

**Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy
Minutes of Board Meeting
November 19, 2019**

1. Date, Place and Attendance of Meeting:

A regular meeting of the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy was held on Thursday, November 19, 2019, at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Steven M. Barranco, CPA
Dr. Steve Grice, CPA
Mr. Delbert Madison
Mr. Wim Schaffers, CPA
Ms. Connie Sheppard-Harris, CPA

Mr. J. Earl Blackmon, CPA and Mr. Michael Kintz, CPA were absent; however, Mr. Blackmon participated by means of phone conference.

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; 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, Vice Chair, in light of the physical absence of Mr. Blackmon, Chair.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Dr. Grice made a motion to approve the agenda as presented for the November 19, 2019 meeting. Mr. Madison seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Election of Officers:

Ms. Sheppard-Harris made a motion to nominate Mr. Barranco, Chair; Dr. Grice, Vice Chair and Mr. Madison, Secretary. Dr. Grice seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris. The newly elected officers acceded to their respective offices immediately.

5. Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Grice made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2019 meeting. Mr. Madison seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

6. Disciplinary Cases:

a. Disciplinary Case No. 19CPE-19– Reynold Ames Gustavson, Jr., CPA, Certificate No. 9043:

Mr. Kathy Brown, Esq., Governmental Hearing Officer served as hearing officer and presided over the disciplinary hearing for Mr. Reynold Ames Gustavson, Jr., CPA. Mr. Gustavson did not attend, and the hearing was conducted in his absence. At the conclusion of the hearing, Mr. Madison made a motion to go into Executive Session to deliberate evidence in a public hearing. Mr. Schaffers seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Grice, Madison, Schaffers and Ms. Sheppard-Harris. Mr. Blackmon abstained. Qualified Board members excused themselves at 10:32 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 10:38 a.m., Mr. Barranco called the meeting back to order and called for a motion in the matter. Mr. Schaffers made a motion that the Board find Mr. Reynold Ames Gustavson, Jr. guilty of all charges in the summons and complaint, that Mr. Gustavson's certificate be revoked, and that Mr. Gustavson be fined \$5,000.00. Mr. Madison seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Grice, Madison, Schaffers and Ms. Sheppard-Harris. The Board's Order, Summons and Complaint, and the transcript of the hearing are attached and become a part of these minutes.

7. Requests for Reinstatement:

a. Fredrick L. Standfield, CPA Certificate No. 5808:

Mr. Busby presented a letter from Fredrick L. Standfield, CPA Certificate No. 5808, requesting reinstatement to inactive 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. Standfield did not attend the hearing and it was conducted in his absence. Mr. Standfield's written request also included the required assertion on felonies, a completed 2019-2020 personal registration form, and payment in the amount of \$150. The payment comprised the reinstatement fee of \$100 and the \$50 registration fee for the fiscal year 2019-2020. After discussion, Dr. Grice made a motion to reinstate Mr. Standfield's CPA Certificate No. 5808 to inactive status. Ms. Sheppard-Harris seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

b. Adolphe Catlin Cade, IV, CPA Certificate No. 2923:

Mr. Busby presented a letter from Adolphe Catlin Cade, IV, CPA Certificate No. 2923, 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. Cade attended the hearing and represented himself. Mr. Cade's 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, Mr. Madison made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the general reputation and character of Mr. Cade. Mr. Schaffers seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Grice, Madison, Schaffers and Ms. Sheppard-Harris. Mr. Blackmon abstained. Qualified Board members excused themselves at 10:52 a.m. to deliberate with an estimated time of 5 minutes needed to discuss the matter. The Board then deliberated in Executive Session. After deliberation, at 10:59 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. Cade's CPA Certificate No. 2923 to active status. Mr. Madison seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Grice, Madison, Schaffers and Ms. Sheppard-Harris. Mr. Blackmon abstained.

c. 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 was represented by his attorney Mr. Joseph E Stott. 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, Mr. Madison made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the general reputation and character of Mr. Nichols. Dr. Grice seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Grice, Madison, Schaffers and Ms. Sheppard-Harris. Mr. Blackmon abstained. Qualified Board members excused themselves at 11:45 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 11:59 a.m., Mr. Barranco called the meeting back to order and called for a motion in the matter. Mr. Schaffers made a motion not to reinstate Mr. Nichols' CPA Certificate No. 3763. Dr. Grice seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Madison, Schaffers and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

d. Amy Powers, CPA Certificate No. 5405:

Mr. Busby presented a letter from Amy Powers, CPA Certificate No. 5405, requesting reinstatement to active status. Her 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. Ms. Powers did not attend the hearing and it was conducted in her absence. Ms. Powers' written request also included the required assertion on felonies, a completed 2019-2020 personal registration form, CPE certificates verifying completion of 120 hours of catch-up CPE, and payment in the amount of \$200. The payment comprised the reinstatement fee of \$100 and the \$100 registration fee for the fiscal year 2019-2020. After discussion, Mr. Schaffers made a motion to reinstate Ms. Powers' CPA Certificate No. 5405 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, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

8. CPA Exam Application Review for Deborah R. Dick

Mr. Busby presented an application from Deborah R. Dick, requesting to be able to sit for the CPA Exam. Ms. Dick's application included a criminal history stemming from drug abuse. Ms. Dick attended the meeting and presented her petition to the Board. After discussion, Mr. Madison made a motion to allow Ms. Dick to be able to sit for the CPA Exam. Dr. Grice seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

9. Board Review of Complaint from Bambo Sonaiké – ASBPA Request for PTIN on Registration

Mr. Busby presented a letter from Mr. Bambo Sonaiké requesting that the ASBPA no longer request the PTIN as a part of the annual registration process. After a brief discussion, the Board decided not to change the current practice or requesting the PTIN on registration forms.

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

(a) Online CPA Exam Applications

Mr. Busby informed the Board that the online CPA Exam application is currently up and working. Our Board is the first that Alabama Interactive has worked with to have a beginning to end application process.

(b) Online Complaint Form

Mr. Busby informed the Board that the office now has a completely online complaint form that should make filing complaints easier for the complainant.

(c) Online CPE Approval Form

Mr. Busby informed the Board that the office now has a completely online CPE Approval form that should make CPE approval more efficient.

(d) Online Quick Reference Guides

Mr. Busby informed the Board that the office now has both an exam requirements quick guide as well as a CPE requirements quick guide to help make finding information on the website more efficient for both applicants and licensees.

(e) Enforcement Project for Next Year/Proactive Enforcement Actions:

Mr. Busby updated the Board of plans for continued enforcement.

(f) Contract for Collections Attorney:

Mr. Busby updated the Board on the progress of collections for administrative fines.

(g) CPE Audit Tool

Mr. Busby informed the Board that this is being pushed back after hearing of the many problems other EDs are experiencing.

(h) Social Media

Mr. Busby informed the Board that Amy is heading this up, and that both Facebook and Twitter accounts are active.

(i) Funds Sweep Ongoing Discussions

Mr. Busby updated the Board on discussions regarding fund sweeps.

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

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

(k) Update on Current Year Renewals

Mr. Busby updated the Board on current year renewals.

11. Approval of New CPA Certificates:

Dr. Grice made a motion to approve new CPA Certificates No. 13895 through 13954-R. Ms. Sheppard-Harris seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Grice, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

12. Approval of July – September 2019 CPA Examination Grades:

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

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. Complaints Update:

A complaints summary for FY 2009-2010 through 2017-2018 was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

16. 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.

17. FY 2018-2019 Licensees Who Voluntarily Surrendered:

A list of licensees who voluntarily surrendered their CPA Certificates in good standing during 2018-2019 was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

18. Other Business:

(a) NASBA Committee Assignments:

Mr. Busby announced the following NASBA Committee Assignments:

- Mr. Madison—Communications Committee
- Dr. Grice—Education Committee
- Mr. Busby—Legislative Support Committee

(b) NASBA Annual Meeting Recap:

Mr. Busby updated the Board on the discussions from the NASBA Annual Meeting.

(c) Travel Update:

Amy discussed the process for submitting travel and also presented items for the Board to be aware of with respect to the state travel approval processes.

(d) Office Renovation Drawing:

Boyd presented the drawing and cost estimate of the office renovations to the Board that will begin in 2020.

(e) Board Member Communication Update:

Bill Garrett discussed Board member communication restrictions with the Board.

Mr. Busby presented Mr. Steve Barranco with a badge in recognition of his service on the Board.

(f) Adjournment of Meeting:

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, January 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Troy University in Troy, AL. There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Madison made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schaffers seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Delbert Madison
Secretary

Approved:



Steven M. Barranco, CPA
Chair