

Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy
Minutes of Board Meeting
January 17, 2020

1. Date, Place and Attendance of Meeting:

A regular meeting of the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy was held on Thursday, January 17, 2020, at the Troy University, Troy, Alabama at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Steven M. Barranco, CPA
J. Earl Blackmon, CPA
Dr. Steve Grice, CPA
Mr. Michael Kintz, CPA
Mr. Delbert Madison
Ms. Connie Sheppard-Harris, CPA

Mr. Wim Schaffers, CPA was absent.

A lawful quorum of the Board was present for the meeting.

Also present were D. Boyd Busby, Executive Director; Billington M. Garrett, Assistant Attorney General; Amy Thompson, Senior Accountant; Teresa Taylor, Enforcement Coordinator; Anna Baker, Exam Coordinator; and Nicole Robinson, CPE Administrator.

Sufficient prior notice of the meeting had been given as required by the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

2. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Steve Barranco, CPA, Chair.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Dr. Grice made a motion to approve the agenda as presented for the January 17, 2020 meeting. Mr. Madison seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Madison made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2019 meeting. Dr. Grice seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Kintz, Madison, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

5. Disciplinary Cases:

a. Disciplinary Case No. 19PR-3a – Charles Robert Coats, CPA 988:

Ms. Kathy Brown, Esq., Governmental Hearing Officer served as hearing officer and presided over the proceedings for Mr. Charles Robert Coats, CPA. Mr. Coats did not attend, but he did submit a request for a continuance of his hearing that Mr. Busby presented to the Board and Ms. Brown. Mr. Busby discussed Mr. Coats' history of being late on peer review with the Board. The Board considered Mr. Coats' request and agreed that he should be granted a continuance in this instance; however, the Board requested that he not be granted any more extensions for any reason in the future. Ms. Kathy Brown granted Mr. Coats' request for continuance until the May meeting of the Board. The transcript of the proceedings are attached and become a part of these minutes.

b. Disciplinary Case No. 19PR-4a – James Emory Greene, CPA 6224:

Ms. Kathy Brown, Esq., Governmental Hearing Officer served as hearing officer and presided over the proceedings for Mr. James Emory Greene, CPA. Mr. Greene did not attend, but he did submit a request for a continuance of his hearing that Mr. Busby presented to the Board and Ms. Brown. Mr. Busby discussed Mr. Greene's history of being late on peer review with the Board. The Board considered Mr. Greene's request and agreed that he should be granted a continuance in this instance; however, the Board requested that he not be granted any more extensions for any reason in the future. Ms. Kathy Brown granted Mr. Greene's request for continuance until the May meeting of the Board. The transcript of the proceedings are attached and become a part of these minutes.

c. Disciplinary Case No. 19PR-5a – James Daniel Richardson, CPA 9657:

Ms. Kathy Brown, Esq., Governmental Hearing Officer served as hearing officer and presided over the proceedings for Mr. James Daniel Richardson, CPA. Mr. Richardson attended and submitted a request for a continuance of his hearing to the Board and Ms. Brown. Mr. Busby discussed Mr. Richardson's history of being late on peer review with the Board. The Board considered Mr. Richardson's request and agreed that he should be granted a continuance in this instance; however, the Board requested that he not be granted any more extensions for any reason in the future. Ms. Kathy Brown granted Mr. Richardson's request for continuance until the May meeting of the Board. The transcript of the proceedings are attached and become a part of these minutes.

6. Requests for Reinstatement:

a. Randell G Nichols, CPA Certificate No. 3763:

Mr. Busby presented a letter from Randell G Nichols, CPA Certificate No. 3763, requesting reinstatement to active status. His reinstatement request included all of the completed forms and fees that the Board had decided at their March 21, 1997 meeting would be necessary to gain favorable consideration for reinstatement. Mr. Nichols attended the hearing and represented himself. Mr. Nichols' written request also included the required assertion on felonies, evidence of completion of the NASBA CPT Ethics Training Course, a completed 2019-2020 personal

registration form with the accompanying CPE certificates, and payment in the amount of \$5,200. The payment comprised the reinstatement fee of \$100; the \$5,000 administrative fine levied in the Board's Order; and the \$100 personal registration fee for the fiscal year 2019-2020. After discussion, Dr. Grice made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the general reputation and character of Mr. Nichols. Ms. Sheppard-Harris seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Kintz, Madison, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris. Qualified Board members excused themselves at 10:57 a.m. to deliberate with an estimated time of 10 minutes needed to discuss the matter. The Board then deliberated in Executive Session. After deliberation, at 11:05 a.m., Mr. Barranco called the meeting back to order and called for a motion in the matter. Dr. Grice made a motion to reinstate Mr. Nichols' CPA Certificate No. 3763 to active status with the condition that he have a pre-issuance review of the first compilation report he issues. Ms. Sheppard-Harris seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Kintz, Madison, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

b. Timothy Allen McKenzie, CPA Certificate No. 8073:

Mr. Busby presented a letter from Timothy Allen McKenzie, CPA Certificate No. 8073, requesting reinstatement to active status. His reinstatement request included all of the completed forms and fees that the Board had decided at their March 21, 1997 meeting would be necessary to gain favorable consideration for reinstatement. Mr. McKenzie did not attend the hearing and it was conducted in his absence. Mr. McKenzie's written request also included the required assertion on felonies, a completed 2019-2020 personal registration form with the accompanying CPE certificates, and payment in the amount of \$1,200. The payment comprised the reinstatement fee of \$100; the \$1,000 administrative fine levied in the Board's Order; and the \$100 personal registration fee for the fiscal year 2019-2020. After discussion, Dr. Grice made a motion to reinstate Mr. McKenzie's CPA Certificate No. 3763 to active status. Mr. Madison seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Kintz, Madison, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

7. Executive Director's Update & Report on Activities:

(a) Examiners of Public Accounts – Legal Review

Mr. Busby informed the Board that the legal audit has been completed and there do not appear to be any findings. The official report will be released at a later date.

(b) Sunset Bill

Mr. Busby informed the Board that the Board's Sunset bill will be presented to the Senate on the 10th Legislative Day. There were no findings in the Sunset Report and currently we know of no issues that would hinder the approval of the Sunset bill.

(c) Site Visits, Non-Licensee Issues, etc.

Mr. Busby presented the Board with a list of site visits and other non-licensee issues.

(d) Update on Current Year Renewals

Mr. Busby updated the Board on current year renewals.

8. Review of CPE Cases:

The Board was presented with a historical look at CPE Audit fails and disciplinary action taken. The Board discussed changes that should be made to the audit process for failed audits.

9. Potential Practice/Rule Changes for Discussion:

The Board was presented with possible rule changes. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

10. Approval of October-November-December 2019 CPA Examination Grades:

The Board was presented with the AICPA Advisory Grades for the October - December 2019 Uniform CPA Examination. After review, Dr. Grice made a motion to approve the grades as released to candidates. Mr. Madison seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Kintz, Madison, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

11. Approval of July – September 2019 CPA Certificates:

Dr. Grice made a motion to approve new CPA Certificates No. 13955 through 13991. Mr. Blackmon seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Kintz, Madison, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

12. Alabama CPA Examination Statistics:

A statistical summary of the Alabama CPA Examination was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

13. Peer Review Delinquencies Update December 31, 2018:

A statistical summary of Delinquent Peer Reviews as of December 31, 2018 was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

14. Complaints Update:

A complaints summary for FY 2009-2010 through 2019-2020 was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

15. Licensee Count:

A statistical summary of the number of Board licensees by category was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

16. Other Business:

(a) Recap from Educator's Group Meeting on CPA Evolution:

Dr. Grice updated the Board on discussions from the Educator's Group Meeting on CPA Evolution. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

17. Adjournment of Meeting:

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, May 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Board office in Montgomery, AL. There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Blackmon made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Grice seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Delbert Madison
Secretary

Approved:



Steven M. Barranco, CPA
Chair