

Annual Business Meeting	1
Council Hours	1
NCARB Open Meetings Acts Research	2
ARE Prometric Update	2
Legislative Update	5
Member Board Satisfaction Survey	5
Licensing Requirements Tool Update	6
New Members	6

Annual Business Meeting

Taking into account current travel restrictions and health concerns, the NCARB Board of Directors voted to convert this year’s Annual Business Meeting (ABM) into a one-day, “essential business only” virtual meeting, start time to be determined, on Friday, June 19, 2020.

Optional Regional Meetings will be held through a virtual platform on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at time-zone compatible hours selected by regional leadership. Regions may opt to invite candidates and/or NCARB leadership to engage virtually. Resolutions are being deferred to a later date, yet to be determined, which may occur at the next available face-to-face meeting or at the 2021 ABM in Los Angeles.

In the meantime, we have developed a page dedicated to our upcoming annual meeting, available on the [Member Board Community](#), to ensure each Member Board stays up-to-date leading up to the event. Please email the Council Relations team at council-relations@ncarb.org for more information.

Council Hours

Beginning in April, NCARB kicked off its “Council Hours” virtual meetings, exclusively for Member Board Executives (MBEs) and their staff. These weekly, one-hour, informal meetings provide an opportunity for MBEs to ask NCARB staff questions, share information with their colleagues, and check in with one another.

To date, we have held two Council Hours—on April 30 and May 7. Recordings for both meetings are available on the new [“COVID-19” section](#) of the [Member Board Community](#). During our past two meetings, attendees have heard updates from CEO Michael Armstrong, Vice President of Council Relations Joshua Batkin, and Vice President of Examination Jared Zurn, AIA, NCARB, CAE. Staff from NCARB’s Experience + Education, Customer Relations, and Council Relations Departments were also in attendance and took part in answering questions. Highlights from the meetings include:

- Updates on the virtual status of ABM, which will be held on June 19, 2020.
- NCARB’s efforts to continue monitoring state closures and re-openings. We have also

*Celebrating 100
years of protecting
the health, safety, and
welfare of the public.*

1401 H Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
202/783-6500

WWW.NCARB.ORG

been researching open meeting acts and continuing education (CE) requirements across all states. Research for open meetings has been posted [here](#).

- An update from the Examination team on their work with Prometric to clarify messaging about access to the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®), as well as guidance on how to respond to candidate questions.

To view the full recording, please [click here](#). Council Hours will be held each Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. ET through the end of May. To join the next meeting, please [click here](#) or visit the [Member Board Community](#).

If you have additional questions about our weekly Council Hours, please contact our Council Relations team at council-relations@ncarb.org.

NCARB Open Meetings Acts Research

Did you know that most jurisdictions' open meeting requirements have been amended in response to the current health crisis? Due to COVID-19's public health emergency, NCARB staff has sought to gain a better understanding of each board's meeting responsibilities and recent changes to determine if the Council can provide support to help all boards comply with their public meeting mandates. As our team researched each open meetings act or law (OMAL), we learned about basic meetings, notices, and deliberation requirements, as well as acceptable accommodations (e.g., teleconferences, video conferences, emails). Additionally, we collected details and trends from executive orders or legislative actions amending or suspending certain OMAL provisions. Current trends include:

- Temporary suspension of provisions prohibiting teleconference or video conference meeting options.
- Authorization for government bodies to consider reasonable measures to allow public participation consistent with social distancing practices, such as providing notice of meetings online, allowing submission of written testimony on agenda items, live streaming meetings, and posting minutes of meetings online.
- Temporarily suspending the public's right to attend government meetings in person.

A summary of this research can be found on the [Member Board Community](#). We hope you find these resources helpful as your board navigates through its administrative obligations, and encourage you to reach out to NCARB and your peers through the community for insights and best practices to conduct board business in this new environment.

If you have any questions related to this information or our research, please contact the Council Relations team at council-relations@ncarb.org.

ARE Prometric Update

NCARB has received an email from Prometric that provides information about the current impact

of COVID-19 and their efforts to resume testing. To provide you with a more comprehensive understanding on the status of the exam and its effect on licensure candidates, we're sharing Prometric's latest email with their latest test updates.

Please note, the ARE has not been deemed essential, therefore, testing for ARE candidates is expected to resume on June 1, 2020. We have included the email received from Prometric in full below:

"Prometric has started the process of reopening test centers in various regions throughout the world. While this process will be a careful, phased approach based on local and federal guidelines and safety protocols, they are all happy to report we are making progress on the path forward.

Prometric also wants you to know they've heard loud and clear concerns voiced throughout this unprecedented time. They recognize this situation has been painful at times, and that their response times and customer service have not been at our usual pace and standards. Prometric continues to make progress here and apply resources to these areas of our business. As you all know well, the number of candidates displaced by COVID-19 closures is unlike anything our business or industry has ever encountered. Prometric's number one priority continues to be ensuring that we safely test as many candidates as possible, and we will continue to work aggressively toward creating additional capacity and solutions that move us all forward.

As a part of this process, Prometric recognizes the importance of accurate, transparent, and timely communication for all their stakeholders. As they move ahead into resumption mode, they are committed to providing more frequent, up-to-date communications that include our ongoing steps toward resumption, information to share with candidates directly, testing stats, and answers to questions as they arise.

The Path Forward

Prometric teams continue working diligently reopen sites and testing availability, while continuing to focus on the following:

1. Evolving local and national regulations and guidelines.

With ongoing updates, new learnings, and differing guidelines by city and region, Prometric continues to track all updates and move their reopening plans forward as quickly and safely as possible. Prometric is also working to expand hours and capacity everywhere we can in the days and weeks ahead.

2. Readiness of our test centers, while they execute a phased re-opening plan.

This process includes ensuring all open sites have the necessary social distancing procedures and training in place, as well as cleaning and safety supplies on hand. Any site that is not equipped with these components, even in approved markets, will not open. To help meet with the large number of candidate displacements, Prometric will

be expanding their hours of operations anywhere they can to help ensure more testing seats are available to candidates.

3. Client comfort and strategies around resumption of testing for essential services.

Based on our current review of local and federal policies and guidelines from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Prometric has determined it is necessary to extend the closure of test centers in the U.S. and Canada through May 31st.

This applies to all testing programs, with the exception of essential services programs. Prometric determined which programs met the criteria for “essential workforce,” as defined by the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Test Resumption Updates

1. *First, the good news: this past weekend, Prometric successfully tested more than 1,700 candidates and reopened 112 unique sites across the U.S. and internationally.*

As we move toward May 31st, Prometric will continue to drive progress forward to ensure more sites are able to open and candidates are able to test. To achieve this and strive toward operational excellence, Prometric will take any lessons learned from their current open centers in the coming weeks.

2. *As Prometric moves forward with resumption, they continue to work with leadership to develop and refine action plans that address client and candidate questions and concerns.*

This initiative consists of refining their current approaches to communication and utilizing all appropriate channels. Thus far, we have taken aggressive steps to ensure:

- *Candidates who are testing are notified in advance of what they can expect when they show up to their appointment.*
- *Candidates who are not able to test receive proactive communication with instructions on how to reschedule, and do not show up to a closed test center.*

Prometric Resource Center

The following are where you and candidates can find the most up-to-date information. Prometric continues to add to these sections as questions arise.

- [COVID-19 tab](#) : *provides the most current information on Prometric’s operation status and safety measures.*
- [Social Distancing Policies](#) : *provides a detailed look at our standard and region-based social distancing policies candidates are expecting to follow while at the test center.*
- [Test-Taker FAQ](#) : *provides answers to frequently asked questions candidates might have about impacts to their exam.”*

Legislative Update

COVID-19 has impacted the normal functions of state legislatures in a variety of ways. Although most states adjourned at the start of the crisis, several state legislatures remained in session or have plans to resume session in the coming months. Most, if not all, states have tabled licensing reforms for this session to focus on COVID-19 responses and budget matters. NCARB, along with its coalition partners, remains active and engaged. Licensing reform may be on hold for now, but will re-emerge in the months ahead. Here are a few things we are working on during this period:

- We are closely monitoring state executive orders and other emergency measures regarding licensing requirements so first responders and health care personnel can work across states. These actions are warranted, given the extenuating circumstances, but we still want to track them to ensure they do not lead to ill-informed steps beyond the emergency response.
- Just last week, the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) kicked off the development of a white paper that will examine proven, responsible paths to license mobility. The paper will help reframe conversations regarding universal licensing, as well as educate lawmakers on the principles, requirements, and systems in place regarding mobility and reciprocity. We expect the paper to be released later this summer.
- Through NCARB's leadership, ARPL is leading the way on developing economic research regarding the value of licensing and regulation. Research data will help demonstrate how licensing serves as an on-ramp to quality workforce, and improves job markets while ensuring public benefit is delivered. We expect to have results after the 2020 United States presidential election, so we can leverage this data heading into legislative sessions and events in 2021.

During these uncertain times, we are focusing on the months ahead and hard at work to ensure we are well positioned and prepared when we emerge from the current crisis. In the event you may need NCARB or ARPL resources, they will be readily available to you on the Member Board Community, as well as in ARPL's [state resources repository](#).

Member Board Satisfaction Survey

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback to the most recent Member Board Satisfaction Survey. The annual survey helps NCARB assess how we are supporting our customers and Member Boards, and identify areas where we can go further in developing tools and programs. Key insights from the survey include:

- 93 percent of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied, which is a 4% decrease from last year. Only 6 percent took a neutral position, a 3 percent increase compared to last year. Only one respondent—just over half a percent—reported being unsatisfied with NCARB's services.
- In comparison to last year, our Fast Facts publication has become an even more useful tool for both Member Board Members (MBMs) and MBEs. Our NCARB Update continues to be the top resource with the same percentage as last year—93 percent.

- Overall, 84 percent of members are satisfied with the online community, a 3 percent decrease from last year.
- And 88 percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with NCARB's advocacy and regulation support.
- Member Board Members, Chairs, MBEs, and Member Board staff all agree on the top three issues facing the profession: the changing regulatory climate, aligning licensure requirements, and unlicensed practice.

The feedback from this survey has already been used to help improve resources for our Member Boards. As a result of the feedback provided on our online community, we will be launching a new Member Board Community next month to provide a better platform for MBMs, MBEs, and volunteers to connect and collaborate. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks. View our complete [findings](#) from this year's survey.

Licensing Requirements Tool Update

NCARB is currently working on improving and enhancing the [Licensing Requirements Tool](#) on NCARB's website to better serve licensure candidates, Member Boards, and the public as they navigate state requirements. To help us create a tool that is effective, NCARB has begun collecting feedback from users who frequently use and interact with the tool.

In the coming months, we will begin reaching out to all Member Board Members and Executives for their feedback. We hope to use these insights to help create a more intuitive and refreshed tool for all stakeholders. For questions or licensing requirements updates, please contact the Council Relations team at council-relations@ncarb.org.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members:

- **Allan Machielse** joined the Michigan Board of Architects as an Architect Member.
- **Cora Cole-McFadden** joined the North Carolina Board of Architecture as a Public Member.
- **Roula H. Qubain** joined the North Carolina Board of Architecture as an Architect Member.
- **Bonnie Limbird** joined the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions: Engineering, Architecture, Geology, Landscape Architecture and Land Surveying as a Public Member.
- **Catherine Dekkenga** joined the South Dakota State Board of Technical Professions as an Architect Member.
- **Timothy Grissom** joined the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses as an Architect Member.
- **Ben Brychta** joined the Tennessee Board of Architectural & Engineering Examiners as a Public Member.