

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
S. C. Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation
Board of Accountancy
Thursday, April 27, 2023 10:00 a.m.

NOTE: These minutes are a record of the motions and official actions taken by the Board and a brief summary of the meeting.

1. Call to Order

Jada McAbee, CPA, Chair, was present and called the meeting of the South Carolina Board of Accountancy to order on April 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present. Other Board members present were: Chris Huggins, CPA, Vice Chair, Walda Wildman, CPA, Jan Pierce, CPA, Jayne Maas, CPA, Lora Prevatte, CPA, Chip Summers, CPA, and Bob Wood, Public Member. Deltrease Hart-Anderson, AP, arrived during the public comment item. LLR staff members participating in the meeting included: Susanna Sharpe, CPA, Board Administrator, Chelsea Buchanan, Program Coordinator, Joseph Epting, Advice Counsel, Donnell Jennings from the Office of Investigations and Enforcement, Jamie Keller, CPA, Investigator, and Erin Baldwin from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. Also present was Chris Jenkins from SCACPA.

2. Consent Agenda

A. Consideration of Excuses for Absences of Board Members

Chris Huggins made a motion to excuse the absences of Deltrease Hart-Anderson, Ken Whitener, and Charles Brooks. Chip Summers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Motion

Chris Huggins made a motion to approve the agenda. Chip Summers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Chair's Remarks (Jada McAbee)

Jada McAbee welcomed the Board members and thanked everyone for their attendance. She also requested that members refrain from using cell phones during the meeting as it may give the appearance that Board discussion is being influenced by outside parties.

4. Office of Investigation & Enforcement

A. Office of Investigation & Enforcement Report

Donnell Jennings briefed the Board on the OIE report. 35 complaints have been received from January 1, 2023-April 25, 2023. There are 20 active investigations. Two cases are pending further investigation by another agency and two cases are pending IRC.

B. Requests for Extension of Time to Complete Investigation

An extension of time to complete investigation is being requested for thirteen cases.

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion to approve the extensions until the next Board meeting as requested. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Cases approved for extension are 2020-42, 2021-20, 2021-31, 2022-17, 2022-29, and 2022-31, 2022-39, 2022-40, 2022-42, 2022-45, 2022-47, 2022-48, and 2022-49.

5. Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Erin Baldwin presented the ODC report for information. There are seven open cases, two cases pending hearing or agreement, and three cases have been closed since the last report on January 20, 2023.

6. Administrator's Report (Susanna Sharpe)

-a licensee update was included in the board package and now includes the new 'retired' category as well as the number of Emeritus licensees.

There are 6,202 active CPA's, 40 Retired CPA's, and 270 Emeritus CPA's. There are 50 active AP's and 3 Emeritus AP's. There is 1 active PA and 1 Emeritus PA.

-the first quarter newsletter was included in the board package

-financials for December through March were included in board package

-the new licensee Oath Ceremony is May 25 in North Charleston and any Board member who is available to attend is encouraged to do so

-staff is working on implementation of the NASBA CPE Audit service

-only those FAQ's which need no changes are currently posted to the Board site and staff will be working on a thorough overhaul of FAQ's to be sure that the finished product includes FAQ's that are relevant and accurate.

-Administrator Susanna Sharpe spoke briefly about the NASBA conference in February

-the deadline to apply for NASBA committees is coming up and Board members are encouraged to apply

-NASBA has released their recommendation to amend the UAA to allow 30 months to pass the exam instead of the current 18 month window

7. Application Hearings

A. Brandon Caddell

The application to sit for the CPA exam included credit earned from Straighterline, which is not an accredited college or university but the credit was transferred into a properly accredited school. Prior Board

guidance specifically prohibited credit from Straighterline as well as any credit earned from an unaccredited institution.

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion to approve the application to sit for the CPA exam. Jayne Maas seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. Abigail Caddell

The application to sit for the CPA exam included credit earned from Straighterline and Sophia Learning, which are not accredited colleges or universities but the credit was transferred into a properly accredited school. Prior Board guidance specifically prohibited credit from Straighterline as well as any credit earned from an unaccredited institution.

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion to approve the application to sit for the CPA exam. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion that the Board instruct staff to, in accordance with section 20-2-35(D), accept transcripts from properly accredited higher education institutions regardless of the original source of transfer credits. Jayne Maas seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. Old Business

A. 2021 CPE Report Submission Compliance Update

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion to authorize staff to begin the disciplinary process for licensees who have failed to submit a CPE report for 2021 and to bring those who still do not submit a report to the Board for hearing. Bob Wood seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. New Business

A. NASBA CPT Remedial Ethics Course

This item was tabled until a later meeting.

B. SCACPA Proposed Statute Changes

A draft of proposed statute changes was included in the Board package. There was discussion about some areas of concern that could lead to a higher volume of application hearings during Board meetings. Some areas of concern include new language in the education requirements that could be overly broad, the addition of the phrase “at least” to the length of the exam window, and the change in the language of the experience

requirement from “direct knowledge” to “personal knowledge.” The removal of the requirement that reciprocal applicants show 80 CPE hours in the previous two years in order to qualify for licensure was also noted as a concern. Chris Jenkins from SCACPA was present to hear feedback and mentioned that they are awaiting feedback on the draft from other organizations and will bring that feedback along with updated drafts to the Board.

10. Public Comment

Former Board Administrator Doris Cubitt spoke briefly on the topic of the experience requirement and the responsibility of the CPA signing the experience verification. She also noted that although there are states that have multiple pathways to licensure, those alternative pathways are rarely used.

Chris Jenkins of SCACPA also spoke, thanking the Board for their feedback and participation. He mentioned the upcoming Spring Splash event on May 25, which will also include the new licensee Oath Ceremony. SCACPA will also be hosting the Professional Issues Update events again this year.

11. Adjournment

Motion

With no further business to be discussed at this time, Walda Wildman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 p.m. on April 27, 2023. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.