

**Southern Conference of NCARB
Regional Meeting Minutes
March 1-2, 2024
Savannah, Georgia**

Members Present:

Alabama	Louisiana	Roula Qubain
Daniel Bennett	David Brossett	Walt Teague
Mike Chapman	John Cardone	Emmy Williams
Emily Coe	Tyson Ducote	Puerto Rico
Nolanda Hatcher	Chris Elbersen	Pedro Alfaro
Paula Pilgreen	Michael Holly	Jorge Calderon
Sted McCollough	Kristine Kobila Johnstone	South Carolina
Jimmy Seay	Justin Owens	Amanda Green
Arkansas	Kevin Singh	Anthony Lawrence
Shana Bryant	Mississippi	Charles Muldrow
Doug Hurley	Charles Barlow	Tennessee
Florida	Larry Bishop	Stuart Huffman
Stacey Buccieri	John Cothron	Glenn Kopchak
Robert Burke	Greg Durrell	Richard Thompson
Steve Jernigan	Leigh Jaunsen	Brian Tibbs
Tim Nolen	Richard McNeel	Frank Wagster
Miguel Rodriguez	North Carolina	Texas
Georgia	Cora Cole-McFadden	Lance Brenton
Melissa Cantrell	Fred Dodson	Julie Hildebrand
Laurie Elander	Cathe Evans	Justin Hiles
Carole Pacheco	Timothy Hillhouse	Darren James
Ralph Raymond	Cathy Morrison	Eva Read-Warden
Anne Smith	Jack Nichols	Joyce Smith
Alison Spencer	Ilesha Patel	

Guest: Jakiel Sanders

Also present: Jenny Owen and Greg Durrell

Welcome, Cathy Morrison

Ms. Morrison welcomed members and introduced members of the Executive Committee.

Roll Call/Confirm Quorum

All members were present with the exception of the Virgin Islands.

Call to Order, Cathy

With a quorum present the meeting was called to order.

Introductions, Cathy

Ms. Morrison recognized first-time regional summit attendees Stacey Buccieri, Melissa Cantrell, Chuck Barlow, Chris Elbersen, Laurie Elander, Justin Hiles, Alison Spencer, Eva Read-Warden and Ralph Raymond. She also introduced Jakiel Sanders from Georgia, who is an at-large candidate.

Julie Hildebrand announced her retirement.

Approval of Minutes, Anthony

An amendment to correct the date was requested.

Motion:

To accept the amended meeting minutes.

Hatcher/Smith/U

Treasurer's Report, Anthony

FY23 Year-End Report

Mr. Lawrence reported that income for FY23 was \$55,613 and expenses were \$57,807. Although a deficit of \$9,320 was budgeted, the year-end deficit was \$2,194. The end-of-year funds balance was \$123,674.

Motion:

To approve the FY23 budget report.

James/Thompson/U

FY24 Budget Report

The beginning funds balance for FY24 was \$123,674. As of February 26, income was \$48,867, expenses were \$29,211, and the funds balance was \$143,330.

Two new expenses and budget line items were approved by Executive Committee and added to the FY24 Budget for approval. Processing fees for online credit card payments of \$700 for the year and a new laptop for \$1,100. With the 2 additions, FY24 expenses are budgeted at \$76,418 which will result in a deficit of \$14,158 for the year. With this change, the estimated end-of-year funds balance will be \$109,516.

Motion:

To approve the FY24 budget as presented.

Thompson/Teague/U

Discussion of Resolutions

Members reviewed and discussed resolutions:

Exam Eligibility - While some members were supportive, others felt that some educational requirement is warranted. Concerns included exam security and possible misperceptions about the profession.

Removing Certificate Requirements from Directors - The certificate can be costly for an architect who does not practice across state lines and may be a barrier to one's ability to seek office. Conversely, supporting the certificate and the standards/benefits it provides is important. Around 50% of US architects do not hold a certificate. From licensure portability to offsetting the cost of the ARE, members and the community should be aware of the value of certification.

Regional Realignment – After lengthy discussion, the region took a non-binding straw poll. One member abstained from voting. The majority of members are opposed to the resolution.

State Reports of Hot Topics, Greg Durrell

Alabama – Launched use of CE broker and although some tweaks are needed, the board was pleased with the results.

Florida – Proposed legislation would require the board to issue a license to an applicant who is a licensed architect in another jurisdiction with no additional requirements.

Georgia – Legislators are considering a 5-year renewal for licensees, going to a CE broker model, and allowing licensees to challenge a regulation.

Louisiana – The board is moving forward with legislative attempts to remove the exemptions that allow civil engineers to practice architecture.

Mississippi – Legislation is pending to allow landscape architects to have up to 1/3 ownership in an architecture firm and to remove restrictions on the practice of architecture through a business corporation or a limited liability company. This legislation is the result of the board's work with the engineer's board and ACEC of Mississippi. The Secretary of State has an initiative to reduce regulations and has questioned the board's responsible control and design-build rules. The board has requested that the design-build rules not be modified but is considering revisions to the responsible control regulations. The board is working to improve enforcement of building codes, and recently met with the State Fire Marshall's Office and code officials. The SFMO drafted legislation that could be introduced in 2005 that would place high rise buildings under the jurisdiction of the SFMO.

North Carolina – Submitted rule changes to the rules review commission, which were mainly housekeeping. The board will have a licensure fee increase for the first time in 30 years. The board is reviewing its construction administration rules and design-build regulations. The board is also discussing requirements for electronic seals and digital signatures with code officials.

South Carolina – Due to recent legislation, architects are no longer required for the design of townhomes. Interior designers will be seeking licensure based on the North Carolina model.

Tennessee – The realignment resolution was considered by the board and the commission. The board remains opposed to the to the reorganization which would move Tennessee to another NCARB region.

Texas – Julie Hildebrand announced her retirement. Lance Britton has been hired as the new executive director.

MBE Report, Tyson Ducote

MBEs discussed the future of the MBE during the MBE forum, as well as future initiatives from NCARB. Several MBEs from R3 are leading the charge in trying to get an enforcement committee established.

Education Committee Report and Discussion

Mr. Durrell explained the role of the Education Committee and encouraged members to volunteer. The Educators and Practitioners Conference went very well, with 50 participants. It received excellent ratings and many positive comments from attendees. The theme of the conference was "Making the Connection". Topics include IPAL, artificial intelligence, and expanded pathways to licensure. The committee is planning its next event – the Leadership Symposium – to possibly coincide with NCARB's Chairs and Executives Forum in Fargo in October.

Regional Director's Report

Mr. Rodriguez expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Regional Director. The conversations that are happening about multiple pathways and community colleges are exciting.

Chair's Report

Ms. Morrison expressed thanks to Mr. Durrell for the successful Educators Conference. The Executive Committee has interviewed candidates for executive director and will meet with the Board of Directors to discuss.

Elections

Ms. Owen announced that Tyson Ducote was the candidate for Member Board Executive to the Board of Directors. With an uncontested race, the MBEs in attendance, of which there was a quorum, elected Mr. Ducote by acclamation.

Regional Officer Elections

Those who announced their candidacy prior to the meeting were:

- Miguel Rodriguez, Regional Director
- Cathy Morrison, Chair
- Greg Durrell, Vice Chair
- Anthony Lawrence, Secretary/Treasurer

After opening the floor for additional nominations and hearing none, and with no objection to doing so, Ms. Morrison presented the full slate of candidates for election. The candidates received unanimous approval.

At-Large Candidates

Kevin and Jakiel gave brief remarks and asked for support.

The meeting was recessed, then called back to order on Saturday, March 2nd.

Executive Director Search

The Board of Directors accepted the recommendation of the Executive Committee to begin negotiations with Cathe Evans as the new executive director.

Virgin Islands Dues

The Board of Directors approved a deferment for payment of dues by the Virgin Islands until May 15, 2024.

NCARB Visiting Team

Jon Baker and Ken Van Tine visited with the membership.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Lawrence
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved on June 14, 2024