

PACIFIC COAST REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting • Wednesday, April 23, 2003
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Pleasanton, California
PCR Annual Convention “Tri-Valley Zephyr”

MINUTES

Note: These minutes may be revised until approved at the next Board meeting.

A. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by President Ray deBlieck.

B. Roll Call and Quorum Verification. The following members of the Board of Directors were present: President and Trustee Ray deBlieck, Vice-President L.E. “Gene” Mayer, Treasurer Larry Altbaum, Secretary Rich Kolm, Coast Division Proxy Jim Long for Director Jack Wall, Daylight Division Proxy Bill Scott for Director Brewster Bird, Redwood Empire Division Director Ron Plies, and Sierra Division Proxy Dick Witzens for Director Bob Mountjoy. Letters were received from the three directors represented by proxies.

C. Adoption of the Agenda.

MOTION: It was moved by Proxy Director Long and seconded by Proxy Director Scott...

THAT the Agenda for this meeting be adopted.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a unanimous voice vote.

D. Written Communications. There were no written communications.

E. Member Comments. There were no member comments about matters not on the agenda.

F. Consent Calendar. The Consent Calendar included only one item: Approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on October 26, 2002 at Sacramento, Calif. The second item listed in the Agenda, File Directors Reports, was removed because none were submitted prior to the Board meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Proxy Director Long and seconded by Proxy Director Scott...

THAT the Consent Calendar be approved.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a unanimous voice vote.

G. Officers’ Reports

1. President. President deBlieck reported on the model railroad equipment bequeathed to the Pacific Coast Region of NMRA by the late Keith Heinzman. The equipment is now in PCR possession and is being stored until the estate is settled. In the meantime, President

deBlieck will do a detailed inventory and will send it to the Secretary. Trustees of the estate have requested that the donation to PCR-NMRA be tax deductible, which is being reviewed. There is no proposal for disposal of the equipment. The matter will be on future Board meeting agendas.

2. Trustee. Trustee deBlieck reported that NMRA appears to have bottomed out in declining membership and the trend may be turning around. He said it also appears that NMRA is financially in the black and may have eliminated the red ink---we'll know later this year. The Board of Trustees approved a Long Range Plan for NMRA---copies are available and will be posted on the NMRA website. Trustee deBlieck said the PCR Board of Directors needs to know the potential issues that will have a direct effect on PCR operations and membership. The Directors need to be well informed so they can answer questions from the membership.

3. Vice-President. Vice-President Mayer handed out a written report that incorporates the reports of the By-Laws and Manual of Operations Committee and the Long Range Planning Committee (see agenda items I.5 and J.1).

4. Treasurer. Treasurer Altbaum handed out a written report that he will discuss later in the meeting when the budget is considered (see agenda item M).

5. Secretary. Secretary Kolm distributed an update of the PCR Staff Roster to be effective April 27, 2003 assuming the reorganization of PCR committees into departments is approved by the membership.

H. Directors' Reports.

1. Redwood Empire Division. Director Ron Plies handed out his written report which he orally presented, describing recent and upcoming Division activities.

2. Coast Division. Proxy Director Long commented about the upcoming Division Meet on June 1, the concern about declining membership, the first Subdivision Meet which was held in San Jose at Silicon Valley Lines, and the search for sites for future Subdivision Meets including the possibility of one in Watsonville. He also said members at the Division Meet in March approved the updates of Coast Division Constitution and By-Laws, which have been filed with the PCR Secretary.

3. Sierra Division. Proxy Director Witzens commented that Sierra Division is small in membership and large in territory. Last year the Division Meets were at a variety of locations---at Sutter Creek in June, Carson City in September, and Sacramento in December. The Sutter Creek and Carson City events were well attended, including members from other divisions. International Railfair at Roseville is now called Northern California Model Railroad Show for better marketing. It was well attended last November. The next Division Meet is at Grass Valley/Nevada City in June.

4. Daylight Division. Proxy Director Scott handed out Director Bird's written report, and he commented that the upcoming Division Meet on May 3 will be in Mariposa with a barbecue and visits to two large layouts.

I. Standing Committee Reports

1. Budget and Finance Committee. There was no report (see agenda item M).

2. Member Services Committee. Chairperson Bob Ferguson handed out his written report and explained that there are 1,487 NMRA members in the territory of PCR, but only 770 are actually members of PCR. Another 123 PCR members do not live in the Region.

He also pointed out that there are 270 5-year members of PCR, of which 35 or 40 are no longer members of NMRA. The Board discussed this problem with a suggestion that these members be notified and given a chance to pay the NMRA dues; and if they don't pay, refund the portion of PCR dues related to the expiration date. No action was taken. It was noted that the proposed single NMRA membership will avoid this kind of problem in the future.

Trustee deBlieck talked about the NMRA Long Range Plan and single membership proposal. Being considered is the addition of a regional component to the NMRA dues, which may be on the order of \$3.00 per year. Then each region would have to determine what additional revenue is needed to help cover operating expenses---for example, dues are currently \$6.00 in PCR. The additional fee might be for the region newsletter or for specific regional events. PCR would end up with twice as many members to support under single membership, so the \$3.00 may not be sufficient to cover operating expenses. He handed out copies of the NMRA Long Range Plan dated April 18, 2003 and a set of questions and answers about the Long Range Plan.

Agenda was moved ahead to Item I-4.

4. Contest Committee. Chairperson Ken Lunders reported that he has resigned and this is his last meeting. President deBlieck extended his appreciation for all of Ken Lunders' efforts with the PCR contests.

Break for lunch: 1:00 to 2:18 PM.

3. Membership Promotion Committee. No chairperson and there was no report. There was discussion about the cost of promotional activities, and that the Board should consider such costs in relation to the expected return in dues. Directors talked about handouts that are currently used to attract new members, and the need for a common set of materials with questions and answers.

Returning to the order of the agenda.

5. By-Laws and Manual of Operations Committee. Chairperson L.E. "Gene" Mayer reported that the Committee discussed the proposed amendments to the By-Laws and Manual of Operations to reorganize PCR committees into departments and recommends Board approval.

The amendments were circulated for review last November, to PCR officers and directors and PCR committee chairpersons, and have been posted on the PCR website since February.

MOTION: It was moved by Proxy Director Long and seconded by Proxy Director Witzens...

THAT the Manual of Operations be amended in Sections 6, 8, 9, and 10 to reorganize PCR committees into departments, as recommended by the By-Laws and Manual of Operations Committee, contingent upon approval of an amendment to the by-Laws for the same purpose by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting on April 27, 2003.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: It was moved by Proxy Director Long and seconded by Director Plies...

THAT the Board of Directors recommends that the membership approve the amendment to the By-Laws to reorganize PCR committees into departments.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Nominating Committee. No chairperson and there was no report.

7. Ballot Committee. Chairperson Jim Providenza submitted a written report regarding the recent PCR election for President and Vice-President. L.E. "Gene" Mayer was elected President and Dave Connery was elected Vice-President. They will assume office as the first item of new business at the Annual Business Meeting on April 27.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Plies and seconded by Proxy Director Witzens...

THAT the report of the Ballot Committee regarding the election of PCR President and Vice-President be accepted and that the ballots be destroyed.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a unanimous voice vote.

8. Public Relations Committee. No chairperson and there was no report.

9. Publication Committee. Chairperson Gus Campagna submitted his written report prior to the Board meeting. He requested that the PCR budget include the costs of the PCR webpage, now being covered by the webmaster, and the increased cost of the *Branch Line* newsletter to allow for higher quality printing and more timely production. He recognized that improvement in paper and printing quality of the *Branch Line* would cost significantly more than what is currently being paid for publication and mailing by Norman Morris.

One option for cutting costs is to post the *Branch Line* on the PCR website and let those who want printed/mailed copies pay for them. Another option is to limit the size of the *Branch Line* to keep the cost in line---the Board talked about averaging 36 pages per issue as a general limitation, with no more than two pages for an article. The Board left this latter option to Publication Chairperson Gus Campagna to deal with.

10. Convention Committee. Chairperson Jim Long handed out his written report and talked about the upcoming PCR conventions.

- 2004 in Napa: “Napa Valley ‘04” will be at the Embassy Suites, hosted by the Napa Valley Model Railroad Society and the Redwood Empire Division. Harold Mentzer is Convention Chairperson and Gus Campagna is Registrar.

- 2005 in Concord: This one will be at the Sheraton Concord Hotel, hosted by the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society. Bill Swindell is Convention Chairperson and Bob Ferguson is Registrar.

- 2006 in Sacramento: L.E. “Gene” Mayer said there is still no word whether the California State Railroad Museum will have a 25th Anniversary celebration that year. Rooms are on hold at the Doubletree Hotel and a draft of a possible contract is in hand. Dates may have to be firmed up regardless of the museum’s plans.

11. Achievement Program Committee. AP Manager Jack Burgess was not present and there was no report.

12. Member Aid Committee. Chairperson Rod Smith was not present and there was no report.

13. Honors Committee. Chairperson Ray deBlieck reported that the Committee’s work is mainly a record keeping function. He said the John Allen Award will be administered by the Honors Committee for the Coast Division, but the Coast Division will remain the sponsor.

14, Education Committee. Chairperson Chuck Mitchell was not present and there was no report.

15. Special Interests Coordination Committee. No chairperson and there was no report.

J. Special Committee Reports

1. Long Range Planning Committee. Chairperson L.E. “Gene” Mayer reported that the members of the Committee have agreed to stay on as the new Long Range Plan Implementation Committee, which will be headed by Dave Connery. The last issue of the *Branch Line* was mailed to all NMRA members in the PCR territory. Leadership training for region and division officers will be offered at the mid-year Board meeting in the fall.

2. Audit Committee. Chairperson Rich Kolm had no report.

3, Non-Rail Activities Committee. Chairperson Mary Moore-Campagna was not present and there was no report.

K. Unfinished Business

1. Update on creating a new separate division in the northern part of Sierra Division. Dwayne Coate was not present and there was no information available.

2. Revenue from “21st Century Limited” Convention account, consider projects and programs of benefit to PCR members. This is an ongoing matter and will be on the agenda of future Board meetings.

3. Status of Hawaiian Division. There was no report.

L. New Business

1. Purchase and Storage of PCR Equipment. Director Plies initiated a discussion of whether PCR should purchase and store equipment, such as digital (“power point”) projectors, for use by convention committees and divisions. He pointed out that digital projectors are expensive to rent. He also said there should be a central storage locker for such projectors and a lot of other PCR-owned stuff that is scattered in people’s homes. The storage issues would be security of the storage, and who controls the release and return of the equipment.

Issues raised in the Board discussion included: (1) if PCR buys projectors then maybe PCR should rent them back to the convention committees; (2) if divisions use this equipment between conventions there is increased wear and tear and increased chance of losing it; (3) the costs of maintenance and replacement of the very expensive projection bulbs must be considered; (4) we have to recognize that the technology will be changing over time; and (5) if buying the equipment results in increased costs, then who should cover the increased costs of putting on a convention? The unanswered question is whether it is more feasible to rent this equipment rather than buy it.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Plies and seconded by Proxy Director Scott...

THAT digital projectors be made available to the Convention Committee and Divisions to be financed from the PCR convention fund.

(action on this motion was tabled---see next motion)

President deBlieck appointed a special committee, jointly chaired by Publication Committee Chairperson Gus Campagna and Convention Committee Chairperson Jim Long, to look into implementing a plan to purchase, maintain, store, and control the use of digital projectors and report back to the Board at the mid-year meeting in the fall. This special committee should consider life-cycle costs and should consult with Treasurer Altbaum regarding financial impacts. *(President-Elect Mayer subsequently added John Marshall to the Committee.)*

MOTION: It was moved by Proxy Director Scott and seconded...

THAT the main motion be tabled until the mid-year Board Meeting.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a unanimous voice vote.

2. Question about joint activities with Pacific Southwest Region (PSR). A member of PCR asked the Board to consider entering into discussions with PSR about joint activities because both regions are affected by declining membership, reduced participation at regional conventions, and increased costs. PSR was part of a larger PCR until the split in the early 1980s. Trustee deBlieck and Vice-President (President-Elect) Mayer agreed to take this question under advisement and report back to the Board.

M. PCR Budget for FY 2003

Treasurer Altbaum presented the proposed Budget for FY 2003. Based on discussions at this Board meeting the line items under Operating Expense/Branch Line for Printing will be reduced from \$3,400 to \$2,800 and for Postage will be reduced from \$1,400 to \$1,000. The line item Operating Expense/Projects/200X Project will be increased from \$200 to \$600.

MOTION: It was moved by Proxy Director Scott and seconded by Director Plies... THAT the Budget for Fiscal Year 2003 be approved as proposed in the Treasurer's Report and revised during the Board meeting.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Altbaum will send out the revised Budget. He also said he has the entire Journal for the year available for perusal.

N. Announcements

1. Next Board Meeting. President-Elect Mayer said the next (mid-year) Board Meeting will be on Saturday, October 25, 2003 at a location to be determined.

O. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Kolm
PCR Secretary

RLK 6/6/03