

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
August 5, 2021

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met telephonically on August 5, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present by Video Conference

David Bridgers, Chair
William Kelly, Vice Chair
Charles Prince, Secretary
Rick Elam
Angela Pannell
Willie Sims, Jr.
Mark Peach

Board Staff Present at Board Office

Andy Wright, Executive Director
Sharee Brewer, Associate Director, Investigations
Vicki Snowden, Licensing Administrator

Legal Counsel Present at Board Office

Ed Wiggins, Special Asst. Attorney General

Others Present by Video Conference or Telephone

Karen Moody, MSCPA President/CEO
Annette Pridgen, MSCPA Immediate Past Chair
Ed Jones, MSCPA/Board Liaison

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Charles Prince.
2. The minutes from the June 17, 2021 meeting were approved.

I. General (Continued)

3. The Board reviewed and approved tentative meeting/activity dates for 2021:

2021 Tentative Dates:

September 16	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
October 21	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
Oct. 31- Nov. 3	NASBA Annual Meeting; San Diego, CA *
December 10	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
December 11	New CPA Ceremony

* The Board approved travel for any Board Members and Senior staff that wish to attend the meeting, if held in person.

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. The NASBA/AICPA Press Release – CPA Evolution Model Curriculum was discussed.
2. The CPA Evolution Model Curriculum FAQs was reviewed.

III. Administration

1. The Balance Sheets for Funds 3845 and 3850 as of June 30, 2021 were reviewed.
2. The FY 2021 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the twelve months ended June 30, 2021 was reviewed.
3. The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, Fund 3845 For the Twelve Months ended June 30, 2021 was reviewed
4. Staff salary adjustments were discussed and the following resolution was adopted by the Board:

Salaries for all staff except the Executive Director should be increased in accordance with State Personnel Board recommendations and/or legislative appropriation for calendar year 2022 forward. The salary of the Executive Director position is approved for an increase of 3%, or an annual increase of \$2,949.36, commencing July 1, 2022.

5. Additional Per Diem days were approved.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 98 candidate applications (18 initial, 80 reexam) for 125 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the June 17, 2021 meeting.
2. Quarter 2 (March – June, 2021) examination scores for 195 candidates, 248 examination sections were accepted by the Board.
3. The following actions on applications for CPA licenses, reciprocals, reinstatements, and CPA firm permits were unanimously approved/ratified by the Board unless otherwise noted:

Applications for Original CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Christian D Collins	8141	Approved
Gina M Francis	8142	Approved
Erin N Jacoby	8143	Approved
Carl Grady Nichols IV	8144	Approved
Amanda Jane Paris	8145	Approved
Lauren Elsie Stalcup	8146	Approved
Samantha N Steinberg	8147	Approved
Howard Coles Wilkins III	8148	Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License Approved & Issued by Staff

Name	Number	Action
Adrienne Kasey Cohea	R8124	Ratified
Ashley Nicole Counce	R8122	Ratified
Todd D Harman	R8132	Ratified
Crystal M Harris	R8131	Ratified
Haley White Holzhalb	R8130	Ratified
Lindsey Jacks Lyon	R8125	Ratified
Holly Kristen Roberts	R8123	Ratified
Nicole Janell Ross	R8126	Ratified
Tommy Marlin Sims	R8129	Ratified
Kyle Scott Skene	R8128	Ratified
Lauren L Welborn	R8127	Ratified
Katie S White	R8133	Ratified

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Matthew Cooper McKnight	R7500	Approved

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (Continued)**Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice**

Name	City, State	Number	Action
Kayla Booker CPA LLC	Jackson, MS	8134	Approved
CHD CPA, LLC	Brandon, MS	8135	Approved
Goff CPA Firm	Hernando, MS	8136	Approved
Halferty & Company	Bay St. Louis, MS	8137	Approved
Kelly Lewis Smith, CPA	Brandon, MS	8138	Approved
Byrd Accounting & Consulting LLC dba The Byrd Group	Natchez, MS	8139	Approved
Shelton Vance. CPA	Canton, MS	8140	Approved

Amendments to Registered Firms

No.	Name	City, State	Change
8084	Cade CPA Firm, LLC	Southaven, MS	Address Change
F0356	Harmon CPA PLLC	Flowood, MS	Address Change
F1094	Mark H Hooker & Associates, PLLC	Ocean Springs, MS	Name Change from Hooker Walsh & Associates, PLLC
F1142	Nearman Maynard Vallez CPAS & Consultants PA	Miami, FL	Address Change

Application for Reinstatement of a CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Number	Name	City, State	Action
F1540	Deborah Borgman CPA	Perkinston, MS	Approved

4. The Board members present took the following actions to approve requests for 2021 CPE extensions that include deficit and penalty hours:

Name	Number	Total Hours	Extension Date
Deidra Bassi	3584	.8	9/30/2021
Brandi Butler	6028	48	9/30/2021
William Christian	7674	27	9/30/2021
Steven Cooksey	5478	7.5	9/30/2021
Timothy Courts	R7813	3	9/30/2021
Jamie Dent	5860	6	9/30/2021

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (Continued)

4. 2021 CPE Extensions (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>	<u>Extension Date</u>
James Earnest	4237	4	9/30/2021
Chad Ervin	6015	16	9/30/2021
Ruby Evans	4286	10	9/30/2021
Chad Hensley	5312	40	9/30/2021
W. R. Henson	3071	10	9/30/2021
Harold Hicks	1891	24.9	9/30/2021
Clifton Hinson	6348	9	9/30/2021
Tammy Hultz	5770	3.5	9/30/2021
Geneva Jackson	R2830	31	9/30/2021
James Jackson	2891	24	9/30/2021
Charles Lindsey, Jr.	3106	11.9	9/30/2021
Robert Knight	R7775	60	9/30/2021
Joann Ledbetter	5115	31	9/30/2021
James Madden	6022	55	9/30/2021
Amanda Mathis	4494	40	9/30/2021
Ann McMillon	5611	26	9/30/2021
Jordan Miller	6010	40.5	9/30/2021
Robert Nance	2355	11	9/30/2021
Gale Noel	2570	.5	9/30/2021
Haley Prewett	7686	15	9/30/2021
Roderick Russ	1475	16	9/30/2021
Kathryn Sellers	3980	6.9	9/30/2021
Carmella Smith	6257	33	9/30/2021
M. Chad Stockett	4794	13	9/30/2021
John Stubblefield	R3610	60	9/30/2021
Angela Thomas	4601	15.4	9/30/2021
Richard Topp	2330	37.5	9/30/2021
Kirk Wardlow	4540	6.1	9/30/2021
Davis Watts	6157	1	9/30/2021
Sarita Watts	5892	9.7	9/30/2021

5. The Journal of Accountancy article “Content for redesigned CPA Exam takes shape” was discussed.

V. Continuing Professional Education

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

Sponsor/Title	Dates	Hours	Action
MS Department of Revenue 1. 71 st Annual Southeastern Association of Tax Administrators Conference	6/27-30/2021	10	Approved
Nail McKinney Professional Association 1. 2021 Ethics (Bill Taylor)	6/3/2021	4 Ethics (3 General; 1 MS Rules)	Approved
2. Problems and Opportunities, Overlooked Tax Issues for LLCs and Partnerships	6/3/2021	4	Approved
3. 2021 ERISA Update	6/7/2021	8	Approved
4. 2021 Accounting and Auditing Update for the Real World	8/18/2021	8	Approved
T.E. Lott 1. Tax Update: Firm-wide Process	1/23/2021	4	Approved
University of Alabama, Conference Services 1. American Institute on Federal Taxation	6/23-24/2021	14.5	Approved

2. The Board members unanimously authorized the following actions concerning CPE request from individuals.

Sponsor/Title	Dates/Type	Hours	Action
LexisNexis 1. Bender's 2021 Payroll Tax Guide: Chapters 5, 6 and 9 <i>Requested by Bob Kilpatrick</i>	Publication	18	Approved

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. Rules Interpretations Q&A regarding CPE Compliance and Contingent Fees was heard from the executive director.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from June 18, 2021 to August 5, 2021:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	21
Cases Opened	8
Cases Closed ①	8
Cases Open End of Period	21
Open Cases Referred to Members	1

① **Cases Closed:**

Case **2019.217** involved a complaint alleging incompetence of a licensed firm. Respondent admitted to making a mistake on a tax return. Investigative committee determined the mistake did not meet the threshold to support an incompetence claim. Matter was closed.

Case **2020.016** involved a complaint alleging incompetence of a licensed firm. Respondent answered complaint providing documentation the complainant was advised of taxes owed. Investigative committee determined the complaint was not supported. Matter was closed.

Case **2020.018** involved a notice from the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy (ASBPA) that a licensee from New Jersey claimed to the ASBPA to be opening a firm in Mississippi. After discussing the matter with the out of state licensee involved, we were unable to determine the statement made to the ASBPA was factual and had materialized. Case was left open for one year to provide time to continue to check for any information to support the out of state licensee performing the practice of public accountancy in the state of Mississippi. After multiple checks, it was determined there was no evidence the licensee was practicing in Mississippi. Matter was closed.

Cases **2021.008** involved an individual who appeared to claim on social media to be licensed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) practicing in the state of Mississippi as qualification to prepare tax returns for the public. The individual denied the post was intended to say what it appeared to say. Sternly worded letter sent reminding the individual it is a violation of state law to hold out as a CPA when unlicensed by this Board. Matter was closed.

VII. Regulatory Matters (continued)

Cases **2021.009** involved a business entity who falsely displayed the name and title of a former licensee (See Case **2021.010**) on the entity's letterhead to give the appearance the business entity had standing to perform a review engagement for the State Board of Contractors. Initial response did not agree to the response of the former licensee obtained in Case **2021.010**. Respondent firm was contacted and provided an opportunity to revise their initial response. Legal counsel for the business entity advised their client would not attempt to perform attest function engagements again. Matter was closed.

Case **2021.010** involved a former licensee whose name and title were displayed on a business entity's letterhead to give the appearance the entity had standing to perform an attest function engagement for the State Board of Contractors. Former licensee documented they had moved out of state at least 6 months prior to the issuance of the report and were not employed by the business entity at question at the time. Matter was closed.

Case **2021.011** involved a former licensee and firm permit holder who issued three municipal audit reports found on the State Auditor's Office website. These reports were not disclosed on the individual license or firm permit renewal applications filed by the licensee for 2019, 2020, and 2021. The former licensee and firm permit holder was not enrolled in the peer review program. The individual had their individual license revoked at the trial board hearing in March, 2021 for non-reporting of CPE and as a consequence, their firm permit (sole-proprietor) had been cancelled. Attempts to reach the former licensee were unsuccessful. Matter was closed.

Case **2021.013** was a case opened to track a case involving a sole-proprietor firm so that discipline determined would be reflected against the individual licensee in the Board licensing system when it updates to NASBA-ALD. Matter was closed.

2. Ms. Brewer then discussed the open cases presented on the active case log.

VIII. Trial Board

A Consent Order was approved for **Case 2021.005** involving a Licensee who pled guilty to a felony charge of conspiracy to make false statements in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and consented to revocation of licenses issued by the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana. Licensee consents to order of revocation of individual license issued by the Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy and payment of a civil penalty of \$1,000.00. Additionally, the licensee will return the Certificate for the Practice of Certified Public Accounting to the Board.

(Sims and Pannell recused)

A Stipulation and Consent Order was approved in **Case 2020.038** involving a firm who received a peer review report with a fail rating on their engagement review. The highest level of engagement included was a review. The firm intends to continue performing engagements subject to peer review. The stipulation and consent order requires the firm to schedule an accelerated peer review with a date acceptable to the Board if they become engaged to perform audits in the future. The order does not contain a financial penalty.

(Prince recused)

APPROVED:

Chair

Board Member

Vice Chair

Board Member

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member