

CLARB Unmasked

By Ryan Hansen, RLA

If you are a landscape architect, or working towards becoming one, I am sure you've heard of CLARB, but if you're anything like me it probably seems like a somewhat mysterious and maybe even intimidating organization. After all, they are the ones who say whether you are "in" or "out" when it comes to our profession, right? I always pictured CLARB folks as this faceless group of creatures who rub their hands together and cackle with delight when a candidate for licensure fails in their attempt to pass the national exam.

Since my appointment to the Nevada State Board of Landscape Architecture, however, I have had the opportunity to attend two of the annual CLARB meetings. I now serve as the CLARB representative for State of Nevada and I am happy to say that I am no longer afraid of CLARB. It turns out this organization is run by a really friendly group of people who truly have nothing but the best interests of our profession in mind and I'd like to share a little bit about them with you.

CLARB stands for the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards and they are the "industry-recognized and preferred tool for tracking all of your professional (landscape architecture) accomplishments." CLARB administers the LARE (Landscape Architect Registration Examination). This is the national exam that all candidates must pass in order to apply for registration, in addition to any state specific exam that may be required. In Nevada we require that each candidate also pass a "take-home" exam relating to conditions and laws specific to Nevada.

CLARB does more than just administer the national exam. They also maintain a verified record of a member's education, work experience, examination results, licensure history, and professional references and provide this information to the appropriate state board when a candidate seeks licensure. Speaking as a state board member I can tell you that this makes the review process much more streamlined for the candidate.

CLARB conducts annual meetings in the fall each year and I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend two so far. These meetings allow state board members to interact and learn from other state boards around the country. Seminars at these meetings include everything from how to better protect our state's professional rights as landscape architects, to updates on national exam processes and procedures.

I look forward to serving as your state board's CLARB representative this year and sharing what I learn with you. I am happy to report that Cary Baired, who currently serves as president of our state board, was elected as the CLARB Region V Alternate Director at the annual meeting held in Minnesota this past September. Region V includes the state boards for Nevada, California, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The regional directors conduct board member round-table discussions at the annual meeting, along with other regional responsibilities throughout the year.

If you have questions regarding CLARB you may contact Ryan via email at ryan@renohansen.com