

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

David Vaden CPA, President
Deana Infield CPA, Secretary
Richard Bell CPA, JD, Treasurer
Shane Warrick, CPA, PhD



Christina Ellis, CPA
Denton Woods, JD
Kevin Canfield

Jimmy Corley, CPA
Executive Director

Board Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2021

A regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy was held with David Vaden, President, presiding. Other members of the Board in attendance were Deana Infield, Kevin Canfield, Richard Bell, Denton Woods, Christina Ellis, and Shane Warrick. Members of the staff in attendance were Jimmy Corley, Executive Director, Dale Edge, Investigator; Tim Montgomery, Investigator; Sara Farris, Legal Counsel; Alan Fortney, Trista Browning, Melissa Hamric, Kathrine Stone. Also, in attendance were Marsha Moffit of the ARCPA, Tiffany Harrison – Court Reporter, Charlie Welkin – Hearing Officer, Gary Peterson, Greg Brian, and Tully Ellis with U of A. Members of the public present included Jalynn Thomas and Barry Briar.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Vaden officially called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was found to be present.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

Omnibus Hearing – Respondents did not appear at hearing. Board found that Respondents failed to respond to a certified mailing from the Board and to renew their CPA certificates for 2021. Respondents’ CPA certificates (or firm registration, as applicable) were revoked by Board order.

H21-002	Randall Blanton	3217
H21-007	J.A. Kernan	2442
H21-008	Robert Lanford	869
H21-011	Robert Sabata	6112
H21-015	Colin Dean	8924
H21-017	Marcus Watson	1325
H21-022	Joseph Hafner	920
H21-023	S. Bryce Johnson	8225
H21-026	Mark Faith	5280
H21-029	Leigh Robbins	6933
H21-031	Shannon Vega	9626R
H21-033	Terri Hoskins	2851
H21-034	MJJ Accounting LLC	311LC

*Tiffany Hudson, Charlie Welkin, and Sara Farris left at the close of the hearings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2021 Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 2021 Treasurer's Reports, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMPLIANCE

The Compliance Committee has met once since April.

Thirty-six (36) New Complaints:

One allegation of professional standards violation
Three licensees requesting reinstatement.
Thirty-three licensees with lapsed licenses.

Requesting closure of twenty-five (25) complaints, six (6) by consent order

- 1. C20-100 – (Cert. #9702R)** – Licensee failed CPE Audit for 2019 (CPE completed in 2018 or earlier). Licensee was deficient one hour Arkansas Ethics. 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 make up required ethics hour (not applicable to future renewals) and pay \$125.00 in penalties has been signed and monies collected.
- 2. C20-117 – (Cert. #9953R)** – Licensee failed to respond within 30 days to Board certified letter regarding 2020 Practice Review Survey. Licensee has since responded. 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 \$250.00 in penalties has been signed and monies collected.

Complaints 3 through 6 - Lapsed Licensees who are deceased.

- 3. C21-049 – (Cert. #5630)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 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.
- 4. C21-051 – (Cert. #2960)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 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.

5. **C21-058 – (Cert. #7786)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 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.
6. **C21-062 – (Cert. #8787)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 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 7 through 12 - Lapsed Licensees who have requested retired status.

7. **C21-033 – (Cert. #1020)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 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. **C21-035 – (Cert. #1163)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 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.
9. **C21-036 – (Cert. #6707)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 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.
10. **C21-037 – (Cert. #-4206)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 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. **C21-038 – (Cert. #2788)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 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. **C21-047 – (Cert. #9272R)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 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.

Complaints 13 through 19 - Lapsed Licensees who have surrendered.

13. **C21-041 – (Cert. #3348)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to surrender. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.

14. **C21-044 – (Cert. #10108R)** Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to surrender. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
15. **C21-045 – (Cert. #8318R)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to surrender. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
16. **C21-054 – (Cert. #9994R)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to surrender. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
17. **C21-055 (Cert. #9172)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to surrender. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
18. **C21-057 – (Cert. #7359)** – Licensee failed to timely renew for 2021 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee has since contacted the Board and requested to surrender. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
19. **C21-065 – (Firm Cert. #738C)** – Licensee firm failed to timely renew for 2021 licensure year and became lapsed. Licensee firm has since contacted the Board and requested to surrender. The Compliance Committee recommends a finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Compliance Committee’s recommended findings and proposed resolutions as to items 1 through 19, listed above. The motion passed.

CONSENT ORDER

1. **C20-091- Consent Order (Firm Cert. #812C)** – Licensee Firm performed attest work without being enrolled in Peer Review and failed to disclose on the firm 2020 Practice Review Survey that it had issued a review report. Licensee firm has signed a consent order and paid a \$8,750.00 penalty and agreed to obtain a System Peer Review by May 31, 2022. Requesting closure by Consent Order.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Compliance Committee’s recommended finding and proposed resolution as to C20-082. The motion passed.

2. **C20-108- Consent Order (Cert. #2233)** – Licensee performed attest work without being enrolled in Peer Review and issued compilation reports through an unlicensed firm.

Licensee is now enrolled in Peer Review. Licensee has signed a consent order and paid a \$1,750.00 penalty and agreed to license firm with the Board by June 30, 2021. Requesting closure by Consent Order.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Compliance Committee's recommended finding and proposed resolution as to C21-108. The motion passed.

3. **C20-115- Consent Order (Cert. #740)** – Licensee performed attest work without being enrolled in Peer Review. Licensee has signed a consent order agreeing to cease performing attest work. If licensee wishes to commence attest work in the future, he must enroll in Peer Review, submit reports for pre-issuance review and obtain an acceptable System Review before consideration will be given to lifting the Pre-Issuance requirement. Requesting closure by Consent Order.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Compliance Committee's recommended finding and proposed resolution as to C21-115. The motion passed.

4. **C21-003- Consent Order (Firm Cert. #701C)** – Licensee firm performed attest work without being enrolled in Peer Review. Licensee previously signed a compliance statement with Board acknowledging that firm's due date to complete a Peer review was August 31, 2020. Subsequently, Licensee firm withdrew from Peer Review program. Licensee firm has signed a consent order, paid a \$5,000 fine, and agreed to cease performing attest work currently. If licensee wishes to commence attest work in the future, the firm must enroll in Peer Review, submit reports for pre-issuance review and obtain an acceptable System Review before consideration will be given to lifting the Pre-Issuance requirement. Requesting closure by Consent Order.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Compliance Committee's recommended finding and proposed resolution as to C21-003. The motion passed.

5. **C21-004- Consent Order (Cert. #7808)** – Finding of Fact issued from 2019 hearing assessed a \$20,000 penalty payable by December 31, 2020 and required licensee to complete 100 hours of CPE, not applicable to future renewals. Respondent failed pay the \$20,000 by December 31, 2020. Respondent was assessed an additional \$500 penalty for failure to pay. Respondent completed 100 hours of CPE before December 31, 2020 and has now paid \$20,500 penalty. Requesting closure by Consent Order.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Compliance Committee's recommended finding and proposed resolution as to C21-004. The motion passed.

6. **C21-005- Consent Order (Cert. #8904R)** – Applicant surrendered CPA certificate December 31, 2015. Applicant has requested to reinstate to inactive status. Applicant has signed consent order and paid 2021 licensure year fee of \$55.00. Requesting closure by Consent Order contingent upon receipt of money.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Compliance Committee's recommended finding and proposed resolution as to C21-005. The motion passed.

Requesting Permission to Issue a Notice of Hearing to the following Licensee

- 1. C21-019 – (Cert. #2037)** – Licensee has failed respond to three (3) Board certified letters regarding two (2) external complaints and one (1) internal complaint. Requesting permission to issue a notice of hearing in this matter.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Compliance Committee's recommended finding and proposed resolution as to C20-082. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

18-month window extension request:

Examinee requested extension of Exam Scores due to medical and family hardship. The extension waiver was denied, but if the candidate passes all sections by June 2022, then the he or she may submit the extension request to be re-evaluated.

Election of Officers:

President – Deana Infield

Secretary – Richard Bell

Treasurer – Shane Warrick

University of Arkansas Accounting Department Update – Dr. Gary Peters:

Dr. Gary Peters spoke about changes being made to the Accountancy program at the University of Arkansas.

NASBA Regional Meeting:

The June 22 and June 23 NASBA Regional Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The September 24th board meeting will be held in Fayetteville if arrangements can be made.

LICENSURE ACTIVITY REPORT

Mr. Corley presented to the Board the Licensing Activity Report.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:19 pm.