

**Connecticut State Board of Accountancy
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 – 10:00 A.M.

Teleconference – 2nd Floor, Deputy Secretary's Office
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, Deputy Secretary's Office, 30 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John H. Schuyler, CPA, Chairman

Marcia L. Marien, CPA

Timothy F. Egan, CPA - Via Conference Call

Mark Aronowitz - Via Conference Call

Peter J. Niedermeyer, CPA - Via Conference Call

Karla H. Fox, Esq. – Via Conference Call

Martha S. Triplett, Esq. – Via Conference Call

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dannell R. Lyne, CPA

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 - Via Conference Call

ACTION REQUIRED – Approve Minutes of the March 3, 2015 board meeting. Ms. Marien made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Niedermeyer seconded the motion. Ms. Fox and Ms. Triplett were not yet present to vote. All present board members voted in favor.

INFORMATION REPORTS – Administrative Updates

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Attorney Asare stated that there is no new information regarding the Governor's budget proposal to eliminate the Board of Accountancy. Deputy James Spallone stated that the GAE Committee referred the bill concerning the merger to the Appropriation Committee without a vote on the merits. Deputy James Spallone also stated that the Appropriation Committee has a deadline on or about May 1, 2015, to make a decision concerning the merger and that is when we will learn about any new information about the budget.

2014 UNIFORM CPA EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Attorney Asare gave copies to board members and asked them to review and inform her of any questions they may have and she will forward them to the National Association of Board of Accountancy (NASBA). Attorney Asare confirmed that Mr. Mark Connolly will be honored as the Eli Watts Awardee at the May 28, 2015 CTCPA's Certificate Ceremony at the Aqua Turf, 556 Mulberry Street, Plantsville, Connecticut.

E-DIGITAL – THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

Attorney Asare highlighted some points from the newsletter and gave copies to board members to review and she stated that the board received several accolades for recent adjustments to the renewal process and community projects.

CPE Q&A REQUIREMENTS

Attorney Asare informed board members about some changes made to the CPE Q&A Requirements and stated that it will be posted on the board's website. Attorney Asare gave copies to board members to review and asked them to forward any questions or comments to her.

COLLEGE INITIATIVE UPDATES

Attorney Asare stated that in April, she and Ms. Stephanie Sheff will be going to Quinebaug Valley Community College and the University of New Haven to give a presentation to accounting students. Attorney Asare also stated that it has been a great opportunity to work with the CTCPCAs.

AICPA CONCEPT STATEMENT PEER REVIEW

Attorney Asare distributed copies of the statement to board members per Ms. Marien's request. Mr. Schuyler and Mr. Renner expressed some concerns about the proposal.

CPA EXAM UPDATES – EXAM BOE CONFERENCE CALL

Attorney Asare stated that she will share more information with the board during the June Retreat concerning NASBA, AICPA and Prometrics proposals for writing the CPA exam and fee changes.

Attorney Asare and Ms. Sheff attended the NASBA conference at Tampa, Florida in March 2015. Attorney Asare highlighted some of the topics discussed such as diversity, marijuana laws, peer review and the International Qualification Exam (IQEX).

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATION UPDATES:

Definition of Attest Bill No. 6997; Personal Data Regulations and Technical Changes Regulations

Deputy Spallone stated that Attorney Asare worked with the legislative staff to get the attest bill heard. Deputy Spallone also stated that the bill has moved out of the General Administration and Elections Committee (GAEC) to the floor.

Attorney Asare stated that the personal data regulations and the technical changes have been updated on the E-REGS and that the Board of Accountancy will be the first agency to post a new regulation on the E-REGS site.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opportunity for members of the public to address the board

Mr. Renner stated that the Society has concerns regarding the merger of the Board of Accountancy with the Department of Consumer Protections as well as the AICPA's peer review concept

statement. The CT Society of CPAs also plans to testify against legislative proposals regarding taxing CPA services.

EXAM AND LICENSING OLD BUSINESS

Action required – Industry, Government, or Self Employed Experience, and Other Applications – None

NEW BUSINESS:

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

James Daniels– Initial CPA Certificate & Certificate Registration, Industry Experience

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

Wei Zuo- Initial CPA Certificate & Initial License, Industry Experience

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

Michael Spano- Initial CPA Certificate & Initial license, Industry Experience

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

Shannon McElroy- Initial CPA Certificate & Initial license, Industry Experience

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

Christopher Bennett Millin- Initial CPA Certificate & Initial license, Industry Experience

Ms. Marien made a motion to table the application for applicant to clarify the dates of employment. Mr. Niedermeyer seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Randall Heffernan- 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.

Stephen Fedorko– Initial CPA Certificate & Certificate Registration, Industry Experience

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

REVIEW FIRM PERMITS FOR APPROVAL

Ms. Marien made a motion to approve the firm permits. Ms. Triplett seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

PCAOB Inspection Reports Received – member comment on review

- Review date March 11, 2015 Report on **D’Arcangelo & Co., LLP**
Plante & Moran, PLLC

EXAMINATION AND CPE EXTENSION

Robert Davidson – Requesting extension of time to complete ethics CPE and waive late fee. Ms. Marien made a motion to waive the fee and granted the extension of time to complete CPE ethics. Mr. Egan seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Michael Berthiaume- Requesting penalty waiver for failure to renew firm permit in a timely manner. Ms. Marien made a motion to deny the request. Mr. Niedermeyer seconded the motion. Mr. Aronowitz recused himself. Remaining board members voted in favor.

Kelly Marie Beel – Requesting to reinstate two parts of the CPA exam that expired. Ms. Marien made a motion to approve the request. Ms. Triplett seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS - Enforcement Cases

2014-66 Mitchell & Titus, LLP, Respondent; Connecticut State Board of Accountancy; Complainant. Allegations: §20-281 failure report the peer review with the acceptance letter in the year 2013. Substantiated Violations: §20-281 failure report the peer review with the acceptance letter in the year 2013. Respondent admits to failing to submit quality review report to the board. Respondent indicates that the firm failed to update the board's records with the contact person for communications to the firm. Respondent submitted peer review acceptance letter on January 21, 2015, which was completed on July 26, 2013, along with the appropriate documents and updated contact information for the firm.

Ms. Marien made a motion to settle the matter for civil penalty in the amount of \$800.00 and 4 hours of ethic and reported by December 31, 2015. Ms. Fox seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

2014-25 Schoenrock, Frank A., Respondent; Verrilli, Michelle, Complainant; Allegations: §20-281a (5) negligence in the practice of public accountancy and §20-281a (10) engaging in actions reflecting adversely on the profession of public accountancy.

Substantiated Violations: None

Ms. Fox made a motion to dismiss finding no probable cause. Ms. Triplett seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

2015-7 Schiro, Thomas J., Respondent; Connecticut State Board of Accountancy, Complainant.

Allegations: 20-280c engaging in the unauthorized practice of public accountancy in the year 2014 by failing to renew 2014 license; and 20-281(d) failure to report your continuing education in the year 2014 in a timely manner. Substantiated Allegations: Respondent submitted sworn affidavit that "this is my oversight and I am deeply sorry that this happened." Respondent confirms that the board never received payment for the 2014 renewal, which resulted in lapse licensure. Respondent has renewed and brought status current by paying the board prescribed late fees and the licensing fee for the 2014 renewal year, for a total of: \$565.00+ \$600.00+\$50 = \$1,215. Respondent submitted proof that he had in fact had an active license in New York, during the period his Connecticut license was in inactive status. Further, during the inactive period Respondent states via sworn affidavit, that he did provide public accounting services.

Recommendation: Dismissal. Ms. Triplett made a motion to dismiss finding no probable cause. Mr. Niedermeyer seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none at this time.

Ms. Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 A.M. Ms. Triplett seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2015 – 10:00 AM - 2nd Floor, Conference Room, Hartford, CT.