



ARKANSAS STATE BOARD of PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

Board Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2025

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GOVERNOR

Sarah Huckabee Sanders

SECRETARY OF LABOR AND LICENSING

Daryl Bassett

BOARD MEMBERS

Christina Ellis CPA
President
Hot Springs, AR

Barrett Belew CPA
Secretary
Little Rock, AR

Megan Turner CPA
Treasurer
Little Rock, AR

Shane Warrick CPA, PhD
Magnolia, AR

Richard Bell CPA, JD
North Little Rock, AR

Don Curdie JD
Little Rock, AR

BOARD STAFF

Tim Montgomery CPA
Executive Director

Dale Edge CPA
Investigator

Mary Roberts
Exam Specialist

Kathrine Stone
Licensing Coordinator

Nikita Montgomery
CPE Coordinator

A regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy was held online via Zoom Meetings with Christina Ellis, President, presiding. Other members of the Board in attendance were Barrett Belew – Secretary, Megan Turner – Treasurer, Richard Bell, Shane Warrick, and Don Curdie. Members of the staff in attendance were Tim Montgomery - Executive Director, Dale Edge – Investigator, and Kathrine Stone – Licensing Coordinator. Others in attendance included Marsha Moffitt with the ARCPA, Deana Infield with the ARCPA, and Jessica Kloss – Attorney General Liaison.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Board Meeting Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written with noted corrections to a typographical error. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REVIEW

2025 Review: The 2025 Review is scheduled for August 24th.

COMPLIANCE

The Compliance Committee has met one time since May.

Thirty-eight (38) New Complaints:

- Reinstatement of a surrendered license
- One external complaint regarding holding records.
- Two Firms sanctioned by another State Board.
- Thirty-four lapsed certificates.

Requesting closure of six complaints, one (1) by consent order

1. **C22-050 – (Cert. #9464)** – Licensee submitted a compilation report for practice review signed by licensee but on employer’s letterhead. Licensee and employer are now incorporated and licensed with the board. The Compliance Committee recommends closure.



ARKANSAS STATE BOARD of PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

2. **C22-043 – (Cert. 2055)** – Compilation report on licensee’s letterhead signed by employee. Licensee and employee are now incorporated and licensed with the board. The Compliance Committee recommends closure.
3. **C25-024 – (Firm Cert. #2LP)** - Licensee firm sanctioned by the Indiana Board of Accountancy. Sanction based on a 2022 PCAOB action. The board reviewed the PCAOB action at a prior meeting. The Compliance Committee recommends the finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
4. **C25-025 – (Firm Cert. #37LP)** – Licensee firm sanctioned the Kansas Board of Accountancy. The sanction is based on the firm’s failure to register offices timely for 2025 after being sanctioned earlier in the year for failure to license. The Compliance Committee recommends the finding of probable cause to proceed with disciplinary proceedings but recommends closure with no further action.
5. **C25-052– (Cert. #5108)** –Licensee failed to renew for 2025. Licensee has requested to surrender license. The Compliance Committee recommends the 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 to items 1 through 5 as listed above. The motion carried.

CONSENT ORDER

1. **C25-026 – (Cert. #7411)** – Applicant surrendered her certificate as a CPA on December 31, 2017. The applicant has requested a re-license to a license to practice. The applicant has completed 127 hours of CPE, 40.5 hours A&A, 12 hours of ethics, 18.5 hours of tax, and 56 hours of Other. The study type consists of 123 hours of group and 4 hours self-study. The applicant has completed the background check, has signed the consent order and paid the \$110 licensure fee for 2025. Requesting approval for re-licensure to license to practice.

A Motion was made and seconded to accept the consent order. The Motion carried.

RULE CHANGES

The proposed rule changes are in the final stages of revision and are nearly ready to be submitted for approval. A motion was made and seconded to add 17 CAR §236-602(g) with regard to the employment by a firm of licensees on inactive status. The Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Elijah Watts Sells Award Winner: Samuel Abram has notified the Board that he intends to attend the 2025 New CPA Swearing-In Ceremony.

Exam Credit Extension requests: The following Examinees have requested an extension for their CPA Exam credits.



ARKANSAS STATE BOARD of PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

Ricky Barrientos: A motion was made and seconded to deny his request for an extension due to a lack of extenuating circumstances beyond his control. The Motion carried.

Benjamin Baugh: A motion was made and seconded to approve his request and extend his exam credit by 6 months. The motion carried. A subsequent motion was made to amend this extension to 3 months instead of 6. The motion carried.

Madison Draper: A motion was made and seconded to approve her request and extend her exam credit by 6 months. The Motion carried with 1 opposed. Mr. Belew recused himself from voting on this matter.

Samantha Goble: A motion was made and seconded to approve her request and extend her exam credit by 3 months. The Motion carried.

Julie Hegwood: A motion was made and seconded to approve her request and extend her exam credit by 3 months. The Motion carried.

Megan Turner temporarily left the meeting at 9:53 am.

Prasanna Kakarla: A motion was made and seconded to approve her request through January 31, 2026 for medical reasons. The Motion carried.

Trevor Kearsey: A motion was made and seconded to deny his extension request due to his exam history. The Motion carried.

Ashley Kennedy: A motion was made and seconded to approve her request and extend her exam credit by 6 months for medical reasons, contingent on receipt of medical documentation. The Motion carried. Ms. Ellis recused herself from voting on this matter.

Claire Latta: A motion was made and seconded to approve her request and extend her exam credit by 6 months. The Motion carried.

Aiden Oliver: A motion was made and seconded to deny his extension request due to his exam history. The Motion carried.

Megan Turner returned to the meeting at 10:09 am.

Ha Phan: A motion was made and seconded to approve her request and extend her exam credit by 3 months. The Motion carried.

Travis Strate: A motion was made and seconded to deny his request, but he may apply for an extension again if he passes his scheduled exam in July. The Motion carried.



ARKANSAS STATE BOARD of PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

Rayce Trantham: A motion was made and seconded to approve his request and extend his exam credit by 3 months. The Motion carried.

Madison Warren: A motion was made and seconded to approve her request and extend her exam credit by 9 months for medical reasons. The Motion carried.

William Watson: A motion was made and seconded to deny his request, but he may apply for extension again if he passes his upcoming scheduled exam. The Motion carried.

Barrett Belew left the meeting at 10:22 am.

Fictitious firm name request: The Board revisited a previously denied fictitious firm name: "Pinnacle Perspective Advisors." The Board determined that "Pinnacle Advisors" would be acceptable, but the word "Perspective" is not. A Motion was made to maintain the denial. The motion carried.

CPA Exam stats: The Board briefly discussed the Q1 results for the CPA Exam.

EY Memo regarding a prospective new pathway to licensure: The Board briefly discussed the memo.

September 2025 Board Meeting: The date for the September Board Meeting to be held at UCA has been moved to September 23, 2025 since holding it on September 25, 2025 would create a scheduling conflict with the Arkansas Society of CPAs.

ARCPA response to Exposure Draft: The Board briefly discussed the ARCPA response.

UAA Model Legislation: The board reviewed the new model language of the UAA and compared it to the proposed changes to board rules. A motion was made and seconded to add the pathway to CPA licensure consisting of a bachelor's degree plus 30 hours of college credit and one year of work experience into the proposed board rule changes. The Motion carried.

Article on harm done by Private Equity: The Board briefly discussed the article.

Notification of Board Member resignation: Marty Gunaca has officially resigned from the ASBPA.

Adopting ADLL Policy on public meetings/Act 505: A motion was made and seconded to adopt the changes made in Act 505.



ARKANSAS STATE BOARD of PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

Board Officer updates: A motion was made and seconded to elect the following board members as board officers for the next year beginning with the August 29, 2025 meeting:

Board President	Barrett Belew
Secretary	Megan Turner
Treasurer	Richard Bell

The Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the June 27, 2025 Board Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.