

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
January 16, 2020**

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met at the Board office at 5 Old River Place, Suite 104, Jackson, Mississippi on January 16, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present

Willie Sims, Jr., Chair
Rick Elam, Vice Chair
Angela Pannell
Mark Peach
William Kelly

Board Members Absent

David Bridgers, Secretary
Charles Prince

Board Staff Present

Andy Wright, Executive Director
Sharee Brewer, Associate Director, Investigations
Lane McNeal, Administrative Assistant

Legal Counsel Present

NONE

Others Present

Ed Jones, MSCPA Representative
Karen Moody, MSCPA President

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Ed Jones.
2. The minutes from the December, 2019 meeting were approved.
3. The CPA certificates of licensure from the December, 2019 meeting were not available for signature by the Board members.
4. The Board elected the following officers to serve for calendar year 2020:
Chair – Rick Elam
Vice Chair – David Bridgers
Secretary – Bill Kelly

I. General (Continued)

4. The Board noted their committee assignments for 2020:

National Regulatory Concerns
Willie Sims, Chair
David Bridgers
Mark Peach

Administration
Rick Elam, Chair
David Bridgers
Bill Kelly

CPA Examination, Licensing and Firms
Charles Prince, Chair
Angela Pannell
Willie Sims

Continuing Education
William Kelly, Chair
David Bridgers
Angela Pannell

Rules and Regulations
Mark Peach, Chair
William Kelly
Charlie Prince

5. The Board reviewed and approved tentative meeting/activity dates for 2020:

March 5	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
May 1	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
May 2	New CPA Ceremony
June 2-4	NASBA West Regional
June 9-11	NASBA East Regional
June 18	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
June 25-28	MSCPA Annual Convention
August 7 (Friday)	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
September 17	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
October 16	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
October 17	New CPA Ceremony
November 1-4	NASBA Annual Meeting
December 17	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

Additionally, the Board reviewed other 2020 Dates of March 16 – 18 for the NASBA Executive Directors & Staff and Legal Counsel conferences in Clearwater Beach, FL. Travel was approved at the December 6, 2019 Board meeting.

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. The NASBA *State Board Report* for December 2019 was discussed.
2. The updated CPA Evolution possible model (AICPA slide deck) was discussed.
3. The Board heard updates from Karen Moody, MSCPA President, on various topics.

III. Administration

1. The MSBPA Balance Sheets, Funds 3845 and 3850, as of December 31, 2019 were reviewed.
2. The FY 2020 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the six months ended December 31, 2019 vs. December 31, 2018 was reviewed.
3. The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Fund 3845, for the six months ended December 31, 2019 was reviewed.
4. Additional per diem days were approved.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 100 candidate applications (42 initial, 58 reexam) for 170 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the December 6, 2019 meeting.
2. Window 4 (Oct – Dec, 2019) examination scores for 187 candidates, 229 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
Brandi Lynn Conico	7888	Approved
Jessica Jordan Hinton	7889	Approved
Maci Raney Maness	7890	Approved
Brian Patrick Richardson	7891	Approved

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

3. Applications (Continued)

Applications for Original CPA License (continued)

Name	Number	Action
Anthony Noel Risher	7892	Approved
Amber L. Springer	7893	Approved
Avery L. Springer	7894	Approved
Elizabeth Jourdan Vercher	7895	Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License

Name	Number	Action
David Azeez	R7896	Approved
Thomas Yerger Dunbar	R7897	Approved
Robert Dale Gowan	R7898	Approved
Leigh Anne Pitts	R7899	Approved
James Allan Shackelford	R7900	Approved

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Paul Gregory Jarrell	2610	Approved

Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Name	City, State	Number	Action
Robert Gowan, CPA, LLC	Slidell, LA	7883	Approved
Harris CPA	Meridian, ID	7884	Approved
Nancy C. Hester, CPA	Clinton, MS	7885	Approved
Packer Thomas, CPAs	Canfield, OH	7886	Approved
Rubinbrown LLP	Denver, CO	7887	Approved

Amendments to Registered Firms

No.	Name	City, State	Change
F1504	A B McIlwain & Co., Inc.	Olive Branch, MS	Address Change
7503	Blake Barksdale, CPA	West Point, MS	Address Change
F1342	Kristen Byrd, CPA	Southaven, MS	Address Change
F1252	Jimmy Childres, CPA	Terry, MS	Address Change
F0246	Culpepper & Culpepper & Hurtt CPAs	Meridian, MS	Name Change from Culpepper & Culpepper
F0983	Novogradac & Company LLP	Alpharetta, GA	Address Change
7409	Stephanie Stevens, CPA, PLLC	Anguilla, MS	Address Change

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (continued)

3. Applications (continued)

Application for Reinstatement of a CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Number	Name	City, State	Action
F1587	Hong Fang, CPA	Ridgeland, MS	Approved
F1280	Bonnie Pope Granger, CPA PLLC	Ocean Springs, MS	Approved

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. Fraud Detection and Prevention	11/7/19	1	Approved
Estate Planning Council of MS 1. Prudent Investor Trust Assets	9/10/19	1	Approved
2. Political Update	10/8/19	1	Approved
3. Small Business Exits; What Your Clients Need to Know	11/12/19	1	Approved
4. Charitable Giving in MS	12/10/19	1	Approved
May & Company 1. A&A Update	11/12/19	2	Approved
Silas Simmons, LLP 1. Annual Tax Update	12/27/2019	8	Approved

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. The Board adopted as final the proposed change of Rule 5.1.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from December 7, 2019 to January 16, 2020:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	45
Cases Opened	6
Cases Closed ①	22
Cases Open End of Period	29
Open Cases Referred to Members	1

① *Cases Closed:*

Case **2019.05 and 2019.29** involved firms that received a fail rating for compilations on their peer review report. Cases were resolved with the firms agreeing to a Stipulation and Consent Order with no financial penalty. Orders were approved at the December 6, 2019 Board meeting. The matters were then closed.

Case **2019.41** involved a non-CPA Firm that issued a review report for the Board of Contractors. The report did not give any indication that the non-CPA Firm claiming to be a CPA Firm, nor the individual performing the engagement claiming to be a CPA. When the business entity was reached, they advised they were unaware the performance of an attest function was prohibited by state law. The entity stated they would not perform again. Case was discussed at the December 6, 2019 Board meeting and a determination made to close with cautionary letter.

Case **2019.65** involved an individual who had requested an extension until August 31, 2019 to obtain deficient CPE hours with only penalty being the requirement to obtain an additional 50% hours on the deficiency. Individual did not obtain hours until October 23, 2019. A formal hearing was held on December 6, 2019 and Board determined a financial penalty of \$1,000 plus administrative costs. The matter was then closed.

Cases **2019.94, 2019.112, 2019.120, 2019.125, 2019.128, 2019.129, 2019.137, 2019.144, 2019.145, 2019.152, 2019.164, 2019.202, 2019.203, and 2019.214** involved individuals who had not reported their Continuing Professional Education hours in compliance with Board rules and had not responded to repeated attempts by staff to get them into compliance. A formal hearing was held on December 6, 2019 and Board determined to revoke all licenses and assessed a financial penalty of \$1,000 plus administrative costs on each individual. The matters were then closed.

VII. Regulatory Matters

Cases Closed (continued)

Case **2019.221** involved a formal complaint received from a former client of a sole proprietor firm. Complaint alleged the firm with incompetence. Investigation did not yield any substance to the complaint and the matter was closed.

Case **2019.231** involved a CPA Firm operating as such after the individual CPA license of the sole proprietor/owner had lapsed. A formal hearing was held on December 6, 2019 and board determined to allow individual to reinstate license and assessed a financial penalty of \$4,000 plus administrative costs of \$500. The matter was then closed.

Case **2019.236** was opened to account for show cause hearing materials. This case involved an individual whose application had been denied to sit for the CPA exam because of a conviction. A show cause hearing was held on December 6, 2019 and Board determined to allow individual to sit for the exam after providing a statement of character from her current and most recent former employer.

Case **2019.237** was opened to account for show cause hearing materials. This case involved an former licensee seeking reinstatement of his license when he had incurred a conviction during the time his license was not active. A show cause hearing was held on December 6, 2019 and Board determined to allow individual to seek reinstatement of his individual license. The Board made no guarantee the reinstatement would be approved.

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

VIII. Trial Board

Trial Board Hearings:

Case 2019.26 Continuance Order to be requested on this case.
(Prince Investigative Committee)

Case 2019.217 Continuance Order to be requested on this case.
(Kelly Investigative Committee)

Stipulation and Consent Order for Board Approval related to deficiencies noted in the performance of work subject to Peer Review:

A Stipulation and Consent Order in **Case 2019.39** involving a firm that received a fail rating on compilation engagements in a peer review report. The firm fully cooperated with the investigation and peer review program. The order requires the firm to schedule an accelerated peer review with a date acceptable to the Board if they become engaged to perform reviews, or audits of financial statements in the future.
(Bridgers Investigative Committee)

APPROVED:

Chair

Board Member

Vice Chair

Board Member

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member