

October 2024 PCR Mid Year Board Meeting Minutes

Called to order at: 7:02pm

Attendees:

Voting members in attendance:

Frank Markovitch, President
Chip Merriam, Vice President
Paul Weiss, Redwood Empire Division Director
Phil Edholm, Coast Division Director
Lou Anderson, Sierra Division Director
Walter Mizuno, Daylight Division Director

Non Voting members in attendance:

Cydney George-Abatecola, PCR Secretary
Bob Osborne, PCR Treasurer

Guests in attendance:

Chuck Hakkarinen
Craig
John Abatecola
Dave Putnam

Quorum met (4 voting members)? **YES**

Approval of minutes

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the April 2024 BOD meeting as written. **TABLED** until March meeting

Officer's reports

[Treasurer's Report](#) - Bob Osborne

MOTION: Accept the 9-30-24 treasurer's report as submitted. **PASSED**

Director's reports

Phil: division meet in September at SBHRS. Well attended. Auction will be in December.

Lou: commemoration of NMRA exhibit at CSRSM event went really well, had a visit from 4014

Paul: problem getting speakers/new speakers for events and willing to work with other divisions to exchange clinicians/speakers, they need reimbursement from PCR for their recent event - will follow procedure to get reimbursed

Walter: having difficulties getting into division bank account due to Milton's passing but they are working on it.

Chip: VP - no reports, Branchline - going along well, Denni Baumer [letter proposing 2026 convention in Rohnert Park](#)

MOTION: Approve Denni Baumer's proposal and hotel contract to host the 2026 convention in Rohnert park. **PASSED**

Unfinished Business

SLO convention status report

over 50 clinic spots filled, 1st section of Amtrak excursion filled, opened 2nd section, 55 registrants so far, over 120 room nights booked, need 200 to meet goals. Virtual reg at a few. For comparison, Techline had about 30 virtual reg at the end of early bird discount in January.

New Business

Future regional conventions discussion:

- Like most regions, our membership has dropped. Under 800 now. Start brainstorming ideas on how to still be able to hold these events.
- After SLO it will go to Rohnert park (RED division) then Sierra.
- Even national is struggling.
- Discussion about eliminating the typical hotel model for conventions.
- Non hotel convention done before by Sierra and it worked.
- Narrow gauge convention in Washington was at a convention center with nearby hotels. Seemed to work well.
- Virtual is an option to make the changes we need to in person events to keep them viable and recognizing that that may make the events not feasible for some. Virtual allows all members to participate fulfilling mission of the organization.
- What solutions have other regions come up with? Larger events with multiple regions doesn't/hasn't work very well - its why PCR and PSR were split.
- Rohnert Park convention
 - Because \$42K on the line for Rohnert park in 2026, are we wise to put that money at risk? Should we decide no hotel as an option?
 - Discussion about Rohnert park 2026 contract...do we think we can do it? Can we get enough people to go and stay 3 nights? Estimating 70-60 regular attendees at all the conventions. Need to book 197 room nights. Conservative estimate of only 160 sold, we could lose \$5500.
- Long beach did not meet room nights.
- Techline: 239 room nights sold, so it can be done but rooms were \$130/night.
- Continue with all decisions made to hold Rohnert park convention in a hotel per the proposal
- with an acceptable level of loss. With the attitude that each one could be the last based on level of loss.
- Sacramento might be the area to try to find a non hotel model. Some suggestions were made as a research starting point.
- National is planning a new model ...they are considering fewer days, no hotel as base of organization possibly, not in large metro areas, decouple train show from event, perhaps other changes

Scholarship - did it last year, didn't get a lot of publicity, do we want to do again? No motion made to donate funds to New Tracks Modeling Scholarship fund.

Model RR competition at Fresno State again ...holiday layout tours for classrooms prior to their own layout building. Funded by Calif high speed rail.

Rail Pass option is it still available? Yes. We will continue to do \$10 matching for another year at least. Might convert more if we just supplement a regular membership. Prize to members that bring in a member perhaps? Nationally only a 6% conversion rate.

The NMRA's new Medicare health plan that covers NMRA membership. Remind members to look into it.

Announcements

None

Adjourned by Phil Edholm at 8:07

Minutes prepared by

Cydney George-Abatecola

Secretary

Pacific Coast Region, National Model Railroad Association

Date of approval: March _____ 2025, Annual BOD Meeting at SLO Convention