SC BOARD NEWS



AN E-Newsletter from the South Carolina Board of Accountancy

3rd Quarter 2019 Edition



Mailing Address: South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Board of Accountancy

PO Box 11329 Columbia, SC 29211-1329

Physical Address: South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Board of Accountancy 110 Centerview Dr. Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: (803) 896-4770

Fax: (803) 896-4554

E-mail: Contact.Accountancy@llr.sc.gov

Website:

http://IIr.sc.gov/POL/Accountancy/

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NEW EMAIL VALIDATION PROCESS

At the beginning of September, the Board of Accountancy sent out an e-blast requesting that licensees and resident managers of firms verify their email address. This is a new process, which will ensure that you continue to receive updates from the Board and verify that you have a working email on file for when we enter renewal season (in the event you need to do a password reset etc.). This process, being put into place across the Agency, which will allow all Boards to send out renewal notices electronically, which will be more efficient and will save paper and postage.

By verifying your email, you will confirm that we have a valid e-mail address in our system. If you are the resident manager of your firm, you will receive separate verification emails for your individual license and your firm registration.

An example of the format of the email that was sent out is included below.



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

TEST ACCOUNTANCY

PA.0006 A

The renewal period for your license is about to begin, and in order to streamline the process, your email address needs to be validated.

LLR's Online Services allows licensee to electronically perform tasks such as renewals, request license verifications, and retrieve user IDs and passwords. Validating your email address will ensure communication from your board is delivered to you in a timely manner. If your email address changes, be sure to notify your board of the change.

Please click the link below. This will send LLR validation that your email address is up to date. LLR will not ask you for passwords or for any personal information.

https://eservice.llr.sc.gov/RenewalEmailValidation/Home/Validate/242c1fd749d51d6c5d25cd9ab8fe079a

If you want to learn more about why we complete email validation, visit <u>http://llr.sc.gov</u> and click on the Email Validation Information button.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your board.

Additional information on the email validation process can be found on the Board's website at: <u>https://llr.sc.gov/validation.aspx</u>.

FALL 2018 NEW CPA OATH CEREMONY



The Fall 2018 Oath Ceremony was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at the Darla Moore School of Business. New licensees who participated in the Oath Ceremony, in alphabetical order, are: Matthew Aguilar, William Covar, Tatiana Fennell, Danielle Guidotti, Oxana Hendrix, Miles Klickman, Christopher Leventis, Angela, McBey, Thomas McKeever, Mary Morris, Dustin Scott, and Ting Sun.

RECENTLY LICENSED CPAS - OCTOBER 2018 TO MARCH 2019



SIMPSONVILLE, SC CHICAGO, IL GREENVILLE, SC GREENVILLE, SC MT PLEASANT. SC MYRTLE BEACH, SC GREENVILLE, SC SEWICKLEY, PA GREER, SC MAULDIN, SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC LADSON, SC COLUMBIA, SC WILLIAMSTON, SC CHARLOTTE, NC GREER SC COLUMBIA, SC ROCK HILL, SC FLEMINGTON, NJ DURHAM, NC BLUFFTON, SC HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC COLUMBIA, SC GREENVILLE, SC CHARLESTON, SC SAVANNAH, GA CHARLESTON, SC MOUNT PLEASANT. SC GREENVILLE, SC BOILING SPRINGS, SC CHARLESTON, SC BLUFFTON, SC GREENVILLE, SC COLUMBIA, SC SPARTANBURG, SC CLOVER, SC GREENVILLE, SC CHARLESTON, SC BETHPAGE, NY TAYLORS, SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC ROCK HILL, SC GREENVILLE, SC OOLTEWAH, TN NORTH CHARLESTON, SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC CHAGRIN FALLS, OH MYRTLE BEACH, SC AIKEN, SC CHARLOTTE, NC COLUMBIA, SC BLUEFIELD, VA GREENVILLE, SC ANDERSON, SC CHARLESTON, SC MYRTLE BEACH, SC SUMMERVILLE, SC COLUMBIA, SC PAWLEYS ISLAND, SC GREENVILLE, SC GREENVILLE, SC COLUMBIA, SC GREENVILLE. SC COLUMBIA, SC FORT MILL, SC GREENVILLE, SC

NIKOLETTE KIM JOHN KIRKLAND BRIANNA KNAPP CHRISTOPHER KWIECINSK OLGA LARIONOVA JEREMY LAWRENCE MATTHEW LEDBETTER VIRGINIA LEE CAROLINE LINDLER ASHLEY LINDNER ROBERT LONG HALEY LUNDQUIST LAUREN MATHIS CHASE MCCALLISTER APRIL MCMAHON JOHN MERRITT DANIEL MILLER FRANCES MOATES JAMI MORRIS **A'LEXIS MORRIS** TIFFINY MURPHY CHRISTINE O'CONNOR CAROLINA OLANO TINA PADGETT VALERIE PARADISO JOHN PFEIFER MARK PLUMLEE MICHELE PRATT JAMES PRATT HEATHER PURVIS ANGELA QUEEN JACOB REEVES MICHAEL REIMCHE ALLIE RICHARDSON ALEX RICHEY CAROLINE RIDGEWAY SINEAD ROSS CAROL RUSHFORD MEGAN RUSHFORD LESLIE RUSSELL MAYA SALAMON MELANIE SCHNIEDER JULIA SCHROECK FORREST SHORT **BRIAN SHULER** LINDSEY SOLOMON **ELLEN STEMPLER** RANDALL STEWART LEIGHA SUENAGA MARY SWEENEY MICHAEL SWOYER ADAM TAYLOR ASHLEY TAYLOR ZACHARY TAYLOR MADDISON TICE **KYLE TOWLES** SARA TURNER BRADFORD TYSON KATELYN WAMSLEY CHELSEA WESSINGER SANDRA WHEELER SARAH WIECZOREK THOMAS WILLIAMS WESTLEY WILSON ALEXANDER WOOD **KIERSTEN WORTHY** AVERY ZIEGLER MATTHEW ZRUST

EASLEY, SC ATLANTA, GA SIMPSONVILLE, SC N. MYRTLE BEACH, SC MYRTLE BEACH SC GREENVILLE, SC CENTRAL, SC COLUMBIA, SC CHAPIN, SC SIMPSONVILLE, SC CHARLESTON, SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC SIMPSONVILLE, SC SIMPSONVILLE, SC SOUDERTON, PA WEST COLUMBIA, SC GREENVILLE, SC GREENVILLE, SC COLUMBIA, SC LEXINGTON, SC MAULDIN, SC COLUMBUS, NC COLUMBIA, SC HOPKINS, SC IRMO, SC GREENVILLE, SC BLUFFTON, SC MYRTLE BEACH. SC MYRTLE BEACH, SC EASLEY, SC ROCK HILL, SC GREENVILLE, SC GREENVILLE, SC JOHNS ISLAND, SC ANDERSON, SC GREENVILLE, SC GREENVILLE, SC MORGANTOWN, WV MORGANTOWN, WV KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC GREENVILLE, SC GENSINGEN, NA CHARLESTON, SC SPARTANBURG, SC NORTH AUGUSTA, SC GASTON, SC FORT MILL, SC GREENVILLE, SC CHARLESTON, SC GREENVILLE, SC GREENVILLE, SC GREER, SC ROCK HILL , SC SAN DIEGO, CA ROCK HILL, SC COLUMBIA, SC COLUMBIA, SC CHARLESTON, SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC COLUMBIA, SC FORT MILL, SC CHARLOTTE, NC COLUMBIA, SC GREER, SC CHARLESTON, SC MOORE, SC AIKEN, ŚC COLUMBIA, SC

SPRING 2019 NEW CPA OATH CEREMONY



COLUMBIA, SC

The Spring 2019 Oath Ceremony was held on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at the Darla Moore School of Business. New licensees who participated in the Oath Ceremony, in alphabetical order are: Jigneshkumar Acharya, Lauren Ayers, Abbie Bernard, Kiamesha Caughman, Jason Dubois, John Gilreath, Sterling Hailey, Jessica Kaczor, Stella Kim, Olga Larionova, John Merritt, Tiffiny Murphy, Michael Reimche, Randall Stewart, Katelyn Wamsley, and Chelsea Wessinger.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Ellen K. Adkins, CPA Gale K. Bell, Accounting Practitioner Mark S. Crocker, CPA K. Todd Dailey, CPA, Chairman Tanya G. Greenlee, CPA Brian Johnson, CPA, Secretary David C. Nichols, Accounting Practitioner Michael R. Putich, CPA, Vice Chairman Robert P. Wood, Esquire

BOARD STAFF:

Susanna Sharpe, CPA Administrator Susanna.Sharpe@llr.sc.gov

Chelsea Buchanan Program Coordinator Chelsea.Buchanan@llr.sc.gov

Courtney Wise Program Assistant Courtney.Wise@Ilr.sc.gov

Micah Hurtt Administrative Assistant Micah.Hurtt@llr.sc.gov

Courtney Crosby, CPA Investigator Courtney.Crosby@llr.sc.gov

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

You must notify the Board if there are any changes in your address or contact information. If you have moved, changed your address, phone number, email address, or changed employers, you can update your information online by visiting: https://eservice.llr.sc.gov/SSO/.

- Individuals changing their name will need to include a copy of the legal document changing it.
- Resident Managers have the responsibility to inform the Board of any changes regarding their firms' information within 30 days of the action.

RECENTLY LICENSED CPAS - APRIL 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 2019



GREER, SC GREENVILLE, SC CAMAS WA GREENVILLE. SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC WATERLOO, SC MYRTLE BEACH, SC SUMMERFIELD, NC SIMPSONVILLE, SC CASSVILLE, MO TRAVELERS REST, SC CHARLESTON, SC FORT MILL, SC GREENVILLE. SC MT. PLEASANT. SC GREENVILLE, SC HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC GREENVILLE, SC CHARLESTON, SC GREENVILLE, SC MARIETTA, SC SURFSIDE BEACH, SC FLORENCE, SC FORT MILL SC SUMMERVILLE. SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC GREENVILLE, SC HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC SPARTANBURG, SC EASLEY, SC FLORENCE, SC CHARLESTON, SC FLORENCE, SC LYMAN, SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC FORT MILL. SC MYRTLE BEACH. SC TAYLORS, SC FORT MILL, SC SALEM, SC SIMPSONVILLE, SC LEXINGTON, SC FORT MILL, SC CHARLESTON, SC CHARLESTON, SC SUMMERVILLE, SC GREENVILLE. SC GREENVILLE SC MYRTLE BEACH, SC SPARTANBURG, SC MYRTLE BEACH, SC GREENVILLE, SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC TAYLORS, SC BLUFFTON, SC

JENNIFER LOHR LAUREN MACDONALD CLARA MAGUIRE JENNIFER MARSHALL **GREGORY MARTIN** JACQUELINE MCARDLE AMBER MCELDUFF STEVEN MCGRATH WILTON MCKOWN NANAK MEHTA JEREMY MIGLIARA LINDA MILLER TIFFANY MILLER CHRISTOPHER MILLS MARY MOBLEY KYLE MORRIS COREY MUNDEN SYED NAQVI MARTHA NAYFA BRYAN NELMS GARY NELSON HAJAR NEWSOME ZACHARY NOTTAGE LAURA O'BRIEN CHAD PACK SACHIN PARAJULI JOHN PAYNE EMILY POOLE YULIYA RABON ASHLEY RAMSEY ABIGAIL REETZ BROOKE REGENSBURG ALLISON RITCHIE MARIA ROBBINS HALEY ROBERTSON GREG ROBISON ANASTASIA RODRIGUEZ YVONNE SALYER KARL SCHROEDEL SCOTT SEELIG DANIEL SHAMBLIN MIKAYLA SPURLOCK JEREMIAH SUMMERS **KEVIN TAYLOR GREGORY TOOHEY** LEONARD TRESTER TIJANA UZELAC PEARCE VOGLER JACQUELINE WALLACE JOSEPH WELCH AUBREN WHATLEY JOHN WHEELER DANIELLE WILCOX KELLY WUEBBEN KEVIN YANCAR KIMBERLY YOUNG

FORT MILL, SC GREENVILLE, SC CLEMSON SC LEXINGTON, SC GREER, SC CHARLESTON, SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC WASHINGTON, DC TAYLORS, SC FORT MILL, SC SIMPSONVILLE, SC LONGS, SC EASLEY, SC GRENVILLE, SC SIMPSONVILLE. SC PIEDMONT, SC SIMPSONVILLE, SC SPARTANBURG, SC SPARTANBURG, SC NORTH CHARLESTON, SC TAMPA, FL MYRTLE BEACH, SC MASON, OH CHARLESTON, SC MT PLEASANT, SC FORT MILL , SC GREENVILLE, SC SIMPSONVILLE, SC FORT MILL, SC IRMO, SC LYMAN, SC GREENVILLE, SC PIEDMONT, SC CHARLESTON, SC GREENVILLE, SC GREENVILLE SC COLUMBIA, SC GREENVILLE, SC HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC TAYLORS, SC GREENVILLE, SC COLUMBIA, SC GREENVILLE, SC GULFPORT, MS MYRTLE BEACH, SC BLUFFTON, SC CHARLOTTE, NC MT PLEASANT SC LEXINGTON, SC MOUNT PLEASANT, SC LADSON, SC JOHNS ISLAND, SC SIMPSONVILLE, SC GREER, SC GREER, SC GREER, SC

NEW CPA OATH CEREMONY

RONKONKOMA, NY

The next Oath Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 6:00 pm in the W. W. Hootie Johnson Hall (Room 101) at the Darla Moore School of Business, which is located at 1014 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29208. All new licensees are encouraged to attend the Oath Ceremony. New licensees who choose not to attend the Oath Ceremony will receive their wall certificates by mail approximately 30 days after the Ceremony.

NEW WEBSITE AND LOGO

On July 1, 2019, the Agency launched its redesigned website, which includes a new logo. The new website has a more intuitive design, which is intended to be more user friendly and make it easier for licensees, applicants, and the public to find the information they need. If you bookmarked the old website address, please be sure to update your bookmark to the new website address,: <u>https://llr.sc.gov/acct/</u>.



DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Information regarding complaints and ongoing investigations is confidential, however, you can access and search all public Board orders at: <u>http://www.llr.sc.gov/POL/Accountancy/index.</u> asp?file=finalorders.htm



The South Carolina Board of Accountancy elected new officers at its June 26, 2019, meeting. K. Todd Dailey, CPA, was elected Chairman, Michael R. Putich, CPA, was elected Vice Chairman, and Brian Johnson, CPA, was elected Secretary.

2019 Legislative Update: Board of Accountancy

The following bill was enacted by the General Assembly during the 2019 legislative session and may impact the Board of Accountancy and/or the Board of Accountancy licensees:

Accountancy practice updates, H.3785/A.68

The Act revises several provisions of the Accountancy Practice Act, including open and closed meetings and hearings, protection of confidential information, exam administration, continuing education for non-CPA firm owners, reciprocal licensure and financial statement disclaimers for APs and AP firms.

Effective Date: May 16, 2019

Disclaimer: This legislative update is not intended as legal advice. LLR is providing this legislative update to notify licensees of recently enacted legislation that may impact his or her practice area or license. This legislative update provides only a highlevel overview of enacted legislation and licensees are urged to review the entire enacted legislation, which is available in the hyperlinks above.

TOTAL LICENSEES AND REGISTRATIONS AS OF 9/19/2019

TYPE OF LICENSE/	
REGISTRATION	ACTIVE
Accounting Firm In State	1,353
Accounting Firm Out of State	368
Accounting Practitioner	69
Certified Public Accountant	6,111
Public Accountant	5
Total Licensees/Registrations	7,906



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TESTING MONTH

Nov. 28-29 Thanksgiving Holidays - CLOSED

Dec. 24-26 Christmas Holidays - CLOSED

Unless otherwise noted, all Board meetings

start at 10 a.m. Requests to appear before the Board, together with all related documentation,

must be in writing and submitted at least ten

Veterans Day - CLOSED **New CPA Oath Ceremony**

November 2019

December 2019

Dec. 1-10 TESTING OPEN

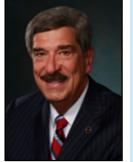
Dec. 11-31 TESTING CLOSED

Nov. 11

Nov. 13

NASBA PRESIDENT'S MEMO: IT WAS ONLY CPE

At the 2019 NASBA Regional Meetings, Chair Janice Gray and I spoke about the importance of ethics and, specifically, the importance of NASBA's ethics arm, the Center for the Public Trust (CPT). Ethics is the cornerstone of the U.S. CPA profession, so it is appropriate that NASBA invests in the recognition of ethics and provides ethics training and certification to students, business professionals and Certified Public Accountants. CPT has also recognized leaders in the profession, business and industry who have exhibited strong ethical behavior. Regrettably, this Memo is not about that, but about the occasional failures that tarnish the image of the profession.



Ken L. Bishop President & CEO

Nearly 20 years ago, after I retired from my first career in law enforcement and had just become the Executive Director of the Missouri State Board of Accountancy, I saw my first instance of disappointing behavior. For context, my duties as an Assistant Director of

(10) business days before the meeting. Written requests are to be sent to SC Board of Accountancy, PO Box 11329, Columbia, SC 29211-1329.

the Missouri Department of Public Safety included oversight of our law-enforcement academies and compliance, including professional education and training. In many ways, the rules and regulations for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) were similar to what I found when I began regulating CPAs.

While trying to learn the ropes of my new State Board position, I decided to visit a CPE course that was being delivered in St. Louis. As I was new to the job, no one had any idea who the guy standing at the back of the room was. While observing the sign-in process at a table set up in the back of the classroom, I watched a young lady approach the table and sign in. I noticed that she appeared to sign in multiple times, so when she sat down, I went over to the sign-in sheet and saw that she had signed several different names in slightly different handwriting. Being an old cop and somewhat suspicious by nature. I continued to observe.

At the end of what I thought was a very well-done course, I watched the same young lady dutifully sign out - five times. My curiosity was peaked, so I approached and asked her about the multiple sign-ins. After enduring the "who are you" and "what is the Board of Accountancy" guestions, it became apparent that she knew things were not good. She explained that she was told to sign in for several partners. I asked her to please introduce me to them as I would like to see how they enjoyed the course. After a brief hesitation, she replied that the partners were not present. I began to understand that, just as with some experienced police officers, some experienced CPAs sometimes do bad things.

If you are curious as to how the matter ended, I had the young lady tell the less than diligent CPE table staff that she needed to remove the errant names. I then advised her to call her boss (one of the forged names and the managing partner of a sizeable firm) and tell him I would like to stop by and visit. She timidly replied that she was told that I would have to make an appointment. I responded, "Never mind: I will just have him to Jefferson City [Missouri's capital]." Amazingly his calendar suddenly opened up and we had the opportunity to have a serious discussion. In cop terms, I ended up giving him and his fellow conspirators a "warning" based on their promise it would never happen again. I later got to know several of these gentlemen during my years at the Missouri Board and never saw another instance of misconduct, but I never forgot their troublesome, and frankly dumb, behavior.

At the Regional Meetings there was some discussion about a big firm being fined \$50,000,000 because of cheating on CPE, or as one attendee remarked "about \$20,000 per partner." I heard a range of feedback, some of which was disappointing. One State Board member, with nexus to the impacted firm, made the comment, "It was only CPE." I thought back to my reaction to hearing a similar excuse 20 years ago. It may "only" be CPE, but it is cheating, pure and simple, and it's a culpable violation of law.

NASBA's members, the U.S. State Boards of Accountancy, have a tremendous responsibility in protecting the public. Regrettably, most Board members will see multiple instances of failed ethical behavior of various degrees during their terms. CPE violations, although arguably less serious than cases of fraud and malpractice, may be indicative of more systemic problematic cultures that may exist. According to the SEC's settled order in the recent case, the cheating activity was extensive. The SEC concluded: "A number of lead audit engagement partners not only sent exam answers to other partners, but also solicited answers from and sent answers to their subordinates."

I often have the opportunity to speak to newly certified CPAs. In my recent remarks to such an audience in New Hampshire, I advised the students of the importance of ethics and the reality that in their careers they will see ethical failures, and they may be asked to join in with that behavior. My advice to them, "Don't do it the first time as it is a slippery slope." Imagine the impact on the careers of the subordinates of the firm being fed answers to CPE tests (ironically in ethics training mandated by the SEC) by senior partners who they may well consider to be mentors.

CPAs have a reputation for integrity and trust. By far, the majority of them do the right things, but we, and the State Boards, exist for a reason. Not only do we protect the public, but we also protect the important public trust in this great profession.

Semper ad meliora (Always toward better things).

 Ken L. Bishop NASBA President & CEO