

**Connecticut State Board of Accountancy
Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John H. Schuyler, CPA, at 10:00 A.M. in Hearing Room J, at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Board Members Present:	John H. Schuyler, Chairman	Certified Public Accountant
	Marcia L. Marien	Certified Public Accountant
	Peter J. Niedermeyer	Certified Public Accountant
	Timothy F. Egan	Certified Public Accountant
	Dannell R. Lyne	Certified Public Accountant
	Mark Aronowitz	Public Member
	Karla H. Fox, Esq.	Public Member

Board Members Absent:	Martha S. Triplett, Esq.	Public Member
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Board Vacancies:	Public Member
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DCP Staff Present:	Frank Virnelli, Manager	Michelle Seagull, Commissioner
	Robin Washbond	

Public Present:	Bradley Kronstat, President, CT Society of CPAs
	Robert Boudreau, Past President, CT Society of CPAs
	Bonnie Stewart, Executive Director, CT Society of CPAs

Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103
Richard M. Hurlburt, Director: dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov for minutes and agenda items
Agency Web site: www.ct.gov/dcp
Licensing/Certification: dcp.licenseservices@ct.gov
Enforcement issues: dcp.accounting@ct.gov

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2017 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Egan. All remaining board members voted in favor.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY

None

OLD BUSINESS

Regulations Update

Mr. Virnelli reported that the latest draft copy of the updated regulations have been distributed to the board members for their review, comments and suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

2017 NASBA Eastern Regional Meeting

Mr. Virnelli reported on NASBA's Eastern Regional Meeting held in Newport, Rhode Island on June 27-29, 2017 and provided a detailed overview of the information presented at the conference. Among the topics discussed were accreditation of schools, CPE mobility, Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations (NOCLAR), peer review, data analytics and UAA issues: CPE, nano-learning and management titles. Mr. Virnelli also included highlights from the Regional Breakout Session for the New England region where mutual issues were discussed.

Robert Boudreau, President, CT Society of CPAs, remarked on the panel discussion on anti-regulation and noted that California is #1 for licensed professions and Connecticut is #2.

Use of Titles

Chairman Schuyler stated that NASBA has requested that state boards submit comment letters regarding the proposed new UAA language and concept by September 30, 2017. Mr. Virnelli will draft the language for the comment letter for discussion at the next meeting.

Nano-Learning Policy

Mr. Egan made a motion to accept the presented language as policy of the Board pending DCP Legal's determination as to whether this is allowed under the current regulations. Ms. Marien seconded the motion. Ms. Fox abstained. The remaining board members voted in favor.

'In calculating contact hours for continuing professional education under the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §20-280-26(f), the Department of Consumer Protection will accept a contact hour for a recognized program that consists of bundled segments of at least 10 minutes each that combined equal a 50-minute contact hour, and include at least one learning objective. Each separate segment may be a different subject.

In order to comply with this policy, CPAs must:

- *Correctly answer at least two questions for each individual segment to earn credit; and*
- *Report enough such segments together to equal a single contact hour:*
 - *No partial hour shall be reported;*
 - *No fraction of an hour shall be reported.*

Each provider of each segment, and each licensee, must comply with all current regulations for continuing professional education programs.'

Peer Review Update

Chairman Schuyler reported on the last meeting of NASBA's Compliance Assurance Committee regarding peer review. The feeling was that the proposed changes to peer review are not ready for prime time because of the hiring of a CPA, and concerns of putting small consortiums out of business. However, some small ones have hired a CPA and had positive results. Benchmarks are also a concern. They need to be more specific, but there are none now. A group is working on them. NASBA is looking for oversight by boards of accountancy. The question is, how much oversight? There is also question of cost. Who pays and how much? Also, boards would be intruding into a self-regulating function. There would also be a cost to the societies. And if NASBA oversees peer review, there will be a cost. If there is state oversight and CPAs could lose their license, as opposed to it being self-regulated now, then that opens up additional questions.

Robert Boudreau, President, CT Society of CPAs, said there was a session at the NASBA Eastern Regional Conference. That session was headed by a representative from the AICPA and one from NASBA. They spoke at length about the full-time CPA requirement. They did say the committee was entertaining allowing exceptions. A concern is if the administering entity of a state isn't the AE any more, what is the state board's ability to oversee the process? They are looking at a regional or national peer review oversight committee. There is also a concern regarding familiarity when peer reviews are done. The concern being the reviewer knows the firm being reviewed, and the firm's good reputation, and doesn't look as hard as necessary.

Chairman Schuyler said that there are so many moving parts. He thinks it will be a long time before the new requirements are applied.

CPE EXTENSION REQUESTS

Michael Blount

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve an extension to August 31, 2017.
Mr. Lyne seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Bernhard F. Bruder

Ms. Marien made a motion to approve an extension to December 31, 2017.
Ms. Fox seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Marianne F. Daigle

Mr. Egan made a motion to approve an extension to September 30, 2017.
Mr. Aronowitz seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Sean M. Donovan

Ms. Marien made a motion to approve an extension to August 31, 2017.
Mr. Lyne seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Douglas H. Greene

Ms. Marien made a motion to approve an extension to July 31, 2017.
Mr. Aronowitz seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Frederick J. Kaplan

Ms. Marien made a motion to approve an extension to September 30, 2017.
Mr. Egan seconded the motion. Mr. Niedermeyer recused. All remaining board members voted in favor.

David K. Loomis – Seeking waiver

Mr. Lyne made a motion to deny the request for a waiver. Mr. Niedermeyer seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Gerald J. Zukauckas

Ms. Marien made a motion to deny the request for an extension. Mr. Aronowitz seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY

None

ADJOURN

Ms. Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Mr. Aronowitz seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., in Hearing Room J, 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford.