

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
May 5, 2023**

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met on May 5, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present by Video Conference

David Bridgers
William Kelly
Willie Sims, Jr.

Board Members and Staff Present at Board Office

Charles Prince, Chair
Annette Pridgen, Vice-Chair
Gary Walker, Secretary
Rick Elam
Andy Wright, Executive Director
Sharee Brewer, Associate Director, Investigations
Vicki Snowden, Licensing Administrator

Others Present at Board Office

Ed Wiggins, Attorney General's Office

Others Present by Video Conference or Telephone

Ed Jones, MSCPA Liaison

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Annette Pridgen.
2. The minutes from the March 24, 2023 meeting were approved.
3. Previously approved licenses are available for signature at the Board Office.

I. General (Continued)

5. Reviewed proposed dates and times for future meetings/conferences:

2023 Dates:

May 6	New CPA Ceremony at New Capitol Building, Room 216
May 31-June 2	NASBA Regional Meeting, Savannah, GA
June 15	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
June 22-25	MSCPA Convention, Destin, FL
June 27-29	NASBA West Regional Meeting, Kansas City, MO
August 10	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
September 21	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at Jackson State University
Oct 29-Nov 1	NASBA Annual Meeting, New York, NY
November 9	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
December 15	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. A NASBA blog post regarding cut off dates for the CPA Exam in 2023, when BEC applications will stop being accepted, along with other important dates concerning the evolution of the exam, was discussed.
2. The NASBA State Board Report, Winter 2023, was discussed.
3. Adoption of the UAA Model Rules amendment concerning exam grades, was discussed.

III. Administration

1. Balance Sheets, Funds 3845 and 3850 as of March 31, 2023, were reviewed.
2. The FY2023 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the nine months ended March 31, 2023, was reviewed.
3. Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – Fund 3845, for the nine months ended March 31, 2023, was reviewed.
4. Additional per diem days were approved.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 79 candidate applications (18 initial, 61 reexam) for 103 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the March 24, 2023 meeting
2. Quarter 1 (Jan – Mar, 2023) examination scores for 172 candidates, 193 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
Nichole J. Adamson	8403	Approved
Charles Gibson Horne	8404	Approved
Zaina U. Lala	8405	Approved
John David Oubre	8406	Approved
Anna Grace Ragland	8407	Approved
Charles Davis Thompson	8408	Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License Approved & Issued by Staff

Name	Number	Action
Helen Frances Fordice	R8400	Approved
Matthew R. Walker	R8401	Approved

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Paul R. Avery	5467	Approved
Angela M. Thomas	4601	Approved

Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Name	City, State	Number	Action
JBD CPA LLC	Sunflower, MS	8402	Approved

Amendments to Registered Firms

No.	Name	City, State	Change
F1566	Laura Brame Cerra CPA PLLC	Ridgeland, MS	Organization Change

Application for Reinstatement of a CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Number	Name	City, State	Action
7579	Pittman & Company CPAs PLLC	Brandon, MS	Approved

V. Continuing Professional Education

1. The Board members unanimously authorized the following actions on CPE Sponsor programs applications/Individual requests submitted for approval.

Sponsor/Title	Dates	Hours	Action
Accounting Tools, Inc. (QAS) 1. Accountant Ethics for Mississippi	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved
Business Valuation Resources 1. The Comprehensive Guide to Economic Damages (Chapters 40 & 41) <i>Requested by James Koerber</i>	Co-authored Publication	20	Approved

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. Rules Committee's Final Recommendation for Potential Rules Revisions/Reductions previously discussed, were approved by a vote of 6 to 1.
2. MS Secretary of State 29 by 29 plan update was discussed.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from March 25, 2023 to May 5, 2023:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	16
Cases Opened	8
Cases Closed ①	4
Cases Open End of Period	20
Open Cases Referred to Members	1

VII. Regulatory Matters (continued)

① *Cases Closed:*

Case 2022.114 involved an individual licensee who failed to maintain documentation of their Continuing Professional Education for the 2021-2022 year. Case was resolved with a Stipulation and Consent Order requiring licensee to obtain 40 hours of CPE and 40 hours of penalty CPE and document all to the Board as well as paying a \$500 financial penalty for failing to maintain documentation for five years per rule. Documentation of the CPE was presented to the Board and financial penalty was paid. Matter was closed.

Case 2022.119 involved an individual licensee who was selected at random as part of the 2021 audit of CPE documentation. Investigation determined that licensee had falsified some of the documentation presented to the Board as support for the courses reported on their 2021 CPE Reporting Form when those courses were not taken. Case was resolved with a Consent Order requiring 1) a financial penalty of \$7,500, 2) making up the CPE courses which lacked documentation plus 100% penalty hours, 3) completion of NASBA ethics training, and 4) presentation of CPE documentation for the subsequent five reporting periods commencing 2023 (2022 was reviewed as part of the investigation). Documentation of CPE and NASBA training was presented to the Board and financial penalty was paid. Matter was closed.

Case 2022.199 involved an individual licensee who received a Notice of Hearing and Complaint for a Trial Board Hearing to be held January 27, 2023 and a Continuation Order until March 24, 2023 to address CPE deficiencies for the 2022 compliance period. The licensee made no actionable response to any correspondence or other attempts made by Board staff or Executive Director to reach an offer of informal settlement. Board Order called for revocation of license, 40 hours of CPE plus 100% penalty hours, \$1,000 financial penalty and \$200 administrative costs. Matter was closed.

Case 2020.029 involved a firm permit holder who received a fail rating on their peer review with the highest level of engagement performed by the firm being reviews. Case was resolved with a strongly worded letter advising that if the firm steps up to the performance of audits prior to receiving a pass rating on their next peer review, they will contact the Board for a determination as to whether an accelerated peer review or pre-issuance reviews would be appropriate. Matter was closed.

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

VII. Trial Board Hearing

Continuation Order 2022.113 was approved
(Kelly recused)

Stipulation and Consent Order:

Stipulation and Consent Order was approved for **Case 2023.002** involving a firm whose resident manager died unexpectedly and successor manager failed to renew the firm permit for more than one year. A Stipulation and Consent Order was agreed to acknowledging the violation of statute and rule. Firm permit was reinstated. Order calls for a \$500 financial penalty.

(Bridgers recused)

These minutes were adopted by unanimous vote of the Board Members present at the June 15, 2023 Board Meeting.

For the Board:

Gary Walker
Board Secretary