



ARKANSAS STATE BOARD of PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

Board Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2023

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GOVERNOR

Sarah Huckabee Sanders

SECRETARY OF LABOR AND LICENSING

Daryl Bassett

BOARD MEMBERS

Richard Bell CPA, JD
President
North Little Rock, AR

Shane Warrick CPA, PhD
Secretary
Magnolia, AR

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Treasurer
Hot Springs, AR

Deana Infield CPA
Fort Smith, AR

Denny Woods JD
Fayetteville, AR

BOARD STAFF

Tim Montgomery CPA
Executive Director

Dale Edge CPA
Investigator

Jessica Hamric
CPE Coordinator

Mary Roberts
Exam Specialist

Kathrine Stone
Licensing Coordinator

A regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy was held with Richard Bell, President, presiding. Other members of the Board in attendance were Shane Warrick, Barrett Belew, Don Curdie, Megan Turner and Christina Ellis (via Zoom). Members of the staff in attendance were Tim Montgomery - Executive Director, Dale Edge - Investigator, Kathrine Stone - Licensing Coordinator, and Jessica Hamric - CPE Coordinator. Also in attendance were Marsha Moffitt of the Arkansas Society of CPAs, Sarah Farris - Legal Counsel, Charles Moulton - Hearing Officer, Miranda McEntire - Court Reporter, Dr. Gary Peters with the University of Arkansas, and Brian Thompson (via Zoom) of the Arkansas Society of Accountants.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bell officially called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was found to be present.

OMNIBUS HEARINGS

The Board moved immediately to Public Hearings concerning the following cases:

Case Number	Name	License Number
H23-010	ALAN HERRING	6799
H23-012	MICHAEL WATSON	8740
H23-013	JAMES MCBRYD	8839
H23-023	RICHARD HUCK	3386
H23-024	KENNETH BRANDON	9577
H23-026	AMON WYNN	10318
H23-029	KATHY ROBINSON	5242R
H23-030	AMY ROSSI	7609
H23-031	SANDRA DAVIS	1773
H23-015	MANUEL MURPHY	10229R
H23-020	BRENTON WHITTINGTON	6642
H23-025	KEITH LINDSEY	8871
H23-032	KAILEY JOHNSON	9995
H23-009	JIMMY FANT	4363
H23-014	COLLINS KNIGHT	10023
H23-018	ERIC CRAWFORD	9729



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H23-019	YUQUN GU	9533
H23-021	BRUCE SMALLWOOD	5493R
H23-033	ELIZABETH NOLAND	7288
H23-039	WFL CPA INC.	791C

All of the above licensees either failed to renew their CPA licenses or did not surrender their license by December 31, 2022. Additionally, all of the respondents failed to respond to Board communication sent by certified mail.

A motion was made and seconded to find the allegations of fact and listed charges proven as true for all 20 respondents and that the all of the respondent's licenses would be revoked. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to grant the Compliance Committee authority to assess a penalty of \$500 for failure to respond to certified mail as well as the respondent's portion of the hearing costs if any of the above respondents apply for reinstatement. The motion passed unanimously.

Charles Moulton and Miranda McEntire left after Hearings concluded at 10:10 am. The June 15 2023 regular Board Meeting began at 10:22 am.

New Board Members: The Board welcomed Megan Turner, Barrett Belew, and Don Curdie as new members.

Dr. Peters presented an update of the University of Arkansas Accounting program and left after his presentation concluded at 10:56.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2023 Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 2023 Treasurer's Report, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMPLIANCE

The Compliance Committee has met once since April.



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Forty-five (45) New Complaints:

One unregistered firm.

Two External complaints regarding tax issues.

Three licensees requesting to withdrawal from Peer Review.

39 lapsed Licensees.

Requesting closure of eighteen (18) complaints, one (1) by consent order.

1. **C21-084 – (Cert. #2076R)** –Licensee failed to respond timely to 2021 CPE. Licensee has now responded. After additional review, we were not able to establish that licensee ever received certified letter regarding 2021 CPE audit. Licensee has provided the requested documentation and passed the audit. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
2. **C22-073 – (Cert. #9460R)** – Licensee failed to timely respond to the 2022 Practice Review Survey. Licensee has now responded ‘No reports.’ In addition, licensee has provided medical documentation showing she had significant health issues in 2022. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
3. **C23-004 – (Firm Cert. #774C)** – Licensee was dropped from AICPA Peer Review program. Firm’s 2019 Peer Review was a Pass with Deficiencies and was accepted August 2021. The last financial statement completed by the firm was in March 2021 and was pre-reviewed (no changes) as part of the Peer Review remedial action. The firm has not issued any attest or compilations reports since March 2021. The Compliance Committee recommends granting a waiver from future Peer Review and closure with no further action.
4. **C23-016– (Applicant)** Applicant has a felony conviction. Per applicant’s request, Hearing H23-002 was held regarding applicant’s request for a waiver from A.C.A. §17-12-102(a). Applicant appeared before the Board. After review of the facts and questioning of applicant, the Board granted a waiver and accepted applicant’s request to license as a CPA in Arkansas. The Compliance Committee is requesting closure.

Complaints 5 and 12 – Lapsed Licensees requesting to take Surrender, Retired, Deceased Status.

5. **C23-029– (Cert. #1601)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2022 licensure year and became lapsed. It has since been noted that licensee is deceased. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of no probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings and closure with no further action.



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Board Member Don Curdie left the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

6. **C23-031– (Cert. #1786)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2023 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to take retired status. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
7. **C23-040– (Cert. #9120R)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2023 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to take retired status. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
8. **C23-045– (Cert. #10174R)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2023 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to surrender license. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
9. **C23-050– (Cert. #1899)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2023 licensure year and became lapsed. It has since been noted that licensee is deceased. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of no probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings and closure with no further action.
10. **C23-051– (Cert. #3230)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2023 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to take retired status. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
11. **C23-057– (Cert. #1518)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2023 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to take retired status. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
12. **C23-059– (Cert. #9611R)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2023 licensure year and became lapsed. It has since been noted that licensee is deceased. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of no probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings and closure with no further action.

Complaints 13 through 17 – Resolved by Compliance Statement.

13. **C22-067 – (Cert. #7107)** – Inactive licensee was providing contract controller and tax services while on inactive status. Licensee has upgraded to active status. Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings and closure via the proposed compliance statement. A Compliance Statement requiring licensee to pay a \$250 penalty has been signed and monies collected.



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14. **C22-070 – (Cert. #9468)** – Licensee failed to timely respond to the 2022 Practice Review Survey. Licensee has now completed Practice Review. Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings and closure via the proposed compliance statement. A Compliance Statement requiring licensee to pay a \$100 penalty has been signed and monies collected.
15. **C22-074 – (Cert. #9461)** – Licensee failed to timely respond to the 2022 Practice Review Survey. Licensee has now completed Practice Review. Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings and closure via the proposed compliance statement. A Compliance Statement requiring licensee to pay a \$100 penalty has been signed and monies collected.
16. **C23-024 (Cert. #4523)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2023 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to reinstate. Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings and closure via the proposed compliance statement. A Compliance Statement requiring licensee to pay \$95 (\$55 2023 inactive licensure fee and \$40 late fees) has been signed and monies collected.
17. **C23-026– (Cert. #6802)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2023 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to reinstate. Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings and closure via the proposed compliance statement. A Compliance Statement requiring licensee to pay \$105 (\$55 2022 inactive licensure fee and \$50 late fees) has been signed and monies collected.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Compliance Committee’s recommended findings and proposed resolutions to items 1 through 17 as listed above. The motion carried.

CONSENT ORDER

1. **C21-069- Consent Order (Cert. #7232)** – Licensee failed to comply with professional standards, failed to timely complete additional CPE hours required for failed Practice Review, and failed to timely respond to a certified Board communication. Licensee has signed a consent order, paid a \$1,000.00 penalty, agreed to no longer perform attest work, agreed to pre-issuance review for compilation reports, and obtain 24 hours of additional CPE of which sixteen must be in the subject area of compilation. Requesting closure by Consent Order.

A Motion was made and seconded to accept the Compliance Committee’s recommended findings and proposed resolution as written. The Motion carried.

PRACTICE REVIEW

Practice Review notifications were sent out on May 17th. The Quality Review team will audit submitted Compilation Reports in August.



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CPE

CPE Audit began June 7th. 292 Licensees were included in the 2023 CPE Audit.

The meeting paused for a 15 minute lunch break at 11:45 am. Meeting resumed at 12:17 am.

NEW BUSINESS

CPE Waiver Request: A licensee is requesting a waiver for his 2022 CPE due to ongoing health complications. A motion was made and seconded to approve the waiver provided the licensee is able to provide documentation of his aforementioned health complications. The motion carried.

Exam Credit Extension Request: An Examinee requests an extension of her REG credit. A motion was made and seconded to grant a 2-month extension (to August 16th) of the requested credit. The motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOLL and the ASBPA: The Board discussed the MOU for FY 2024 and the increased administrative costs that will be charged to the Board.

UAA Model Rule 5-7 Change: Conditional Credit: A motion was made and seconded to change Board Rule 3.7 to reflect an exam credit window of 30 months from the score's release date (changed from 18 months from date of exam) for all exams taken after January 1, 2024 so that Exam applicants must pass all four sections of the CPA Exam within 30 months that they received their 1st score notice. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded that the change to Board Rule 3.7 approved above would be effective 1/1/2024. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to grant the Executive Director the discretion to grant waivers from today until 12/31/2023 for anyone who may lose their exam credit and report to the Board on any waivers granted.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the rule wording changes as presented to the Board. Motion carried.

Scheduled Increase in Exam Fees: Exam fees will increase from \$238.00 to \$254.80 starting in August.

Swearing-in Ceremony: 33 of 125 new CPAs responded to invitations to attend the New CPA Swearing-in Ceremony on 6/17/2023.

Occupational Licensing Subcommittee: The Board briefly discussed the hearing that will be held before the Occupational Licensing Review subcommittee in August.



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Open Investigator Position: The Board has an open position for an Investigator. There has been one application received for the position.

Open Board Positions: There is still one open Board position and two positions will be end in August 2023.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend Qwashun Duvall to fill the open non-CPA position left by Denton Woods and for James Corley to fill the CPA position that will be vacated by Richard Bell. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend Don Curdie to be reappointed to fill his own position that will be vacated. The motion carried.

DIS Server Changes: Changes will be made to the Background Check process for CPA Applicants to account for more secure data storage.

Election of Officers: The following changes have been made to Board leadership:

Shane Warrick will fill the position of Board President.

Christina Ellis will fill the position of Board Secretary.

Barrett Belew will fill the position of Board Treasurer.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.