

Regional Director Call with Member Board Chairs – WCARB Region 6

Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2016

Attendees: Jim Oswald, Director Region 6, Gina Spaulding, Exec for Region 6, Kathy Hillegas, NCARB staff; Brian Hanson and Jeff Koonce, Alaska; Ed Marley, Arizona; Mary Morisette, Colorado; George Garlock, Nevada; Mark McKechnie, Oregon; Terrance White, Utah; and Scott Harm, Washington.

Members from California, Guam, Hawaii and Idaho were not on the call.

Oswald told the members that NCARB is working to create better communication with the Board of Directors through the Regional Directors and Regional Chairs with member boards. This and future calls will be to keep the lines of communication open, hear from member boards regarding any matter of concern or interest, especially with regard to NCARB matters as well as to give a brief overview of the topics of discussion at the next NCARB BOD meeting and ask for member board feedback.

There will be calls scheduled with the member board chairs before each of the next NCARB BOD meetings in January 2017, April 2017 and prior to the June NCARB ABM.

Hot Topics/Issues of Concern by Member Boards:

Washington: Scott Harm said that Washington is closely monitoring the Mutual Recognition Agreements with Canada, New Zealand and Australia and asked if they were necessary and what the qualifications were for applicants. Hillegas told him that criteria for beginning discussions with foreign countries was that each country must have in place an accrediting process for education, an experience component and an examination. Harm also indicated that it is beginning discussions on whether to amend their law to adopt the NCARB AXP hours requirements.

Arizona: Ed Marley reported that the biggest issue Arizona is facing is a governor and legislature bent on deregulation of the professions. Their governor doesn't think that licensure is important and thinks that NCARB is a national license and since NCARB issues national licenses there isn't a need for a state license. Another big issue is that the AZ board is no longer allowed to hire lobbyists and they now have to rely on the lobbyists for the Engineers board and other collaterals. Lastly, though the board is currently an autonomous board, consolidation may occur and all boards put under an umbrella agency.

Alaska: Jeff Koonce told the group that their MBE had recently retired and a new MBE had not yet been hired. Alaska is also dealing with a lot of travel restrictions and government bureaucracy.

Utah: Terrance White said that the Utah governor had recently filled two vacant board positions and they will hopefully be attending future Summits and Annual meetings.

Oregon: Mark McKechnie reported that their board will be discussing ramifications of architects designing medical/recreational marijuana facilities in Oregon at its next meeting. Ed Marley said that the AZ Supreme Court had issued a decision on that matter and he would forward it to Mark for his information.

Colorado: Mary Morisette said that in response to Marley's remarks that the AZ governor didn't believe in licensure and that the NCARB certificate is akin to a national license is a shared perception with Colorado's government. She suggested that more education on that might be beneficial to the boards and their governments.

Nevada: George Garlock reported that their new executive director is doing great and that they are hoping that three of their board members will get reappointed this November to ensure a smooth transition.

Jim Oschwald told the member board chairs that NCARB will be discussing some more blue sky topics at its upcoming meeting in September 2016. Jim told the members that he will send the NCARB BOD discussion topics in advance of the next call in order to give members time to review and comment.

Other topics to be discussed at the next BOD meeting in September include discussing and developing an attendance policy for NCARB funded delegates at meeting to ensure maximum attendance. Also to be discussed is another blue sky topic regarding "repositioning the NCARB Certificate. No action is expected to come of the discussion except perhaps the BOD directing staff on any possible meeting outcomes. Finally, the BOD will be discussing board engagements – how NCARB engages with member boards and other collaterals and how those relationships can be further developed.

Any questions on these items should be directed to Jim Oschwald, Regional Director or Jon Baker, Region 6 Chair.