

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**  
**MAY 2007**

By Rich Kolm, PCR Secretary

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS met on May 2** at the University Inn and Convention Center in Santa Cruz, which was the first day of the PCR Annual Convention “Suntan Special.” Board members present were President L.E. “Gene” Mayer, Vice-President Dave Connery, Treasurer Larry Altbaum, Secretary Rich Kolm, Directors Doug Wagner (Daylight), Kermit Paul (Coast), Mary Moore-Campagna (Sierra), and Nolan Alexander (Redwood Empire), and Director-proxy Jim Long for Eric Minton (Hawaiian). Putting in an appearance were Ray deBlieck, Director on the NMRA Board, and various Department Managers and Committee Chairpersons.

- **New directions for PCR.** Vice-President Dave Connery reported there are things PCR should be doing to better prepare us for the future: (a) Take the initiative to make e-mail address information in the NMRA membership database as complete and correct as possible, since NMRA has been slow to develop its database with promised regional access. (b) Develop coordinating meetings between the Region, Divisions, SIGs, and clubs to share calendars, plans, and joint promotion of activities, and to identify areas where increased cooperation would be mutually beneficial. (c) Determine what activities members support, how members want to be communicated with, and ways PCR can better serve them and enhance their model railroading experience. (d) Seek opportunities to hold a joint convention with PSR or PNR. (e) Treat the Hawaiian Division as a “mission” and provide added support to help to rejuvenate it.

Gus Campagna pointed out the Redwood Empire Division website maintains a broad-based calendar of events, but the information has to be submitted to be posted.

- **Finances.** Treasurer Larry Altbaum reported that the finances of the Region continue to be more stable, reflecting the change in structure brought about by the NMRA single dues system. He made minor adjustments to the FY 2007 budget that was adopted in November 2006 and pointed out that there is still room in the budget and assets for any one-time projects worthy of Region support. Division Directors are encouraged to continue discussions of this with Division officers and all other members. The bottom line is that PCR is financially healthy considering income, expenses, and assets, and by continuing sound financial planning will continue to be so.

- **Division Directors** reported on upcoming activities in each of their Divisions.

- **Election of Officers.** Jim Providenza, Chairperson of the Ballot Committee, reported that Ron Plies was elected President and Pat LaTorres was elected Vice-President (to take office at the Annual Business Meeting).

- **Conventions.** Dennis Stokely, Manager of the Convention Department, summarized the status of upcoming conventions. Chairperson John Houlihan reported on planning and preparations for the 2008 Convention “Sierra Memories” in Fresno. He said they have a website [[www.pcrnmra.org/conv2008](http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2008)] and registrations are being accepted. There is not yet a

chairperson for the 2009 Convention, although one-third of the host committee is already recruited; the location will be in Pleasanton or the Fremont/Milpitas area. The 2010 Convention is scheduled to be in the Redwood Empire Division, but they haven't been able to find a hotel in that area that is reasonable and available with space for a convention like PCR. Other locations in the Bay Area may have to be considered.

- **Hawaiian Division.** The Division has not been active because of its unique situation with only a few members scattered over several islands. Director-proxy Jim Long said Director Minton reported that the Hawaiian members don't feel a connection with PCR. The Board approved mailing the *Branch Line* to all 20 members for the next four issues. Vice-President Connery pointed out that we need to include Hawaiian Division content in the *Branch Line*.

- **The next Board Meeting** will be in Fresno during the last weekend in October. The details and agenda will be posted on the PCR website prior to the meeting.

**THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING was held on May 6** at the University Inn and Convention Center in Santa Cruz, the last day of the 2007 PCR Convention "Suntan Special." President L.E. "Gene" Mayer presided and there were 78 PCR members present.

- **Summary.** President Mayer, Vice-President Dave Connery, and Secretary Rich Kolm summarized various aspects of the May 2 Board Meeting (see the highlights of that meeting).

- **Member comments.** There was a lively discussion about new directions for PCR. This ties in with Vice-President Dave Connery's earlier recommendations and follows the discussion at the May 2 Board Meeting. It was generally agreed that there is a need to better coordinate the activities of the several Divisions in the Region, to develop more of a partnership between the Region and the Divisions, and to consider new approaches that accommodate members' changing interests and thus generate more participation in Division activities.

- **New Officers.** Under New Business, President Ron Plies and Vice-President Pat LaTorres took office. President Plies recognized Gene Mayer's service to the organization and presented him the Past President's Pin. Treasurer Larry Altbaum and Secretary Rich Kolm will continue in office.

- **Conventions.** Kevin Hurley, Chairperson of the 2007 Convention, commented about the convention activities and their success. John Houlihan, Chairperson for the 2008 Convention in Fresno, described the planning and preparations for "Sierra Memories."

- **The next Annual Business Meeting** will be at the 2008 Convention in Fresno. The details and agenda will be posted on the PCR website prior to the meeting.

5/28/07