

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
March 24, 2017

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met at the Board office at 5 Old River Place, Suite 104, Jackson, Mississippi on March 24, 2017, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present

Angela L. Pannell, Chair
Mark P. Peach, Vice Chair
Willie B. Sims, Jr., Secretary
Jim E. Burkes
David Bridgers
Rick Elam
David L. Miller

Board Staff Present

Andy Wright, Executive Director

Legal Counsel Present

Onetta Whitley, Deputy Attorney General

Others Present

Josh Norris, MSCPAs Representative

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Willie Sims.
2. The Board members present unanimously approved the minutes from the January 27, 2017 meeting.
3. The Board members signed the CPA certificates of licensure from the January 27, 2017 meeting.
4. The Board reviewed tentative meeting/activity dates for 2017:

April 28, 2017	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
April 29, 2017	New CPA Ceremony
June 2, 2017	8:30 a.m. Board Meeting
June 6-8, 2017	NASBA Western Regional – Couer d’Alene, ID
June 22-25, 2017	MSCPAs Annual Convention, Destin, FL

I. General (Continued)

4. Tentative meeting/activity dates for 2017 (Continued):

June 27-29, 2017	NASBA Eastern Regional – Newport, RI
August 11, 2017	8:30 a.m. Board Meeting
September 22, 2017	8:30 a.m. Board Meeting – possibly held in Starkville
October 29 –Nov 1	NASBA Annual Meeting – New York, NY
November 17, 2017	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
November 18, 2017	New CPA Ceremony
December 8, 2017	8:30 a.m. Board Meeting

5. The Board noted the Statement of Economic Interest due to the Mississippi Ethics Commission by May 1, 2017.

6. The Board approved a Board Resolution honoring retired Executive Director, Ransom C. Jones, Jr., CPA.

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. The Board discussed the NASBA *State Board Reports*, February 2017 and March 2017.

2. The Board members present heard a report from Executive Director noting the highlights of the NASBA Executive Director Conference.

3. The Board members present reviewed and approved the NASBA Regional Directors focus question responses, due April 10, 2017.

4. The Board members noted NASBA Legislative E-News & selected links.

III. Administration

1. The Board reviewed the MSBPA Balance Sheets, Funds 3845 and 3850, as of February 28, 2017.

2. The Board reviewed the FY 2017 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the eight months ended February 28, 2017 and eight months ended February 29, 2016.

III. Administration - continued

3. The Board reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, Fund 3845 for the eight months ended February 28, 2017.
4. The Board approved additional per diem days for Willie Sims and Angela Pannell. The Board discussed recruitment of the new Associate Director, Investigations.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board considered and approved a refund request by initial candidate number 14199 due to lack of meeting the educational requirement. The Board also tabled the request regarding extension of exam grade that has not expired.
2. The Board members unanimously approved the listing of 110 candidate applications for the computerized CPA examination (31 initial, 79 reexam) received since the January 2017 meeting.
3. The Board members present unanimously acted upon the applications for CPA licenses, reciprocals, reinstatements, and CPA firm permits as presented herein:

Applications for Original CPA License

File	Name	Number	Action
13646	Aren T. Atkinson	7373	Yes
14068	William Calhoun Carter	7374	Yes
13476	Mark Allen Case	7375	Yes
13820	Phillip Junxiong Chu	7376	Yes
12611	Tracy Robertson Day	7377	Yes
13591	Derek Michael Easley	7378	Yes
13932	Callian C. Robinson	7379	Yes
13571	Lihong Sun	7380	Yes
13902	Landon Colby Weaver	7381	Yes

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (Continued)**4. Applications (Continued)****Applications for Reciprocal CPA License**

File	Name	Number	Action
14206	Jonathan Montgomery Box	R7382	Yes
14280	Daniel Garrison Eveland	R7383	Yes
14125	Caitlin M. Rios	R7384	Yes
13889	Justin Michael Stephens	R7385	Yes
14213	Ashley Nicole Sullivan	R7386	Yes

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

File	Name	Number	Action
11470	Ann W. Bemis	R3027	Yes
11716	Jeffrey G. Davis	5960	Yes
11859	Durran Z. Dunn	5887	Yes
09554	Chellie K. Eavenson	5173	Yes
08198	Mark J. Wack	4827	Yes

Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Name	City, State	Number	Action
Jason R. Smith, CPA LLC	Gulfport, MS	7371	Yes
J. Matthew Tingle, CPA	Philadelphia, MS	7372	Yes

Amendments to Registered Firms

No.	Name	City, State	Change
F1003	APRIO, LLP	Atlanta, GA	Name Change from Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP
F0338	GranthamPoole PLLC	Ridgeland, MS	Name Change from GranthamPoole, CPAs
7291	Monroe CPA, LLC	Madison, MS	Name Change from Monroe CPA, LLC dba Monroe and Company CPA, LLSC

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (Continued)

4. Applications: (Continued)

Application for Reinstatement of a CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Number	Name	City, State	Action
F1431	Robert L. Bryant, CPA	Rolling Fork, MS	Yes
7292	Silka M. Gonzalez, CPA dba Enterprise Risk Management	Coral Gables, FL	Yes
F1152	Karin Lewis & Company, PLLC	Madison, MS	Yes
7214	Frances McNair, CPA	Starkville, MS	Yes
F1386	Rogers, CPA	Lucedale, MS	Yes

Applications for Retired CPA Licenses

Number	Name	Action
1016	Kerry Ezell	Yes

Applications for Reinstatement of a Retired CPA Licenses

Number	Name	Action
3721	Lynda Harvey	Yes
1620	Jacqueline Jones	Yes
2903	Margaret McGuire	Yes
1501	James Rollins	Yes
1307	Roy Scheider	Yes
0369	Williams Simmons	Yes
4022	Michael Smith	Yes
3183	Walter Smitherman	Yes
1983	Rebecca Wilkie	Yes

5. The Board reviewed a listing of voluntary cancellations made by CPAs and Firms requested during the 2017 registration period:

Name	Number
Kimberlie Allison	6276
Heather Martin	4505
William Shores	R2352
Lorena D. Williams, CPA	7217
Kiesling Associates, LLP	F1607

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (Continued)

6. The Board considered and approved two requests for refunds of the late fee and reinstatement fee due to medical reasons.
7. The Board discussed the estimated grade release date for the new CPA Exam: (August 16-18, 2017 release for those sitting April – June; Sept. 22 for Quarter 3; Dec. 22 for Quarter 4).
8. The Board noted a letter communicating the CPA Exam fee increase effective January 1, 2018.

V. Continuing Professional Education

1. The Board members present unanimously authorized the following actions on CPE sponsor programs applications submitted for approval.

Sponsor/Title	Dates	Hours	Action
Harper Rains Knight & Company PA 1. Tax Update	1/20/17	3	Yes
May & Company, LLP 1. Annual Pre-Tax Season Meeting	1/17/17	2	Yes
Mississippi Rural Health Association 1. 2017 Rural Health Clinic Conference	4/7/17	6	Yes
Patterson School of Accountancy 1. Accountancy Weekend	4/28/17	1 General Ethics 1 Rules	Yes
The University of Alabama, College of Continuing Studies 1. 41 st Annual American Institute on Federal Taxation	6/21-23/17	20 including 1 General Ethics	Yes

2. The Board members present reviewed and discussed the Exposure draft concerning UAA Model Rules for CPE.

VI. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The Board noted and discussed proposed legislation – MS Senate Bill N. 2990.
2. The Board noted and discussed proposed legislation – MS House Bill N. 1425.
3. The Board discussed suggestions for proposed rule changes.

VII. Regulatory Matters

The Board heard a report from Executive Director Andy Wright and approved the regulatory activities from January 27, 2017, 2016 to March 24, 2017:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened	1
Cases Closed ①	5
Cases referred to Members ②	0
Total Cases Open- End of Period	19

① Cases Closed:

Case 2014.25 was opened April 2, 2014 based on Board Staff discovery of a firm’s past due peer review. After correspondence with firm, peer review was obtained with a fail rating. To complete the peer review for acceptance by the peer review program, firm agreed not to perform audits without first notifying peer review committee. The firm subsequently completed at least two audits and did not notify the peer review program. Further, the firm stated it was not performing any work requiring peer review on permit renewals to the Board during the time the audits were performed. The firm was offered and accepted a Consent Order with a disciplinary civil penalty of \$3,000.00 and cost recovery of \$1,340.00. The Consent Order also contained the firm’s agreement to obtain an immediate peer review if performing any work requiring a peer review in the future. After Board acceptance of the Consent Order on January 27, 2017, the case was closed and will be reported as discipline to a national database.

Case 2016.12 was opened February 19, 2016 based on Board Staff discovery of a firm’s fail peer review rating. The firm did not timely respond to Investigator’s request for information, but did provide the information after a second request. The firm was only performing compilations, apparently for only one client. After recommendation by the Investigative Committee, the firm agreed to a Stipulation and Consent Order with \$300.00 cost recovery. After Board acceptance of the Stipulation and Consent on January 27, 2017, the case was closed without discipline.

VII. Regulatory Matters (continued)

Case 2016.33 was opened August 3, 2016 based on Board Staff discovery of an apparent audit of a Mississippi based employee benefit plan by an unlicensed out-of-state firm. After communication with the firm, the Investigate Committee recommended a Stipulation and Consent for closure, with the firm agreeing to \$500.00 administrative costs and \$500.00 civil penalty. After Board acceptance of the Stipulation and Consent on January 27, 2017, the case was closed without discipline.

Case 2016.259 was opened August 24, 2016 based on licensee's failure to timely submit a CPE report for year ended June 30, 2016. Licensee documented health problems to Board staff and was granted extension of time to obtain deficit hours plus penalty hours. After receipt and verification of hours on a supplemental form, the case was closed without discipline.

Case 2016.291 was opened December 29, 2016 based on Board Staff discovery of a non-licensed person being represented in a local newspaper news article as a CPA. After corresponding with the person represented as a CPA, and receiving a satisfactory response, the case was closed without discipline. The non-licensee stated that he did not represent himself to anyone as a CPA and that fault would lie with newspaper reporter or third party that supplied information for the article.

② **Cases Referred to Members: None.**

Andy Wright then discussed the active cases as presented on the *Open Case Log*.

VIII. Trial Board

1. The Board reviewed the status of the *Appeal of Order of Revocation* filed August 18, 2015, by Respondent's lawyer in the Circuit Court of Hinds County, MS, with regard to CPA License #5356, and Firm Permit #F1207. The Board attorney discussed the status of court filings.
2. The Board approved a motion to approve a continuance of show cause hearing for reinstatement of a revoked license until June 2, 2017

APPROVED:

Chair

Board Member

Vice Chair

Board Member

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member