

## White Paper

*Understanding the Benefits and Positive Impacts of Regional Membership*

**Purpose:** Understand and evaluate the benefits of regional representation within a national structure as well as the opportunities presented in the regional meetings and the benefits of membership related to the expense of regional dues.

The Western Council of Architectural Registration Boards (WCARB) was the first regulatory organization of architectural licensing jurisdictions. Through this legacy, the WCARB Executive Committee has been a leading advocate for the member jurisdictions within the region.

**Background:** All of the 54 US states and jurisdictions have regulatory boards administering the rights, rules, responsibilities, and laws regulating the professional practice of architecture and design within their individual jurisdictions. All 54 US states and jurisdictions are active voting members of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and have, through active participation over the last nearly 100 years, created the bylaws of NCARB's charter. In order to foster closer communication between Member Boards, Regions, the Council and further to foster the development of future leaders and assist the Council in achieving its stated purpose, six geographical Regions comprising, in the aggregate, all the Member Boards have been established. Each Member Board is required to be a member of its Region as a prerequisite of Council Membership. The six geographical regions are as follows:

- Region 1; New England Conference
  - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
- Region 2; Middle-Atlantic Conference
  - Delaware, Washington DC, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

- Region 3; Southern Conference
  - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, US Virgin Islands
- Region 4 ; Mid-Central Conference
  - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin
- Region 5; Central States Conference
  - Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming
- Region 6; Western Council
  - Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington

## Regional Structure

Regional structure recognizes the uniqueness of practice and regulation amongst different areas of the country and provides for collective input on national issues. It is the responsibility of each member board to stay abreast of national changes that could affect its jurisdiction and the region as a whole. ***At a time when change is happening more quickly than ever, the regional structure continues to play a critical role in sustaining the National Council's efforts.***

The current regional structure:

- Recognizes the individual uniqueness of regional architectural practices and conditions.
- Provides regional representation on the Board of Directors for the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.
- Supports leadership development within the region for future positions on the WCARB Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. A major benefit to member boards is having member-board members within the region involved in the national governance structure, as it provides invaluable knowledge of NCARB's major initiatives, programmatic changes, and especially in assuring that NCARB is sensitive to the concerns of the individual states.
- Provides education and communication opportunities for member-board members within the region, thereby strengthening the member boards individually and the regulation of the practice as a whole.
- Allows for member boards to propose national resolutions, with the weight of regional support, through a structured process, when necessary.

## **Regional Meetings**

Regional meetings among jurisdictions provide for more in-depth discussions on relevant issues facing the profession and for regulation of the licensing process in a smaller setting, with opportunities for collective input from a regional perspective.

The current regional meetings:

- Provide a conduit through the regional director, to work directly with the Board to facilitate understanding and through vetting of resolutions and proposals before the membership of NCARB.
- Provide regional interaction and a platform to share solutions.
- Assist in achieving effective regulation and enforcement.
- Support the sharing of best practices, successes, and concerns among member boards.
- Offer an opportunity for member boards to be better informed and to have questions answered.
- Provide regional evaluation of national trends and NCARB proposals.
- Facilitate a regional review and vetting of regulatory changes.
- Allow for the opportunity to share information pertaining to candidate credentials and disciplinary information.
- Provide for the development of strategic initiatives and policy positions to benefit the region.
- Provide a manageable forum that promotes open discussion and representation of individual member boards when reviewing NCARB proposals, resolutions, and other issues facing the membership.

## **Regional Dues**

The cost of administering the program should continue to be supported through a reasonable and defensible dues structure.

The current regional dues:

- Support member services, operational resources, and program management.
- Are consistent with the other regions represented within NCARB.
- Have remained static for many years through effective fiscal management. In order to keep regional costs low, the region has gone paperless and utilizes email and the website as the primary means of communication with the members. The region is continually seeking ways to be more efficient and streamlined in order to remain both fiscally conservative and effective.
- Allow for expenditures that are based on an annual budgeting process, subject to member-board approval.