

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
December 17, 2020**

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met telephonically on December 17, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present by Video Conference

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

Board Staff Present at Board Office

Andy Wright, Executive Director
Sharee Brewer, Associate Director, Investigations

Legal Counsel Present at Board Office

Ed Wiggins, Special Asst. Attorney General

Others Present by Video Conference or Telephone

Vicki Snowden, Board Licensing Administrator
Karen Moody, MSCPA President/CEO
Annette Pridgen, MSCPA Chair

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Charles Prince.
2. The minutes from the October 16, 2020 meeting were approved.

I. General (Continued)

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

2021 Proposed Dates:

January 21	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
March 4	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
April 12-14	NASBA Exec. Director, Staff & Legal Conf
May 7 (Friday)	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
May 8	New CPA Ceremony (tentative)
June 8-10	NASBA West Regional; Colorado Springs, CO
June 17	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
June 21-23	NASBA East Regional; White Sulphur Springs, WV
June 22-27	MSCPA Convention
August 5	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
September 16	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
October 22	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
October 23	New CPA Ceremony (tentative)
Oct. 31- Nov. 3	NASBA Annual Meeting; San Diego, CA
December 9	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. NASBA State Board Report for Fall 2020 was discussed.
2. NASBA’s Regional Director’s Focus questions were discussed.
3. Other Boards’ Positions on Remote Testing/Proctoring was discussed.
4. The Remote Proctoring demo hosted by NASBA/AICPA/Prometric on Monday, December 14th was discussed.

III. Administration

1. The MSBPA Cash in Treasury - Funds 3845 and 3850, as of November 30, 2020 was reviewed.
2. The FY 2021 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the five months ended November 30, 2020 was reviewed.
3. The Executive Director’s presentation to the MSCPA Education Conference was discussed.

III. Administration (Continued)

4. Legislative Budget Committee Recommendation – FY 2022 was discussed.
5. The Board approved Executive Director to sign renewal lease for office space.
6. Additional Per Diem days were approved.
7. The Board discussed the possibility of a larger room available in the Veterans Home Purchase Board building for the Board of Accountancy meetings with hearings.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 131 candidate applications (33 initial, 98 reexam) for 188 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the October 16, 2020 meeting.
2. Revised Window 3 (July – Sept., 2020) examination scores for 194 candidates, 243 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 by the Board unless otherwise noted:

Applications for Original CPA License

Name	Number	Action
LaSabre Caprice Charleston	8025	Approved
Taylor D. Donald	8026	Approved
Lucas Ellison	8027	Approved
Natalie Blair Fischer	8028	Approved
Robert David Foreman	8029	Approved
Spencer Bradley Hughes	8030	Approved
Ashley Nicole Theresa Irons	8031	Approved
Brittany Leigh Johns	8032	Approved
Sara Elizabeth Landewee	8033	Approved
Carrie Ann McBride	8034	Approved
Elizabeth Forbes Owen	8035	Approved
Jose Guadalupe Salinas	8036	Approved
Christopher Alan Sartin	8037	Approved
Noel D. Schroeder	8038	Approved
Bradley Louis Smith	8039	Approved
Jena M. Taylor	8040	Approved
Lane Dalton Tidwell	8041	Approved

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

Name	Number	Action
Dana L. Hart	R8042	Approved
Michael D. Johnson	R8043	Approved
Joshua B. Shaw	R8044	Approved

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Dewayne R. Coats	4129	Approved
Matthew J. Crooker	7676	Approved
Donald J. Powers, Jr.	4719	Approved
Tracy Lee Williams	4463	Approved

Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Name	City, State	Number	Action
Atkins CPA Firm, PLLC	Horn Lake, MS	8013	Approved
Auerswald CPA	Greenville, MS	8014	Approved
BAS Partners LLC	Pembroke Pines, FL	8015	Approved
Baird CPA, LLC	Indianola, MS	8016	Approved
J. Barnes CPA, PLLC	Jackson, MS	8017	Approved
Mark L. Brown, CPA, PLLC	Ridgeland, MS	8018	Approved
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	Glendora, CA	8019	Approved
Corbin & Biggs PLLC	Ridgeland, MS	8020	Approved
Gaddy CPA Firm	Crystal Springs, MS	8021	Approved
Price and Associates CPAs, LLC	Tampa, FL	8022	Approved
Rubino & Company PC	Bethesda, MD	8023	Approved
Stambaugh Ness Inc	York, PA	8024	Approved

Amendments to Registered Firms

No.	Name	City, State	Change
F1007	Boolos & Oakes CPA Firm	Vicksburg, MS	Name Change from Todd A Boolos, CPA
F0202	Butchart Ellzey & Associates	Canton, MS	Ownership Change
F1493	D. Michael Crowder CPA	Columbus, MS	Address Change
7996	Espinal & Acklin, CPA, PLLC	Long Beach, MS	Name Change from Moises G. Espinal CPA & Address Change
F1088	Kimberly D Foreman CPA PC	Florence, MS	Name Change from Kimberly Shelton CPA
F1015	John F. Maggiore, Jr., CPA	Hammond, LA	Address Change
F1481	Matheny CPA LLC	Madison, MS	Address Change

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (Continued)

Application for Reinstatement of a CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Number	Name	City, State	Action
7670	Teasler CPA PLLC	Tupelo, MS	Approved

4. The Board members present took the following actions to approve requests for 2019 CPE extensions that include deficit and penalty hours:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>	<u>Extension Date</u>
Bradley Bondurant	4619	32	12/31/2020
Leslie Brewer	5531	7	12/31/2020
Deborah Funderburk	4401	.5	12/31/2020
Alice Gorman	2215	11	12/31/2020
Lynne Green	R2213	10.2	12/31/2020
Andrew Groscost	R3305	55	12/31/2020
Rhonda Hamilton	5644	4.4	12/31/2020
Richard Harvey	7018	2.5	12/31/2020
Monica Hodges	4247	10	12/31/2020
Jamie Houston	2134	27.9	12/31/2020
Marcus Mobley	5712	36.5	12/31/2020
Kenneth Primos	R3507	33.2	12/31/2020
William Prisock	7123	51	12/31/2020
William Searight	1637	19	12/31/2020
Michelle Smith	R7779	35	12/31/2020
Michael Tolleson	4848	3	12/31/2020
Adrienne Tompkins	5627	12	12/31/2020
Jonathan Whinery	6225	60	12/31/2020
Douglas Wise	5122	9.5	12/31/2020

5. AICPA Oct. – Nov. BOE meeting highlights were discussed.
6. Jurisdictions with further blanket grade credit extensions were 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
AFWA – Jackson Chapter 1. The Review Process – A Series of Unfortunate Events	10/22/2020	1	Approved
Argent Trust Company 1. Planning for Retirement Benefits: What to do in Real Life	11/18/20	2	Approved
May & Company, LLP 1. A&A Update 2. Best Federal Tax Update	10/28/20 11/16/20	1 8	Approved
Mississippi Bankers Association 1. Principles of Banking (2 hours per week for 10 weeks)	2/9 - 4/13/2021	20	Approved

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

Sponsor/Title	Dates	Hours	Action
Journal of Business Finance and Accounting 1. Asymmetric information consolidation and price discovery: Inferring bad news from insider sales <i>Requested by Rachna Prakash</i>	Publication	60	Approved
AIS Educator Journal 1. Preparing for the Hybridization of the Accounting Profession: A CISA Boot Camp Case Study <i>Requested by Gregory Tapis</i>	Publication	40	Approved
Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research 1. Professional Affiliation Bias Among CPAs and Attorneys at Publicly Traded U.S. Firms <i>Requested by Morris H. Stocks</i>	Publication	40	Approved
Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research 1. Professional Affiliation Bias Among CPAs and Attorneys at Publicly Traded U.S. Firms <i>Requested by W. Mark Wilder</i>	Publication	40	Approved

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. *“Providing Services to Businesses in the Marijuana Industry”* – A sample of board positions at January, 2019
2. Mississippi Secretary of State’s *“Tackle the Tape”* web page was discussed.
3. The Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing was discussed.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from October 17, 2020 to December 17, 2020:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	25
Cases Opened	7
Cases Closed ①	9
Cases Open End of Period	23
Open Cases Referred to Members	2

① **Cases Closed:**

Case **2019.27** involved a firm that received a fail rating on a peer review report conducted on the firm’s system of quality control which included audits performed under generally accepted Government Auditing Standards and the Single Audit Act. The firm fully cooperated with the investigation and peer review program. The case was settled with a Consent Order which requires the firm to submit to pre-issuance reviews by a firm acceptable to the Board and consented to by the Executive Director should the firm become engaged to perform such audits in the future. Matter was closed.

Case **2019.34** involved a firm who dropped out of the peer review process after the review was conducted but not yet completed. Firm cancelled permit and retired individual license so the matter was closed.

VII. Regulatory Matters (continued)

Case **2020.07** involved a licensee who taught an Ethics course that did not receive approval from the Board due to substantial errors. Course corrections were made and class was retaught with licensees who had attended provided the option to re-attend free of charge. Licensees in original class attended the second course or documented to Board staff they were made aware the course wouldn't count toward their June 30, 2022 three-year requirement. Matter was closed.

Case **2020.27** involved a former licensee of the state of Louisiana who obtained employment in Mississippi and was reported in a local newspaper as a CPA. Respondent provided copy of business cards that did not include the title of CPA. Unable to determine the respondent had held-out, staff documented respondent's understanding of Mississippi state law and matter closed with a stern letter.

Case **2020.31** involved a sole proprietor firm who completed an engagement subject to peer review which was undeclared on the firm permit renewal application. Respondent claimed the error was an oversight. Firm was still enrolled in the peer review program and had not missed a peer review. Previous peer review was a pass. Matter was closed.

Case **2020.33** involved a non-CPA firm which had completed a review engagement for a general contractor to submit to the Mississippi State Board of Contractors (BOC). The review report was rejected by the BOC and staff documented the non-CPA firm's understanding of Mississippi state law and matter closed with a stern letter.

Case **2020.34** was opened to determine propriety of a sole proprietor firm dropping out of the peer review program. Investigation determined such was not inappropriate and no violation of the rules had taken place so the matter was closed.

Case **2020.35** involved a licensee who failed to report ethics continuing professional education (CPE). This was subsequently determined to be an oversight when licensee found documentation showing they had reported ethics CPE under the wrong classification in the online reporting form. The matter was closed.

Case **2020.36** involved a complaint against a licensee who purportedly had complainant take a CPE course on the licensee's behalf. Investigation determined complaint to be erroneous. The matter was closed.

2. Ms. Brewer then discussed the open cases presented on the active case log.
3. Upcoming CPE Compliance Case Management was discussed.

VIII. Trial Board

Trial Board Hearing:

A Continuance Order was approved on **Case 2019.217**.
(Kelly Investigative Committee)

A Continuance Order was approved on **Case 2020.014**.
(Peach Investigative Committee)

Consent Order for Board Approval:

A Consent Order in **Case 2020.05** was approved involving a firm that received a fail rating on a peer review report conducted on the firm's system of quality control which included audits as well as audits performed under generally accepted Government Auditing Standards. The firm fully cooperated with the investigation and peer review program. The order requires the firm to submit to pre-issuance reviews by a firm acceptable to the Board and consented to by the Executive Director should the firm become engaged to perform audits in the future.

(Bridgers Investigative Committee)

APPROVED:

Chair

Board Member

Vice Chair

Board Member

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member