

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

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, May 2, 2019, 1:00PM

Sales Conference Room, second floor

McClellan Conference Center, Sacramento, California

**Call to Order.** *All officers and directors were present. Others present: Ray deBlicek; Pat LaTorres; Chip Meriam; Giuseppe Aymar; Brian Witt.*

**Adoption of Agenda** – *Discussion of changes to agenda. Adopted with deletion of the item “Approval of Minutes from prior Business Meeting”.*

**Approval of Minutes from prior Board of Directors Meeting.** *Fernbaugh moved to approve, Markovich seconded, motion passed by unanimous assent.*

~~**Approval of Minutes from prior Business Meeting**~~

**Officers’ Reports**

1. President, Ed Merrin. *Written report submitted.*
2. Vice President, Carol Alexander. *Stated that it has been a privilege and honor to participate and is looking forward to more time for other activities. There were several compliments and thanks given.*
3. Treasurer, Bob Osborn. *Detailed explanation of 8-page report and graphs was given. Discussion of \$8 PCR fee; no change to be made; fee will continue to operate as a media subscription fee. Markovich moved to adopt budget. Skold seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.*
4. Secretary, Chris Palermo. *No report.*

**Directors’ Reports**

1. Daylight Division, Neil Fernbaugh. *No written report. Fernbaugh reported: great meet in Tehachapi 15 people Fresno 15 people; tries to meet during Central Coast Festival but no members were available; officer disappearances have been a problem; Chuck Harmon has become publisher of Observation (newsletter); John Houlihan has become Clerk-Paymaster; two events scheduled; Convention Car caretaker needed; future events = last weekend in August in SB; Dec 17 Fresno layout tour and meet.*
2. Coast Division, Frank Markovich. *See written report. Main issue is cost of meeting facilities; cannot exceed \$600 per meet in rental fees.*
3. Sierra Division, Tom Van Horn. *Provided written report at meeting. Obtains income from International Railfair, Roseville. Some concern that costs of fairgrounds are headed up because it has been renamed. The “Camp” fire occurred the same weekend as Railfair and a few members in Paradise, CA lost everything. Held roadtrip in February to Sacramental MR Society, DCC operations layout; has been excellent activity. Plans fall 2019 meet in Sacramento with road trip to live steam in Rancho Cordova with exclusive access. Chip Meriam has succeeded as Superintendent. Also new Chief Clerk Dave Pryman.*
4. Redwood Empire Division, Steve Skold. *Written report provided, not other comments.*

## Department Reports

1. Administration, Ed Merrin. *Open positions include Contest Chairperson and Non-Rail. Carol Skold willing to continue in her role. Ed expressed thanks for the support of the Board during his term.*
2. Nominations & Election. *Report provided by Ed Merrin for Dave Connery and Jim Providenza. 787 eligible voters, 269 ballots returned; 12 paper ballots returned; total turnout 32%. CJP for President, 275 yes, 0 no, 6 abstentions; Frank Markovich; 276 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions. Use of ElectionBuddy has been a success. Scott Lockhart of RED was trained to use EB for their election.*
3. Membership, Doug Wagner. *Written report provided. Ed noted that the report was impressively prepared. Slow decline in membership continues.*
4. Publications, Gus Campagna. *No report.*
5. Contest, Giuseppe Aymar. *Department is going strong, but the number of entries continues to decline. Many single entries. There was discussion of how to increase contest entries. Frank suggested that he, Pat and Giuseppe discuss ideas. Possibly move to non-judged contests.*
6. Achievement Program, Jack Burgess. *No report.*
7. Non-Rail Activities, (vacant).
8. Storekeeper, Ted Moes. *Report provided, appears accurate.*
9. Conventions, Tom Crawford. *Markovich moved to open a 60-day discussion period for Board discussion of the revisions to the MOO relating to conventions proposed by the Convention Manager and to vote on whether to adopt the revisions. Fernbaugh seconded. Motion passed by unanimous assent.*
  - 2019 (Host: Sierra Division)
  - 2020 (Host: Coast Division)
  - 2021 (Host: Daylight). *Chairperson needed. deBlieck noted that the National convention will be in Santa Clara. The National committee is willing to work with PCR to co-host a mini-convention in Santa Clara, e.g. Fri-Sat-Sun with offsite breakfast on Sunday, to fulfill requirements for contest and annual business meeting.*
  - 2022. *deBlieck noted National will be in Birmingham, UK. Will be a train show in the US. Consider doing multi-region convention. Timing could be in the same week as the National or connected to the US train show. Possibly in Sacramento based on transportation links.*

## Old Business

1. Convention Manual Update – Tom Crawford. *See convention department report.*
2. Discontinuing print publication of Branch Line – Ed. *No further report. Need continuing box item in Branch Line to tell people to update their e-mail addresses.*
3. Obtaining a PCR tax ID number for use with PayPal account – Chris. *This has been completed by Dave Grenier in connection with the 2020 convention.*
4. Financial reviews of Divisions - Frank. *Markovich proposed that Superintendents of Divisions should review checkbooks, P&L or balance sheet of the division, as appropriate, as undertaken by the Paymaster and/or Chief Clerk. Markovich moved to direct each Director to determine whether its division is operating financial activities under the PCR EIN or a personal SSN. Could prepare a standardized format of a request to Superintendents of divisions.*

*Could also be added to MOO. Motions were withdrawn. Board requested directors.*

5. Web space for presentations or videos of clinics
  - a. YouTube channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3eGdy9781Okpydu\\_cleozg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3eGdy9781Okpydu_cleozg); login credentials available from Chris
  - b. Google Drive space:  
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1dnr045Kwg1rNOARqBSoJBbkMQbXLMl1j>  
*Board suggested publicizing this to members in a Branch Line article.*
6. How to get more spouses involved in the PCR – Frank. *Open position for Non-rail chair.*
7. Changes in contests to get more members involved – Frank. *Previously discussed.*
8. Backup positions list - Frank. *Frank volunteered to maintain a backup list for key PCR positions. Helps prepare replacements when leaders are term limited.*

### **New Business.**

1. Installation of new Director for Coast Division. *Lisa Gorrell was elected and the Board installed her.*
2. How to support clubs – Frank & Chris – *Write white paper on why clubs should be 100% NMRA and distribute. Main reason is insurance, e.g. \$45 to get \$1 million in liability insurance.*
3. Increasing publicity, on a Division basis, at hobby stores and other locations – Frank & Chris. *Discuss new Chief Marketing Officer appointment.*
4. Regional encouragement for getting new members (maybe prizes) - Frank. *Carol commented on ways to cater to the new kind of model railroader. MRH, What's New, burst of people entering the market. 3D printing. On-demand printing of publications. Boulder Creek Models (Australia) video clinics with great production values. Organization needs to become more relevant to those who are doing model railroading in new ways. Greater electronic media. Frank noted that there is a huge increase in people who want to do operations. Discussed having free half-day registration at 2020 convention for Prototype Railroad Modelers. Feature young people in Branch Line.*
5. Cost control – Frank. *Discussed reducing the number of contest plaques. Review costs in all departments.*
6. New non-railroad activities for conventions – Frank. *There was open discussion of ideas for involvement of others in outside activities.*
7. Replacement of Secretary – Frank, Chris. *Chris noted that Chip Merriam has*
8. Relationship with 21st Century Limited – Chris. *Chris introduced the concept of PCR providing marketing and promotion services to 21CL, and the concept of a net income sharing arrangement with 21CL and outlined the terms of an agreement to be reduced to writing under which PCR will receive 20% of 21CL's share of net income (if any) from the 2021 national convention; if there is a loss, PCR has no risk. Net income could be zero. Definition of net income to be negotiated. Letter agreement to be prepared and presented to the Board for approval. CA complimented the arrangement for its transparency and clarity.*

### **Announcements.**

**Date of Next Board Meeting**

Date: October 26, 2019, 1:00pm (proposed)

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Concord, CA – Room TBD

**Adjournment.** *Adjourned at 3:50pm.*