

Connecticut State Board of Accountancy
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2015 – 10:00 A.M.
Second Floor Conference Room
30 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106
Hartford, CT 06106
860-509-6179
sboa@ct.gov

Chairman John H. Schuyler, CPA, called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. at the Connecticut State Board of Accountancy, Second Floor Conference Room, 30 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John H. Schuyler, CPA, Chairman
Marcia L. Marien, CPA
Dannell R. Lyne, CPA
Timothy F. Egan, CPA
Mark Aronowitz
Peter J. Niedermeyer, CPA
Karla H. Fox, Esq. – Via Conference Call
Martha S. Triplett, Esq. – Via Conference Call

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonia Worrell Asare, Legal Counsel
Stephanie Sheff, License and Application Analyst
Constance Sakyi, Paralegal Specialist 1

OTHERS PRESENT:

Art Renner, CPA, Executive Director of CT Society of CPA
Brian Kelleher, CPA, President, CTCPA
Daniel J. Dustin, CPA, NASBA, Vice President, State Board Relations
John W. Johnson, NASBA's Director of Legislative Affairs
Kimberly Smith, KPMG

ACTION REQUIRED – Approve Minutes of the February 3, 2015 and February 23, 2015 special board meetings. Ms. Marien made a motion to approve both minutes. Mr. Lyne seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

INFORMATION REPORTS – Administrative Updates

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Daniel J. Dustin, CPA, Vice President, State Board Relations, NASBA, stated that Mr. Ken L. Bishop, President and Chief Executive Officer (NASBA), sent a letter outlining the importance of the functions of the State Board of Accountancy to the Governor regarding the proposed budget.

Attorney Asare stated that Mr. Art Renner, CPA and Chairman John Schuyler, CPA, gave testimonies at the legislative hearings on Monday, March 2, 2015 before the General Administration and Elections Committee.

Attorney Asare spoke about the important functions of the office of the CT State Board of Accountancy and the benefit of the accounting profession to the citizens of Connecticut.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT – Update for Reciprocal Licensees

Attorney Asare updated board members about the changes implemented regarding the legal status of foreign and chartered accountants in Connecticut. Attorney Asare stated that presently, Connecticut State Board of Accountancy does not accept IQEX exam results; however, a candidate can apply for a license in one of the US jurisdictions that participate in NASBA's Mutual Recognition Agreement and then apply in Connecticut by reciprocity.

ELIJAH WATTS SELLS AWARDEE – Mark Connolly

Attorney Asare stated that a letter has been sent to Mr. Mark Connolly formally inviting him to the CT Society of CPA Certificate Celebration on May 28, 2015 at the Aqua Turf, 556 Mulberry Street, Plantsville, Connecticut.

CANDIDATE CARE – OCTOBER 1 – NOVEMBER 30, 2014

Attorney Asare asked board members to review the Candidate Care Concerns Report dated October 1 – November 30, 2014.

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Attorney Asare stated that our first annual newsletter was sent to 6,277 email addresses; 5,798 were delivered; 2,992 opened the email and a few people shared the newsletter on social media such as Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook. Attorney Asare asked board members to forward any topics or ideas they may have for the next edition of the newsletter to the staff.

NASBA CALL FOR ANNUAL ACCOUNTING EDUCATION RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

Attorney Asare informed board members of The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy's (NASBA) announcement of the 2015 Call for Proposals for its Accounting Education Research Grants Program. Attorney Asare encouraged board members to inform individuals who may be interested in this grant to submit proposals for consideration to NASBA.

INVITATION TO JOIN BOARD OF EXAMINERS CALL - AICPA

Attorney Asare gave copies of the invitation from the AICPA Board of Examiners to participate in one of the upcoming Board of Examiners Update Calls, which will give participants information that is essential to staying informed on changes to the CPA Exam.

COLLEGE INITIATIVE UPDATES

Attorney Asare and Ms. Stephanie Sheff went to the Eastern Connecticut State University and University of Hartford to give a presentation to educate students who are interested in the accounting profession about the process of becoming a certified public accountant.

REGULATION & LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

Commission and Contingent Fees Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee
Mr. Niedermeyer gave a brief review of the report from the subcommittee. The subcommittee proposed that the board vote on the changes at the June 2015 retreat.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opportunity for members of the public to address the board
Mr. Renner stated that he and Mr. Brian Kelleher met with Commissioner Kevin Sullivan, Dept. of Revenue and Senator Gayle Slossberg regarding monthly and quarterly filings with the Dept. of Revenue Services.

EXAM AND LICENSING

OLD BUSINESS

Action required – Industry, Government, or Self Employed Experience, and Other Applications

Felicia F. Seton – request for waiver fee, tabled at February 3, 2015 board meeting.

Ms. Marien made a motion to waive the fee and amended her motion to make changes to the Question and Answer to the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) guideline currently posted on the Secretary of the State’s website. Mr. Aronowitz seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action required – **Industry, Government, or Self Employed experience, and Other Applications**

Kathleen Matthews– Initial CPA Certificate & Certificate Registration, Industry Experience

Ms. Marien made a motion to approve the application. Mr. Egan seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Lisa Gorman- Initial CPA Certificate & Certificate Registration, Industry Experience

Ms. Marien made a motion to approve the application. Mr. Lyne seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Rebecca Soltis- Initial CPA Certificate & Initial license, Industry Experience

Mr. Niedermeyer made a motion to approve the application. Mr. Aronowitz seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Kristine Warhola- Initial CPA Certificate & Initial license, Industry Experience

Ms. Marien made a motion to approve the application. Mr. Niedermeyer seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Kevin J. Walker – Initial License CPA Certificate – Nonconforming Experience- experience not received under a supervising CPA

Ms. Marien made a motion to deny the application and amended her motion to request that Mr. Walker also remove the CPA credential from his resume. Ms. Fox seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

REVIEW FIRM PERMITS FOR APPROVAL

PCAOB Inspection Reports Received – member comment on review

- Review Report Dated **January 16, 2015 Grant Thornton, LLP
Li and Company, PC
Moss Adams, LLP**

- Review Report Dated **February 6, 2015 Li & Company, PC**

EXAMINATION AND CPE EXTENSION

A. Donald Cooper - requesting waiver of late CPE fee

Mr. Niedermeyer made a motion to deny the request to waive the late CPE fee pending submission of proof of evidence substantiating the request. Ms. Marien seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Donald J. Siclari - requesting an extension to complete CPE

Ms. Marien made a motion to table the request until the staff request additional information from the candidate. Mr. Niedermeyer seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Joseph A. Ableski - requesting an extension or a waiver for CPE

Ms. Marien made a motion to approve the request for extension of time until June 30, 2015. Mr. Aronowitz seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

John Sherer - requesting extension to sit for audit section of CPA exam

Ms. Marien made a motion to table the request for extension of time pending additional clarification. Mr. Lyne seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Michael Zbar- additional letter for request of waiver of late fees which was denied at the February 3, 2015 board meeting. Ms. Marien made a motion to deny the request. Mr. Egan seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Christine Refino-requesting waiver of late renewal fee

Ms. Marien made a motion to deny the request. Mr. Lyne seconded the motion. Mr. Egan recused himself. Remaining board members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Enforcement Cases

2011083-3713 Lewis Clark vs. Zackin, Zimyeski, Sullivan, LLC- written withdrawal received February 10, 2015.

2011011-3559 David Halloway vs. Sean Patrick McNamee - verbal withdrawal on January 20, 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none at this time.

Mr. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:09 P.M. Mr. Aronowitz seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2015 – 10:00 AM - 2nd Floor, Teleconference - Deputy Secretary's Office, Hartford, CT.