

N C A R B

e-CONNECTION

Keeping our Record Holders Informed. | July 2010

**at a glance: Answers to Questions About NCARB Fees**

On July 1, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) raised fees for several services after much thought and consideration. Below are some factually answered questions regarding the increased fees, the timing involved in this decision, and who is impacted.

**Why did NCARB pick such a difficult economic period to increase fees?**

The recession, which has affected us all, began several years ago. During this time fees were increased only minimally, and not across the board. Also during this time, changes and improvements have been made to help our customers do their business with us more efficiently. Fees were increased this year because we could no longer afford to continue these substantial processing and service improvements without significantly reducing our ability to service our customers.

- Most fees have not increased since July 2007
- The IDP application fee was last increased July 2003

**Why did NCARB pick such a difficult economic period to overhaul services (spend money)?**

Three years ago, our customers and members were very vocal about needing improvements on our service delivery. We responded. Our business process re-engineering project started before the recession began—changes and improvements to our systems were well underway before the full impact of the economy hit us.

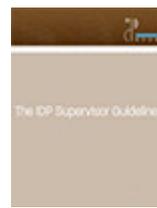
**What has NCARB done to reduce costs?**

With the understanding that these are difficult economic times for our profession, before NCARB even considered increasing fees, we analyzed expenses thoroughly and reduced our planned expenditures. However, in order to continue to support our mission and to improve the way we conduct business with you, we had to evaluate the true cost of all of our programs and services.

We endeavored to balance the budget by being as fair to all constituents as possible, without overburdening any one group. We reduced Member Board support, either eliminated meetings or added more virtual meetings for our

**NCARB Guidelines**

Updated July 2010! Download the latest editions of the *ARE Guidelines*, *IDP Guidelines*, and *IDP Supervisor Guidelines* for the latest program rules and updates.

[ARE Guidelines](#)[IDP Guidelines](#)[IDP Supervisor Guidelines](#)**Resolutions from the NCARB Annual Meeting and Conference**

**RESOLUTION 2010-01:**  
**Handbook for Interns and Architects Amendment - Elimination of the Reciprocal Credentialing Opportunity Requirement for BEFA Eligibility**  
Passed

**RESOLUTION 2010-02:**  
**Handbook for Interns and Architects Amendment -**

committees, reduced the size of committees, and reduced staffing and staff benefits. Any further cuts in expenses would impact our ability to deliver services, impact our ability to implement further improvements in services and programs, and impact our ability to carry out future initiatives.

### Was it really necessary to increase the fee for a new Certificate to \$1,500?

The decision was made to move to a business model where we reduce the practice of subsidizing programs and services and charge the actual costs. The most accurate assessment of the cost of compiling everything that goes into an NCARB Record is \$1,500. This \$1,500 application fee only impacts registered architects who have never had an NCARB Record—approximately 800 people per year—and apply for the NCARB Certificate after many years (or decades) of practice. This fee does not apply to any existing Record holders or interns going from IDP to certification.

### Will it cost me \$1,500 to get the NCARB Certificate?

Most likely not. This fee does not apply to *current* NCARB Record holders (whether active or inactive). In fact, this fee is waived entirely for interns who have kept their Record active throughout the IDP and examination processes and who return for certification soon after licensure. (They also receive a significant renewal discount for the first three years.) See the [Benefits of Keeping Your Record Active](#) page for more information.

*Your NCARB Record is a necessary component of becoming licensed in all U.S. jurisdictions; it is important that you keep it active and up-to-date.*

### Why did the fee for the Broadly Experienced Architect program increase so much?

The decision was made to work toward reducing the subsidies to the Broadly Experienced Architect program. The BEA dossier fee increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000, a 67 percent increase. This new fee is closer to the actual cost required to support this program and allows a pathway to certification for those architects who do not have a NAAB-accredited degree. This fee impacts approximately 30 architects a year.

### I'm an intern who started a Record two years ago. Does the new \$350 fee to start a Record impact me?

No. Interns who took advantage of the \$100 down payment to start their Record during school or just after graduation **will only be required to pay the remainder of the fee that was in effect when they started their Record.** So if you started your Record before 1 July 2010, you will only pay the remainder of the \$285 fee. The annual renewal fee for interns will continue to be waived for the first three years.

### Fee Comparison Between IDP Certification Applicant vs. Non-Record Holder Certification Applicant

### Reducing Notice Period for IDP and Education Standard Requirements from 90 days to 60 days.

Passed

### RESOLUTION 2010-03: Handbook for Interns and Architects Amendment - Revising the Alternative to the IDP

Passed

### RESOLUTION 2010-04: Bylaws Amendment - Providing for a Chief Executive Officer and Making Related Changes

Passed

### RESOLUTION 2010-05: Bylaws Amendment - Modifying Indemnification Provisions

Passed

[Click here](#) for more information.

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The charts below shows the cost of starting your Record as an intern and then completing IDP and pursuing NCARB certification after initial licensure vs. starting your Record for certification not having gone through IDP.

[information.](#)

### Helpful Links

[My NCARB Record Log-in](#)

IDP → Cert Applicant	Fee	Total
<b>Application Fee</b> For interns who start an NCARB Record after 1 July 2010, the application fee is \$350. This fee keeps your Record active for the first three years and includes one free transmittal of your Record for initial registration.	\$350	\$350
<b>Record Renewal</b> Interns will have the renewal fee for their Record waived for the first three years. This chart reflects that it took the intern <b>six</b> years to complete the IDP and the ARE before they qualified for the NCARB Certificate. Three years are free and the additional three years had a \$75 renewal fee.	\$75 x 3 years	\$225
<b>Certificate Application</b> There is no Certificate application fee for interns who have kept their Record active throughout the internship and examination processes. <i>And, for keeping their Record active, interns receive a 50 percent discount on their Certificate renewal for their first three years.</i>	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b> In total, this reflects approximately three years of fees to NCARB for six years of services related to maintaining your Record and starting your Certificate.		\$575

### Non-NCARB Record Holder Architect Certificate Applicant

Non-Record Holder → Cert Applicant	Fee	Total
<b>Certificate Application Fee</b>	\$1,500	\$1,500

Over the past few years, NCARB has made significant enhancements to services and programs. The online

application and the electronic Experience Verification Reporting (e-EVR) system were both launched so that you could conduct business more efficiently. New systems were also developed to decrease the time it takes to evaluate your Record for certification and transmit your Record—without increasing fees.

This financial plan allows us to maintain all programs and services at current levels plus continue on the path to improved service and new initiatives.

Questions or comments? Send them to [NCARB Customer Service](#).

## News From NCARB's Annual Meeting and Conference

NCARB held its 91st Annual Meeting and Conference 24-26 June 2010 in San Francisco, CA. Delegates from 52 of the 54 member registration boards voted on five resolutions, heard updates on the Council's programs and services, and elected new officers for Fiscal Year 2011.

Resolutions voted on by registration boards included revisions to the *Handbook for Interns and Architects* for alternatives to the IDP for licensed architects seeking NCARB certification; adding the position of chief executive officer to the *NCARB Bylaws*; and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the president/chair of the board and the Board of Directors in the *Bylaws*.

Delegates also participated in the first step of creating a new Strategic Plan for the Council. Glenn Tecker of Tecker Consultants led delegates through a series of exercises related to the Council's [vision](#) that will be the groundwork for chairs and executives of the 54 registration boards at a conference this fall.

Another notable event of the week was the installation of the FY11 Board of Directors (BOD):

Kenneth J. Naylor, AIA, LEED AP  
*President*  
Salt Lake City, UT

Scott C. Veazey, AIA  
*First Vice President/President-elect*  
Evansville, IN

Ronald B. Blich, FAIA, FACHA  
*Second Vice President*  
New Orleans, LA

Blakely C. Dunn, AIA  
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Andrew W. Prescott, AIA  
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Jon Alan Baker, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP  
*Director, Region 6*  
San Diego, CA

Cynthia J. McKim  
*Member Board Executive Director*  
Montgomery, AL

Ava J. Abramowitz, Hon. AIA  
*Public Director*  
Leesburg, VA



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