

**PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.
A California nonprofit Corporation
Annual Business Meeting Agenda
Thursday, April 22, 2021, 2:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM**

A. QUORUM VERIFICATION AND CALL TO ORDER – Meeting called to order at 2:11 PM by President, Chris Palermo. A census of attendees revealed a quorum (at least 35 members) was present. Quorum attested by Chip Meriam, Board Secretary.

B. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – Motion by Chris Palermo with a second by Chip Meriam to approve the minutes from the May 29, 2020 Business Meeting. Motion carried.

C. OFFICERS' COMMENTS

1. **President (Chris Palermo)** – Noting a full year has passed using virtual operations, Chris highlighted a need for more regional, virtual programs. The pandemic has precluded the planned visits to all divisions over the past year. Chris commended Daylight Division for a good job preparing the virtual convention to take place the following Saturday. He noted that the 2021 awards presentations would occur during that virtual convention. Noting that the planning for 2022 was well underway, Chris suggested that “hybrid” conventions, partially in person and partially virtual, may be the thing of the near future. Chris noted the July 2021 National Convention needs more volunteers. Chris noted a decline in regional membership is in line with an overall national trend. Chris announced the completion and opening of the “Magic of Scale Model Railroading” exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum. Finally, Chris formally tendered his resignation effective May 6, 2021. Vice President, Frank Markovich, will serve as interim president and the Board of Directors will choose a permanent successor with 60 days.
2. **Vice-President (Frank Markovich)** Offered his thanks to Chris for his service to the PCR. Frank noted that our new member retention rate is low and we must strive to keep our new members.
3. **Treasurer (Robert Osborn)** – Treasurer not present but the Treasurer’s Report was displayed on screen and reviewed by Chris Palermo. Noted a positive cash flow for the first time in quite awhile, supporting an overall better position than last year.
4. **Secretary (Chip Meriam)** – No report

D. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS - Coast, Daylight, Sierra and/or Redwood Empire Directors are invited to make remarks.

Lisa Gorrell, Coast Division – Noted that biweekly ZOOM meetings have been well attended and all are welcome to join.

Ed Merrin, Daylight Division – Expressed his satisfactory experience as a Division Director and recommended the same to all.

Redwood Empire Division - had no report

Chip Meriam (Superintendent), Sierra Division – Monthly ZOOM meetings are continuing with good attendance. A new Paymaster has been elected following very long tenure by a member who

stepped down. A sharing program has been initiated whereby FastTracks fixtures are being made available for members use in constructing hand-laid turnouts and crossings.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

F. NEW BUSINESS

Report on election process and election results Chris Palermo and Frank Markovich offered thanks to Ed Merrin for continuing to operate the elections using ElectionBuddy.

CSRM “Magic” Exhibit Maintenance – Chris shared the roster of seven maintenance volunteers and announced Dick Witzens as the new chairman.

PCR Education Committee – The NMRA has asked all regions to form education committees and promote “Modeling With The Masters” as part of that program.

G. CONVENTIONS

1. **2021** – The one-day virtual convention, hosted by Daylight Division, will be held the day after tomorrow (Saturday, April 24)
2. **2022** – Plans are well underway for the “Return to the Redwoods”, hosted by RED. The venue has been selected and the rates are better than the last time the convention was held at the same facility.
3. **2023** – Sierra Division will be hosting and the formation of the committee remains pending.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

I. MEMBER COMMENTS (comments regarding matters not on the agenda)

Bruce Morden still needs clinicians for the National Convention,.

Phil Edholm noted that creating virtual clinics may be easier than presenting live.

Doug Wagner noted that Saturday’s virtual convention had reached 260 sign-ups.

It was noted that the Board of Directors had discussed the issue of non-member participation and was working on logistics.

Mike Brady suggested we might be able to charge a fee for participation in the virtual programs.

Phil Edholm suggested members consider the cost to travel to a National Convention vs. attending virtually. If “hybrid” conventions become available, a member could attend virtually from a distance but attend in person when the National Convention is nearby.

Dave Gibbons noted that video clinics miss out on the personal interaction between the clinician and the audience.

J. ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chip Meriam, Secretary