

Southern Conference of NCARB

BOD Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2026

Oklahoma City, OK

ExComm

Cathy Morrison, Regional Director

Greg Durrell, Chair

Pedro Alfaro, Vice Chair

Darren James, Secretary/Treasurer

Lance Brenton, MBE Director

Cathe Monte Carlo Executive Director, staff

Members Present:

Alabama

Dan Bennet

Louisiana

Kristine Kobila, Member

Puerto Rico

Jorge Calderon, Chair

Arkansas

Doug Hurley, Chair

Mississippi

Richard McNeel, Chair

Larry W. Bishop, MBM

South Carolina

Wes Lyles, Chair

Florida

Beverly Frank, Chair

North Carolina

Tim Hillhouse, Assigned Delegate

Tennessee

Frank Wagster, Chair

Georgia

Melissa Cantrell, Chair

Walt Teague (Observer)

Texas

Darren James, Chair

Roll Call/Confirm Quorum

- Arkansas
- Florida
- Georgia
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- Puerto Rico
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas

Call to Order, Durrell

With a quorum present the meeting was called to order at 12:21 p.m. Central Time

Durrell Reviewed the status of the bylaws and articles of incorporation pending amendments as follows:

A motion was made on

“To direct the ExComm to terminate the retainer agreement with Hedrick Gardner and grant ExComm authority to retain new legal counsel.”

Following the approval of the motion, the ExComm evaluated three different law firms for potential engagement. After careful consideration, Maynard Nexsen was selected to provide legal services. The firm issued an engagement letter outlining an hourly rate of \$575.00, with an estimated total of ten hours of work required to review the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Region.

The \$5,750.00 represents almost three times our current budget of \$2,000.00 and presents a financial hurdle that garners your feedback.

As brief background, the ExComm requests that the Board of Directors (BOD) consider the following points:

- The current proposed language has undergone review by approximately four lawyers. (Jack Nichols (former counsel) Catherine Lee, Hedrick Gardner, and NCARB counsel Venable.)
- The proposed changes are intended solely to correct inconsistencies and conflicting wording found in the articles of incorporation and the by-laws.
- As members of the BOD, we have a fiduciary responsibility to act as good stewards of the region's funds.

Durrell asked the BOD for guidance and comments on this issue. Documents previously sent out to MBMs were reviewed.

Currently, the articles of incorporation and the bylaws contradict each other. They must be amended to reconcile the discrepancy. There is no change to the corporate structure, the changes are solely to correct the inconsistencies. Monte Carlo will send the relevant documents to the members for review. A regional call is planned for April 8, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern / 10:00 a.m. Central at which time the matter will be discussed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren James
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved on April 8, 2026