

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
June 18, 2020

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met telephonically on June 18, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present by Telephone

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

Ken Walley, Special Asst. Attorney General

Others Present by Telephone

Ed Jones, MSCPA Representative

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Charles Prince.
2. The minutes from the May 8, 2020 meeting were approved.

I. General (Continued)

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

June 18	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
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

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. The NASBA RECAP, May 19, 2020 was discussed.
2. The NASBA *State Board Report*, Spring, 2020 (new quarterly version) was discussed.
3. The NASBA UAA Committee Rules Change Proposal was discussed. No response by MS Board to UAA Committee.
4. The Impact of Covid-19 on Peer Review: AICPA PRB was discussed.

III. Administration

1. The MSBPA Cash in Treasury, Funds 3845 and 3850, as of May 31, 2020 was reviewed.
2. The FY 2020 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the eleven months ended May 31, 2020 was reviewed.
3. The Board’s Report to the MS Society of CPAs was discussed.
4. The Executive Director’s discussion of the purchasing of new laptop computers and the preliminary budget appropriation for FY 2021, was heard.
5. Additional per diem days were approved.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 97 candidate applications (31 initial, 66 reexam) for 134 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the May 8, 2020 meeting.
2. 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
Brady Ray Anderson	7949	Approved
Anthony Matthew Gladden	7950	Approved
Mason Glenn Herrin	7951	Approved
Madeline Howard Kirk	7952	Approved
John Clayton Nelson, Jr.	7953	Approved
Brett Austin Prather	7954	Approved
Ryan Clark Skelly	7955	Approved
Kathryn E. Whitman	7956	Approved
Thomas Singletary Wilson	7957	Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Gretchen K. Archer	R7958	Approved
Webster A. Baird	R7959	Approved
John Doyce Griffin	R7960	Approved
Todd D. Marion	R7961	Approved
Samuel Philip Wheeler	R7962	Approved

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

Name	Number	Action
William Bryant Christian	7674	Approved
Ashley G. Herrington	5843	Approved
James R. Persons, II	5106	Approved

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (continued)

3. Applications (continued)

Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Name	City, State	Number	Action
Gretchen K. Archer, CPA	Ocean Springs, MS	7945	Approved
Culver, PLLC	Oakland, TN	7946	Approved
Hogan Taylor LLP	Tulsa, OK	7947	Approved
Scott Pitts CPA, PLLC	Byram, MS	7948	Approved

Amendments to Registered Firms

No.	Name	City, State	Change
7261	Baker Tilly US, LLP	Chicago, IL	Name Change from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause & Co.

4. COVID-19 Issues Impacting Exam and Licensing 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
Checkpoint Learning 1.Ethics for Mississippi CPAs	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved
David Byers, Jr. 1. Split Dollar Refresh: At the Intersection of Politics and Planning (Estate Taxes)	Various	1.5	Approved
Gleim Publications, Inc. 1. AICPA Code of Professional Conduct	Online Self Study	4 General Ethics	Approved
My-CPE LLC 1. A Basic Ethics Guidebook for Mississippi CPAs	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 Rules)	Approved
Nail McKinney Professional Association 1. Audits of 401(k) Plans	5/15/2020	8	Approved
School of Accountancy/Beta Alpha Psi/USM 1. Accounting and Auditing Update	8/13/2020	8	Approved

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. Proposed Final Adoption of change to Rule 4.1.8.
2. The Summary of Surrounding States’ Accounting Education Requirements were discussed.
3. The latest Committee Amendment to “Fresh Start Act” in SB 2759 was discussed.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from May 8, 2020 to June 18, 2020:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	31
Cases Opened	6
Cases Closed ①	8
Cases Open End of Period	29
Open Cases Referred to Members	2

① **Cases Closed:**

Case **2018.123** involved an individual licensee and firm permit holder who received a peer review report with a fail rating on the firm's engagement review of reviews issued. The firm signed a Stipulation and Consent Order which was approved by the full Board at the May, 2020 meeting. The matter was then closed.

Case **2018.127** involved an individual licensee and firm permit holder who received a peer review report with a fail rating on the firm's system peer review. The firm signed a Consent Order which was approved by the full Board at the May, 2020 meeting. The matter was then closed.

Case **2019.24** involved an individual licensee and firm permit holder who received a peer review report with a fail rating on the firm's engagement review of compilations issued. The firm signed a Stipulation and Consent Order which was approved by the full Board at the May, 2020 meeting. The matter was then closed.

Case **2019.239** involved an individual licensee and firm permit holder who received a peer review report with a fail rating on the firm's engagement review of preparations issued. The firm signed a Stipulation and Consent Order which was approved by the full Board at the May, 2020 meeting. The matter was then closed.

Case **2020.001** involved a firm who had received a complaint of incompetence due to an error being made on a complex tax matter. Investigation yielded an error was made which was acknowledged by the licensee. Investigative Committee determined that the error did not meet the threshold of a violation of the Board rule addressing incompetence. The matter was then closed.

VII. Regulatory Matters (continued)

Case **2020.004** involved a sole proprietor firm who practiced for a few months on an expired firm permit. During that time, attest work was completed. The firm was in the peer review process and therefore appeared to Investigative Committee to have been an oversight. No false statements, previous complaints on firm and firm passed previous peer review. Firm permit was reinstated at May, 2020 Board meeting and the matter was then closed.

Case **2020.019** involved a sole proprietor firm referenced above in Case **2018.127**. Case opened and closed in LARS to allow the discipline to be reported against the individual license as well.

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

VIII. Trial Board

Trial Board Hearing:

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

Consent Order:

A Consent Order was approved on **Case 2020.09** involving an individual licensee and firm permit holder who performed an engagement for the State Board of Contractors which was undeclared on the license renewals received by the Board on November 22, 2019. Due to no other violations being noted and licensee's current status as unemployed, the order contains a civil penalty of \$250.
(Bridgers Investigative Committee)

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

A Stipulation and Consent Order was approved in **Case 2019.240** involving an out of state firm who received a peer review report with a fail rating on the firm's system review which included ERISA engagements. The firm has not performed any work subject to peer review for any Mississippi-based clients. The order requires the firm to schedule an accelerated peer review with a date acceptable to the Board if they become engaged to perform audits for Mississippi-based clients in the future.
(Pannell Investigative Committee)

APPROVED:

Chair

Board Member

Vice Chair

Board Member

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member