

## **Southern Conference Members Benefits/Services**

The requirement for and benefits of regional membership in the Southern Conference are addressed in both the NCARB and Southern Conference bylaws.

### NCARB Bylaws/ ARTICLE VI-REGIONS

*SECTION 1. Purpose. In order to foster closer communication between Member Boards and the Council, as well as among Member Boards, 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 are hereby established. Each Member Board shall be required to be a member of its Region.*

### Southern Conference Bylaws/ARTICLE II-MISSION

*The Conference is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes within the meaning of sections 501(c)(6) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Revenue Laws (the Code). More specifically, the Conference is formed to work in coordination with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards to: (1) Foster the enactment of uniform registration laws and rules; (2) Strive to equalize and improve qualifications for architectural registration; (3) Promote the exchange of ideas and reciprocal registration among architectural registration and licensing boards in the Southern Conference; (4) improve communication between architectural educators and regulators with the expressed purpose of benefiting architectural education for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare; and 5) foster engagement through leadership identification, mentoring and development.*

In keeping with its mission, the Southern Conference provides the following benefits to its members:

- Regional meetings, which are held twice annually, provide for more in-depth, smaller-group, regional discussion, learning and sharing on relevant issues facing the profession, regulation and the licensing process. The meetings provide a setting that is conducive to collective input from a regional perspective.
- Regional meetings and their associated networking component:
  - Provide a conduit, through the regional director, to work directly with the Board to facilitate understanding and thorough 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 and concerns answered.
  - Provide an opportunity to become aware of and to understand regional concerns with regard to practice and regulation, including the opportunity to share information pertaining to candidate credentials and disciplinary information.
  - Provide in-depth discussion and understanding of regional trends with regard to evolving local (state/territory) laws and administrative procedures.
  - Provide regional evaluation of national trends and proposals.

- Facilitate a regional review and vetting of regulatory changes.
- 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.
- Provide an opportunity for relationship-building, encouraging ties to fellow-regulators across the region in order to promote collaboration and the sharing of best-practices, helping member boards improve their effectiveness and efficiency.
- Fosters the enactment of uniform registration laws and rules in order to further mobility of professional credentials between jurisdictions while maintaining reasonable regulation to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.
- The Educators and Practitioners Conference is hosted by Southern Conference. This Conference brings members of architectural regulatory boards together with architectural educators from within the 12-state/territory region. This event improves communication between architectural educators and regulators with the expressed purpose of benefiting architectural education for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare.
- The Southern Conference plans and hosts leadership training events for member board executives and member board members, with the essential goal of fostering leadership development. Skilled leaders are critical as we look to the future.

The regional structure of NCARB:

- Allows for member boards to propose national resolutions, with the weight of regional support, through a structured process, when necessary.
- Fosters better collaboration and gives voice to its members, providing 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.
- 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 Southern Conference's Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
- Member-board members within the Southern Conference are involved in the national governance structure, which provides invaluable knowledge of major initiatives, programmatic changes, and especially in assuring that NCARB is sensitive to the concerns of the individual states.