. If so, fill in the blanks in an ElectionBuddy announcement and nomination form, and dispatch the form. When nominations close, create the election.
7. Activate and wait for the start date. At the start date/time, system automatically e-mails voting invitations to registered voters. Within 1-3 days after election start, the manager needs to

check in the system for bounced e-mails and resend voting invitations to a different address or initiate a paper ballot. Because of this step, the election period probably needs to be at least 2-3 weeks to permit mailing paper ballots to those with bad e-mail addresses.

8. At the closing date, review auto-tabulated results, declare the winner(s) and announce results. The system can auto-publish a web page with the results.

Chris

From: Edward Merrin <edmerrin@comcast.net>
To: Gus Campagna <campgus@earthlink.net>; Carol Alexander <carolnma@msn.com>; Steve Skold <sandcskold@att.net>; Giuseppe Aymar <giuseaymar@aol.com>; Ray deBlieck <RaydBCS@aol.com>; Jack Burgess <jack@yosemitevalleyrr.com>; Doug Wagner <CarlDW@aol.com>; Robert Osborn <bob@cmrailroad.com>; Dave Grenier <grenida@pacbell.net>; Frank Markovich <frank@frankmarkovich.com>; Tom Van Horn <tomvca@aol.com>; Christopher Palermo <chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com>
Cc: Jim Providenza <rrjim@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 11:45 AM
Subject: RAC Report

Hi Everyone,

As part of my duties as your representative to the RAC I submit a report to the Chair prior to NMRA Board meetings. Usually these are pretty perfunctory, but this time for whatever reason reports with a lot of content were coming in. In response to this competition I put some work into it, and I have attached it here. Much of it touches on the same issues that are bouncing around other regions this year.

Also, having just sent off my completed PCR ballot today I am reminded that using Election Buddy to gather votes in place of traditional paper ballots is beginning to catch on with several Regions and even RAC. I suggest that we start looking at what exactly we would need to do to implement this ourselves for next year's elections. Any potential obstacles are important so they can be worked out in plenty of time.

Ed Merrin

PACIFIC COAST REGION OF NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.

A California nonprofit Corporation

Minutes of Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.

A. QUORUM VERIFICATION AND CALL TO ORDER – The Secretary collected a sign-in sheet from around the room and verified the existence of a quorum of at least 35 members. Dr. MERRIN called the meeting to order.

B. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – The minutes were approved by the membership.

C. OFFICERS' COMMENTS – Dr. Merrin and Ms. Alexander provided brief comments on ongoing projects. Mr. Osborn provided a summary of PCR's financial state. Mr. Palermo provided highlights of the Board of Directors Meeting on April 19, 2017

D. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS – Mr. Van Horn (Sierra Division) recognized Jim Collins for his contributions to the success of past Sierra meets.

E. MEMBER COMMENTS - None recorded.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None discussed.

G. NEW BUSINESS – Proposed changes to By-Laws. Dr. Merrin introduced the subject. GEORGE PISCHING of Fresno moved to adopt the changes to the Bylaws as published in Branch Line. STEVE WESLOWSKI seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion. RAY DEBLIECK spoke in opposition to the motion. BILL SWINDELL spoke in opposition to the motion. DAVE CROSHERE spoke in favor of the motion. DAVE CONNERY spoke in opposition. GEORGE PISCHING spoke in favor. A vote was called and tallied. The vote did not meet the majority threshold required for changes to the By-Laws so the motion failed.

H. CONVENTIONS

1. Comments regarding the 2017 convention were given by Mr. Palermo and by Doug Wagner who had served as co-chairs.

2. 2018 PCR Convention – Remarks were given by Mr. Aymar.

3. 2019 and 2020 Conventions – Remarks were given by Mr. DeBlicke.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS of the next business meeting were given.

J. ADJOURNMENT was moved and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher J. Palermo



PACIFIC COAST REGION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

President's Report
October 21, 2017

To the Board of Directors:

PCR is in reasonably good health as we hit another six-month point, although there are some issues involving vacancies and finances that can't be overlooked. The vacancies I will discuss below.

Money is tight, despite the fact that the account balances we have keep us from having an emergency. Nonetheless, under ordinary circumstances we run a small deficit, and if anything big happens (such as last May's convention losses) it takes a chunk that we do not easily recover from. We've had numerous discussions about this and looked at options (e.g., more fundraising activities, seeking better returns on our accounts) and we should continue to do so.

Generally speaking, PCR is in a transition stage now that presents us with a few challenges that merit attention.

Right now the biggest of these challenges PCR faces has to do with personnel. We've talked a lot about how we are aging as an organization, and we are beginning to see the passing of long time friends and associates who left their marks on PCR. We have been relying on largely the same pool of active and involved members to take care of business, people that have been rotating through various offices and job titles for decades. Looking at the horizon ahead, I can foresee more vacancies ahead as some old stalwarts pull back or even withdraw entirely from administrative and leadership positions.

Much of our focus on recruitment has been around finding new members, but just as important is finding fresh faces among the members we already have to step in and help keep the ship afloat. That means that all of us, Officers, Directors, Superintendents, need to become talent scouts.

And when we find them we have to let them do their thing. Most likely (in fact I guarantee it) they will have a different way of doing things that may feel uncomfortable to the old pros. Determining when to let that go and when to raise an alarm takes some careful thought. There is an art to advising and consulting in a supportive fashion so that our friends remain open to being redirected. In other words, when we find people to take on responsibilities we don't want to alienate them or scare them off.

More to the specifics, we have some important openings right now:

1. Audit Chairperson: Before you know it we will be up for a required audit. Our last auditor, Vic Cavalli, moved out of the Region.
2. Branch Line editor
3. Non Rail Chairperson: Things worked out at the last convention using a committee approach, but we really need someone there.
4. We also have vacancies for Membership Promotion Chair and Education Chair positions.
5. Build a Memory, Election Buddy “maven,” are two more looming out there.
6. Coming attractions, TBA.

We could take the position that perhaps not all are essential (Audit would certainly not be one of those) or perhaps some positions could be combined to reduce the number of people we need. I can assure you, however, that this is not the going to be the final list. Filling vacancies will be an ongoing project as we head into the future.

Respectfully,

Ed Merrin
President
Pacific Coast Region, NMRA

Vice President's Report

Mid-Year Board Meeting

October 2017

I have two outstanding projects that I have been working on.

New Logo Project:

I have pretty much exhausted my ideas for a new logo based on trying to incorporate graphic symbols for each of the divisions. Nothing that I've tried has worked very well so I have scrapped that approach and am now in the process of taking an on-line training course on logo design that I hope will jump-start some new concepts that I can bring to the Board in the spring. The class is free and is interesting enough to keep me at it for the eight or ten lessons.

Convention Manual.

I have condensed the six hundred page monster I started with to a document of less than two hundred pages and it is ready to give to people who can help edit it and add missing information. The document is a .pdf file and anyone with Adobe Reader can make comments and save them. I will be asking for volunteers to help at the meeting. I'll mail them the document and they can mark it up. I'll get the marked-up copies and merge them and try to condense it down into something usable.

I'm glad to report that I've finally made progress on this and I'm hoping to keep the momentum going.



PACIFIC COAST REGION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Secretary's Report
October 21, 2017

To the Board of Directors:

This report is submitted concurrently with the following:

- Agenda for Board meeting of October 21
- Minutes of Board meeting of April 2017 at Bakersfield
- Minutes of PCR business meeting of April 2017 at Bakersfield

Comments and corrections are invited. Copies of these documents have been filed in PCR's records of meetings, which I maintain.

Proposed amendments to the Manual of Operations have been prepared to integrate electronic balloting into PCR's procedures. In April 2017 at Bakersfield, the Board approved amending the manual and outlined a general framework for the changes.

Respectfully,

Chris Palermo
Secretary
Pacific Coast Region, NMRA

PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

MANUAL OF OPERATIONS

- 9.A.3.e. Reporting and Forms. The Convention Department shall provide standard formats for convention reports, and standard forms for statistical and financial data.
- 9.A.3.f. Audit. An Audit Committee composed of the PCR Treasurer, the Convention Department Manager, and one or more members of the PCR Convention Committee shall audit the financial reports of all PCR Conventions and report to the Board of Directors. Particular attention shall be given to determination of losses and surpluses, and return of advances from the PCR Convention Fund.
- 9.A.3.g. Annual Meeting of Convention Chairpersons. The Convention Department Manager shall schedule a meeting of past, present, and future PCR Convention Chairpersons in conjunction with the Annual Convention for the purpose of exchanging information leading to the improvement of PCR conventions and the avoidance of problems.

9.B. CONVENTION DATES

- 9.B.1 Annual Convention. There shall be one Convention of the members annually, which shall be held within 30 days before or after May 1 as approved by the Board of Directors.
- 9.B.2 Mini-Convention. A mini-convention may be held in conjunction with the mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors.
- 9.B.3 Rotation.
 - 9.B.3.a. Each division shall develop at least one bid from a Host Committee for a site located within that division on the following schedule of rotation:
 - Coast
 - Daylight
 - Coast
 - Redwood Empire
 - Coast
 - SierraAlternatives may be submitted by the Convention Committee to align with National and other regional conventions.
 - 9.B.3.b. Divisions may exchange scheduled years by mutual agreement between two divisions. Exchanges must be approved by the Board of Directors.
 - 9.B.3.c. Bids for a convention may be submitted by any group of PCR members, a club, a SIG, or a Division consistent with the rotation schedule.

PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

MANUAL OF OPERATIONS

6.B.3 The NOMINATING COMMITTEE is a *select committee* for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of President and Vice-President. When its services are required, the President shall appoint a Chairperson and two or more members. The committee shall seek and evaluate potential candidates considering their skills, talent, and motivation in relation to the demands of the job and their willingness to serve. At least two candidates for each office are desired. See Section 13.A for the election process that involves this Committee.

6.B.4 The BALLOT COMMITTEE shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the President and committee members appointed by the Chairperson as he/she deems necessary to fulfill the duties of the committee. The chairperson, with the cooperation of the Publications Department, shall issue each ballot with the certified slate of candidates in the annual communications regarding the Region (Section 8.B) or as otherwise provided in section

13. A candidate's statement

~~should be secured from each candidate and published with the ballot. The Chairperson shall, upon return of the ballots, tabulate and count them with the assistance of at least two other PCR members, and shall report the results to the President in writing. The PCR Ballot will list for each office the incumbent first followed by all other candidates listed alphabetically, and then space for a write in.~~

6.B.5 The HONORS COMMITTEE shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the President and committee members appointed by the Chairperson as he/she deems necessary to fulfill the obligations of the committee. The committee shall oversee PCR's program of awards recognizing meritorious service within the PCR (Section 10). It shall establish a data base and keep records of each of the various awards, including the person, group, or committee responsible for the award, the criteria for making the award, the procedure for presentation, and the names of awardees. The committee shall monitor the program, but not actually select the awardees, and shall assure that the awards are properly presented.

6.B.6 The STOREKEEPER shall be appointed by the President to establish and maintain a computer-based inventory of all physical property of the PCR. The inventory shall be initially established, shall be kept up-to-date, and shall be regularly available to any Officer or Director of PCR. The Storekeeper shall assure that storage of all physical property is suitable and secure. A status report shall be submitted to the Board of Directors at each spring meeting and at other times when requested.

6.B.7 The AUDIT COMMITTEE shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the President and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for the purpose of auditing the PCR financial accounts as provided in Section 11. Up to two additional committee members may be appointed by the Chairperson as he/she deems necessary to fulfill the duties of the committee. The committee shall prepare an audit report to the Board of Directors. □

6.C. MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
MANUAL OF OPERATIONS

SECTION 13 - ELECTIONS

13.A. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

13.A.1 The Nominating Committee (Section 6.B.4.) shall be appointed by the President in even-numbered years to seek and evaluate potential candidates and it shall report a slate of candidates to the Ballot Committee in writing by December 1 of that year. At least two candidates are desired for each office. The report shall include the candidates' statements for publication with the ballot. A copy of the report shall be filed with the Secretary at the same time. If an incumbent is eligible and has decided by September 1 of that year to run for re-election, then the President shall not ask the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of candidates for that office.

13.A.2 Any group of 15 or more NMRA members in PCR may petition the PCR to nominate a candidate for President or Vice-President as provided in subsection C below.

13.A.3 The Ballot Committee (Section 6.B.5.) in cooperation with the Publications Department shall prepare the ballot listing the incumbent(s) first, followed by all other candidates in alphabetical order, and then space for a write in.

13.A.4 Communication of ballots and voting may be conducted using an online electronic voting system. The ballot and the method of voting shall be communicated to all NMRA members in PCR who have provided an e-mail address to NMRA by February 1 of even-numbered years with a specified closing period for online voting no later than February 14. For all NMRA members in PCR who have not provided an e-mail address to NMRA, or for whom e-mail communication fails, the ballot shall be mailed to all NMRA members in PCR as part of the PCR official communications regarding the Region (Section 8) by mid-February of even-numbered years. The candidates' statements shall be included in the foregoing communications. The ballot shall specify the due date (not postmark date) for electronic voting or for returning it to the Ballot Committee at least three weeks prior to the Board of Directors spring meeting.

13.A.5 The Ballot Committee shall count and tabulate the ballots received, or obtain vote counts from the online electronic voting system, and report the results in writing to the Board of Directors spring meeting for acceptance. Upon acceptance by the Board the Ballot Committee shall destroy the ballots and delete records in the online electronic voting system to the extent permitted by that system.

13.A.6 The elected or re-elected President and Vice-President shall take office at the Annual Business Meeting as the first item of new business.

13.B. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

13.B.1 Each Division in the fall of odd-numbered years shall nominate candidates for Director and the Division Superintendent shall report the slate of candidates to the Ballot Committee in writing by December 1 of that year. At least two candidates are desired in each Division. The report shall include the candidates' statements for publication with the ballot. A copy of the report shall be filed with the PCR Secretary at the same time.



Daylight Division Report

October 21, 2017

The Daylight Division took a long break after the Bakersfield convention, and having recuperated, we're moving on. We have scheduled our next meet Saturday morning, October 14th during the Central Coast Railroad Festival (October 13-15). Bob Chaparro has, once again, set up an incredible number of layout tours, and the Oceano Depot, the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, and the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Historical Museum are all sponsoring major events. Additionally, Beda's Biergarten is showing its Guinness record holding collection of Z-scale.

Our next meet is scheduled January 20, 2018, at the Historic Kingsburg Depot, <http://www.kingsburgdepot.org/index.html>, which has been lovingly restored and will provide us with ample trainspotting opportunities. Don Smith and others will be providing local layout activities, and if I can't find other clinics, I promise a hand-on citrus tree-modeling workshop on the freight platform.

Bob Chaparro has been trying to set up a layout tour for late spring in Tehachapi, so hopefully, our Spring Meet will be in Tehachapi, and we will return to Santa Barbara for our Summer Meet, where, at least, it is 30 degrees cooler than in the San Joaquin Valley.

We are looking to find volunteers to fill Dave Grenier's shoes, who will be terming out as Director in a few months, as well as for Bob Sexton's long-held position as Chief Clerk and Paymaster.

Brewster Bird has stepped up as the Daylight Observation editor, and we expect a new edition of the Observation before the January meet. (Note: The new issue was posted on the Daylight website October 6th. dg)

Special thanks to Doug Wagner and all the other folks who have worked so hard for our division.

Respectfully submitted,
Neil Fernbaugh
Superintendent, PCR Daylight Division

Operating in Dark Territory

Neil Fernbaugh, Superintendent

The Daylight Division took a long break after the Bakersfield convention, and having recuperated, we're moving on. We have scheduled our next meet Saturday Morning, October 14th during the Central Coast Railfest (October 13-15th). Bob Chaparro has, once again, set up an incredible number of layout tours, and the Oceano Depot, the San Luis Obispo Railroad museum, and the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Historical Museum are all sponsoring major events. BTW, Beda's Biergarten is showing it's Guinness record holding collection of Z-scale.

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We are looking to find volunteers to fill Dave Grenier's shoes, who has timed out as director, as well as Bob Sexton's position long-time position as Chief Clerk and Paymaster.

Brewster Bird has stepped up as Daylight Observation editor, and we expect a new edition of the Observation before the January meet.

Special Thanks to Doug Wagner, and all the other folks who have worked so hard for our division.

Your superintendent, Neil Fernbaugh

Coast Report – Frank Markovich – Oct 2017

We met at the Elks Club in Alameda on Sept 24th.

The Division is continuing with the current format of 2 clinics per event, an auction, contests (switching, Model and Photo), business meeting and modelers roundtable.

Budget looks excellent as we are over \$22K in the bank. Again year to year over \$1000, positive

Of concern is that there are still some open positions. We need someone to take over the PA, someone for helping with estates and more help at meets for setup and teardown.

Highlights of the meet:

- Over 600 items in the Auction – of special note was the number of full boxes of 20 or more kits per box. Also about 20 brass items.
- Close to 90 in attendance
- Good quality model contest
- Well attended Round table – Bill Swindel took over as Howard was ill, Bill did a great job.
- Good business meeting.
- Charlie talked about the new program for the NMRA on discounts and about the signing of the contract for the Magic of Model Railroading at the Train Museum in Sacramento.

Next Coast Division Event December 4, 2017 at the Boy Scout Center in San Leandro.

Had two great clinics:

Building and operating a Model Railroad in a Middle School Classroom – Jeff Allen. Very good clinic on getting Model RR in the classroom. I saw this at the PCR in Bakersfield last year.

I did a clinic on building a contest model using my West Side Caboose #4.

Highlights of the business meeting:

Upcoming events, West Side Reunion April 28, 2018, Sierra Seminar April 29, 2018 both in Sonora.

The National Narrow Gauge Convention will be in Sacramento in 2019.

Ray talked about the 2021 NMRA National convention in Santa Clara. Start getting your layouts ready.

Earl talked about our last hands on clinic and that plans are for a series on Programming Arduino.

Redwood Empire Division—Steve Skold

Since the last board meeting, RED had two meetings. The first was May 27th at Monroe Hall. This was our annual business meeting and election. Scott Lockhart was elected Superintendent and Dud Peters is our new Chief Clerk/Paymaster. After the election and very short business meeting, we had our usual Show and Tell portion which includes winning models from the recent PCR convention in Bakersfield. That was followed by the raffle and door prizes. At that point, the meeting was adjourned to the SMART facilities in Windsor. We were given a tour of the maintenance building and a tour of one of the pair of cars. We were all given a SMART coffee mug. A SMART mug is one that will not spill on you. SMART stands for Sonoma-MARin Rapid Transit.

Our next RED meeting was our annual picnic. This time it was held at the Golden Gate Railroad Museum at Pt. Richmond on August 19th. We got a 2 hour tour of the three model railroads. One in O Scale, one in HO and the third in N. There have been a lot of changes since the last time some of us were there. At noon, we went outside to the picnic tables and commenced our picnic. We had about 20 in attendance.

RED has had three former officers pass away in the past 6 months. Previous Chief Clerk, Brice Benson was first to go. Spent his last few years building Fine Scale Miniatures and bring them to our Show and Tell. Next was our Callboard editor Dick Foster. He was previously editor of Sierra Division's Short Line when he moved to Sonoma. He was instrumental in converting the Callboard to an e-mail publication and expanding the number of pages. Finally, we lost Ed Zakareckis whose last term of Chief Clerk ended last May.

The planning for the 2018 PCR Convention in Rohnert Park is well under way. The tours to Korbel Winery and Sturgeon's Mill are expected to be among the highlights. We need more people to volunteer for clinics. Let one of us from RED know if you are willing to put one on and we will pass the information to our clinics chairman. We are putting on the Convention in conjunction with the NWPRRHS. This is the second convention many of us are helping with. The 2017 Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society convention is being held at the DoubleTree in Rohnert Park with the help of the NWPRRHS in November. We will

be alerted to problems they may have with the hotel that we can iron out before next April.

PCR Membership Department Report October 21, 2017

This reflects the PCR's membership figures from April 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017.

In Memoriam:

PCR members we lost from April 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017:

	Member Since
Coast	
Jack Pease, Moraga CA	01/01/68
Joe Scholten, San Francisco CA	10/14/89
Redwood Empire	
Brice Benson (Lifetime Member), Rohnert Park CA	01/01/60
Richard Foster, Sonoma CA	03/14/07

Our newest members who joined from April 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017

Daylight

Kevin Birkbeck, Bakersfield CA
Ken Peterson, Visalia CA
Mark Scharf, Rosamond CA

Coast

Dave Marshall, Pinole CA
Lyle Meek, Carmel CA
Ilene Marshall, Pleasanton CA
Family Markovich, Belmont CA

Sierra

James Jones, Ceres CA
Steven Cope, Stockton CA
David Epling, Portola CA
Mike Hamlin, Orland CA
Bill Redmond, Carson City NV

Redwood Empire

Annabell C.O. Gibson, San Anselmo CA
Mike Davis, Rohnert Park CA

The PCR membership statistics for the period March 31, 2017 to August 31, 2017:
Membership on March 31, 2017 – 964
Membership on August 31, 2017 – 967
Deceased Members -- 4
New Members –14 (this figure includes 6 Rail Pass)
7 did not renew their NMRA membership

Membership by Division as of August 31, 2017:

<u>Division</u>	<u># Members</u> (Figures in parentheses are the March 31, 2017 figures)
Coast	442 (445)
Sierra	265 (257)
Redwood Empire	142 (146)
Daylight	<u>118 (116)</u>
Total PCR Members	967 (964)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at carldw@aol.com or by phone at (661) 589 – 0391.
Report created Thursday, September 12, 2017

Doug Wagner
Membership Department Manager

2018 PCR Convention report

Enduring Rails

Progress on achieving a fantastic Convention has been methodical and consistent.

PCR and NWPRRHS have joined forces with the aim of introducing a more varied assortment of clinics hopefully resulting in a livelier and fresher selection of topics.

Eighteen committees have been set up each one with its own individual task adhering to deadlines and reporting to bi-monthly Convention Committee meetings.

Unexpected sadness has hit us with the loss of our Publicity Manager, Dick Foster who passed away two months ago. His place was taken by dividing the duties amongst five committee members overseen by a talented and excited Mark Poggendorf. We are looking into advertising in many publications with an eye out for exposure and a “bang for the buck”.

So far we have assembled a good number of clinic presenters, both from PCR and NWP, knowing full well that these numbers are likely to change up to the last minute. Clinicians are informed as to the equipment necessary to present their clinics. We are in the process of setting up a clinic’s schedule which is mimicking prior Conventions formats.

Our prototype tours involve the best Sonoma County has to offer: A fully working steam lumber mill which will be operational exclusively for our group, a visit to the mint-new facility of SMART (our version of rapid transit) and finally the Korbel champagne cellars with their history tied to the early railroads of the area.

Layout tours have been lined up to satisfy every taste. We will have an in-house description of each layout in addition to the description supplied by the layout owner so that we can offer a clear understanding on what to expect.

OPSig and LayoutSig have their act together as usual.

Operating sessions will take advantage of an already conspicuous numbers of layouts so it looks like this is going to be a winner.

The Boy Scouts will have a strong presence with a program designed to earn a RR-merit Badge. Close to 20 Scouts have signed up for the program which will take place at two venues: our Convention Hotel and the headquarters of the NWP.

The non-rail program is also coming together with different fun activities.

The Hobo breakfast has found a home close to the Hotel.

The Company Store, in addition to shirts and stuff, will offer beautiful renditions of a NWP box car. The NWP has taken full responsibility for the box car project. They will share 50% of the profits with the Host Committee while taking full responsibility for any losses. That is a classy organization.

Contest is all set to go; we will introduce a special category which will be properly advertised in the Branch Line and other Division publications.

Our website is becoming populated with specific information as our very capable Webmaster is returning from a nuptial hiatus.

The Banquet will be self-serve with two lines for efficient and speedy service. The Doubletree Hotel is known to put up a fabulous gastronomical display. We will continue the tradition of the "no host" cocktail hour social prior to the Banquet.

Wednesday evening will kick off the festivities with a social event at the newest Sonoma County brewery on the grounds of the Hotel. A big thank you goes to Chris Palermo for sponsoring this very successful social.

We are in the process of talking to the California Railroad Museum who have agreed to send a very informative and lively speaker. We will meet with our guest speaker shortly to iron out topics, etc. In case talks fail, we do have a replacement speaker in place.

The treasury has enough funds to pay for the incoming bills as of now, since we have had 52 registrants so far.

Any of you in this room who have not yet registered, please do so with alacrity as that will help with available funds. We are projecting close to 250-300 attendees given the participation of the two groups.

Sincerely,

Giuseppe Aymar, MMR Host Convention Chair

PCR Contest report

Contest is running on autopilot as it is a well oiled machine.

Like any machine it does require some maintenance and this year the maintenance is focused on replacing the aged (now defunct) photo racks used to display all the photo entries. Our PCR President, Ed Merrin, is going to bring up this issue at this meeting to discuss potential replacements; it is imperative that the BOD agrees on a replacement as we would not have any means of displaying the photos otherwise.

The question arose after the Bakersfield Convention as to the presumption of a paid lunch offered to all the Contest judges. I want to reiterate for the ninth time that the PCR Contest manual of operation Appendix D states that “the Host Convention Committee is expected to provide refreshments during judging (e.g. continental breakfast on Saturday morning or sandwiches and beverages Friday night).That needs to be part of any Host Convention Committee’s budget, period! (usually it runs between \$450-600).

There always seems to be mass confusion during Convention time when it is time to deliver on this essential protocol with last minute discussions and resolutions. Unless the Contest manual is revised pertaining to this issue, there is no questioning any longer. Since the last revision occurred Oct 24th, 2009 there is a need to revise many of the paragraphs in the manual that are specific to items no longer part of modern Contests; i.e Tug of war, slides etc. I ask the BOD to authorize the Contest Manager to set up a team consisting of the Division Contest Mangers to overhaul the Contest manual by eliminating no longer used items and start a discussion on how to evaluate and judge digital photography and 3D printing and bring it to a future BOD for evaluation and consent.

Sincerely

Giuseppe Aymar, MMR

PCR Contest Manager