



Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association
 Board of Directors Meeting
 June 15, 2016, Salmon Arm, BC



Meeting Minutes

Selkirk Express 2016 Convention, Prestige Harbourfront Resort, Salmon Arm, BC

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Don Locke at 1:00 pm.

President Shirley Sample was unable to attend the convention due to family needs. Therefore, VP Locke led the meeting. Also, Secretary Bob Stafford was not present, so Publications Chair Greg Kujawa was drafted to take meeting notes.

Introduction of PNR officers and staff was made. Present were:

- Rich Pitter, 1st Division
- Charlie Comstock, 2nd Division
- Tom Waters, 3rd Division
- Russ Segner, 4th Division
- Gary Thurow, 5th Division
- Ed Molenkamp, 6th Division
- John Martin, 7th Division
- Dirk Kruysman, Treasurer
- Ed Liesse, Office Manager
- Jack Hamilton, AP Chair
- Larry Sebelley, Convention Chair
- Dave Liesse, President's Award
- Walt Huston, Immediate Past President

Other NMRA officers also present:

- Fred Headon, Canadian District Director, NMRA

Officers' annual reports were provided as a handout package to BOD members and others in attendance. Greg K will coordinate with Mark Johnson, PNR webmaster, to post these reports on the PNR website.

Old Business

Conventions after 2020

Larry Sebelley was asked to project out the regional convention rotation schedule through 2026. He provided the schedule below which will also be posted in an upcoming issue of *The Switchlist*.

Convention Rotation Schedule

2013	Division 3	Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon
2014	Division 4	Western Washington and Alaska
2015		Skipped because of Portland NMRA Convention
2016	Division 7	British Columbia, Yukon Territory, and Northwest Territory

2017	Division 5	Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho, and Montana
2018	Division 2	Northern Oregon and Southern Washington
2019	Division 6	Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut
2020	Division 1	Southwestern Oregon
2021	Division 3	Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon
2022	Division 4	Western Washington and Alaska
2023	Division 7	British Columbia, Yukon Territory, and Northwest Territory
2024	Division 5	Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho, and Montana
2025	Division 2	Northern Oregon and Southern Washington
2026	Division 6	Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut

Elections—President and Vice President

Shirley will not be running for the President position due to her increased workload and need to attend to Bob’s health issues. Jack Hamilton had discussed the situation with Shirley. Based on this, he offered to be a nominee for President and Shirley told him she would be willing to be a nominee for VP. Additional nominees are still being sought and will be discussed at the Annual General Members Meeting on Sunday, June 19th in Salmon Arm.

Follow-up: After all nominees are identified, an election will be held. Ballots will be mailed out to all members with voting rights.

On-line registration company to handle future conventions – In 2013 minutes, has anything been done on this?

Russ Segner described an on-line company that offers services to handle all registration tasks. It’s too late to use this service for the 2017 convention in Spokane which is well along in planning by the 5th Division.

Follow-up: Charlie Comstock and Dave Liesse will look into this option for the 2018 convention being hosted by the 2nd Division.

New Business

PNR Public Services Committee—Jack Hamilton

Jack proposed that the PNR establish a Public Services Committee that would help PNR members obtain AP credits for model railroading-related volunteer work that serves the greater community. He described the example of what Mark Dance and others did for the community by volunteering much personal time to dismantle, move, and reassemble a complete model railroad layout over a distance of hundreds of miles. This type of volunteerism should be recognized for its value.

Jack proposed that a new standing committee (the Public Services Committee) be established with a one-person chair position appointed by the President. The chair would establish a subcommittee of PNR members for specific Public Service-type projects as they arise. Jack volunteered to be the committee chair and offered to write the guidance for completing the AP paperwork for this type of volunteer activity.

Decision: The BOD approved the proposal to establish a Public Services Committee and Jack Hamilton as the committee chair.

Transitioning to use of Electronic Ballots and making changes to By-laws and Policy Manual as needed

Greg Kujawa explained the background of this topic and how it arose through this being an election year and the bylaw requiring a hard copy of *The Switchlist* must be mailed to all members each year. In an election year, this would be the *Switchlist* issue with the ballot (the election issue). To save PNR funds, we could look into mailing hard copies of the election issue only to those members without email addresses and emailing the election issue to all other members (those with an email address) with a means for them to vote electronically.

Several other NMRA regions and divisions are already allowing electronic voting. NMRA national is exploring this possibility too. It may be prudent for the PNR to consider electronic voting procedures already being used.

Dave Liesse reviewed the PNR Bylaws and Policy and Procedures Manual to determine if any changes are needed to provide for electronic voting. He concluded that nothing in the Bylaws prevents electronic balloting. He also drafted changes in the Policy Manual (Q-3), to provide for electronic balloting/voting. There is likely not enough time available to implement these new procedures for this election year. So, the timeline to implement is for the Region to explore electronic voting options and be prepared for the next voting cycle in 2018.

Decision: The BOD approved Dave Liesse's proposed changes to the Policy and Procedures Manual, Section Q-3, to provide for electronic balloting/voting. However, there was not enough time to implement these changes for this year's election. See the amendment language attached to these minutes as a supplement.

The timeline to implement these BOD approved changes will be before the next voting cycle (2018).

Corrections to Division Boundary descriptions so they are consistent and re-doing the boundary map – according to most information all of Montana is now in the 5th Division

Gary Thurow and Shirley Sample have been discussing the situation in Montana that the entire state is in the 5th Division except for several counties in the southwestern part (3rd Division). Gary observed that he has to drive through parts of the 3rd Division (e.g., Butte) in order to reach parts of the 5th Division in eastern Montana, such as Livingston. So, it makes sense to move those Montana counties within the 3rd Division into the 5th Division. 3rd Division Superintendent Tom Waters had no objection to this.

Decision: The BOD approved the change that all of Montana is now within the 5th Division. Affected members will be notified.

AP—Questions from 3rd Division about promoting the AP by adding members to the web page listing the certificates they have earned toward the MMR status

Tom Waters suggested that we begin posting on the PNR website the names of members and their AP certificates earned as a way to give further recognition and support to these folks and promote the AP program.

Follow-up: Jack Hamilton said he'd start doing this quarterly.

Treasurer's Report & Budget—Dirk Kruysman

Dirk gave a brief overview of the Treasurer's Report. Jack H proposed amending the 2017 budget by adding \$500 to each of lines 4 and 22 to make the new totals \$6800 and \$1000, respectively. The purpose of this change is to provide additional monetary support to the divisions for member retention.

Decision: The BOD approved the 2017 budget as amended above.

Audit Report

The Audit Report was presented and discussed.

Decision: The BOD approved acceptance of the audit report.

Appointment of New Treasurer

Dirk Kruysman has decided to step down as Treasurer after many years in this position. Shirley has accepted his resignation. Dirk and Dave Liesse have been discussing Dave stepping forward into this position with Dirk providing guidance and backup during this transition period.

Decision: The BOD approved appointment of Dave Liesse as Treasurer and Dirk K as Assistant Treasurer during a transition period.

Reimbursement for travel to Salmon Arm

Discussion about reimbursement for travel to this convention. Dirk recommended not approving reimbursement because funding is currently short. No BOD decision is needed.

Free-Mo registration at PNR Conventions—NMRA membership?

The issue is whether Free-mo participants at the Train Show need to be NMRA members. NMRA Policy is that those modular layouts participating in NMRA activities and events are NOT required to be comprised of NMRA members. NMRA insurance coverage for the activity (an NMRA-sponsored event) is not impacted and does cover the non-NMRA member layouts. Train Show is separate and does not involve or grant NMRA benefits. No BOD decision is needed.

Note – This distinction is important because it is separate from the issue of non-member Home Layouts on layout tours which are not covered by NMRA liability insurance.

2017 Convention Report—Gary Thurow, 5th Division

Gary Thurow, 5th Division Superintendent, provided a handout and update on status and decisions made for the 2017 PNR convention in Spokane, the Spokane Falls Express 2017. The convention will be June 7–10 at the Red Lion at the Park. Early registration is October 1, 2016–January 31, 2017 and the fee is \$85. The regular registration fee is \$95. Hotel room rates have been negotiated at \$99 for single/double occupancy and \$109 for triple occupancy. Convention shirts and ball caps will be available for sale. Gary said the convention budget is running low.

Decision: The BOD approved loaning \$1000 to the 5th Division to continue planning the 2017 PNR convention.

2018 Convention Report—Charlie Comstock, 2nd Division

Charlie Comstock, 2nd Division Superintendent, provided a one-page handout of progress made in planning the convention (tentative name: Stumptown Express 2018). The convention is scheduled for Wednesday May 30 –Saturday June 2 at the Red Lion on the River, Jantzen Beach, Portland, OR. There are quite a few vacancies currently in key convention committee positions.

Train Orders—Jack Hamilton

Jack has been providing this communication service for several years. Should the PNR pick up the cost (\$350/year)? Is it worth it? Questions? Discuss further with Jack.

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:30 pm.

Other agenda topics

Two other proposed topics regarding NMRA membership were tabled because they related to the seminar Jack H was presenting directly after the BOD meeting. This seminar was about NMRA Retention and Recruitment.

Respectfully Submitted:

Greg Kujawa

Switchlist Editor

**Supplement to
Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2016, Salmon Arm, BC**

Topic:

Transitioning to use of Electronic Ballots and making changes to By-laws and Policy Manual as needed

As follow-up to the BOD's decision to approve use of electronic ballots, an amendment to the PNR Policy Manual had to be made and was approved by the BOD. No bylaws needed to be amended.

Dave Liesse provided the amendment language in a subsequent email. Here is the text of the amendment at the board meeting:

Policy Q-3, paragraph 4 shall be amended as follows:

1. Delete the section starting with "postmarked" and ending with "year and".
2. Add a second sentence: "It is the voter's responsibility to ensure the ballot is returned in sufficient time to be received by the deadline."

This makes the policy now read:

The returned ballot must be received by the appropriate Ballot Chair no later than June 30. It is the voter's responsibility to ensure the ballot is returned in sufficient time to be received by the deadline.