

**Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
May 11, 2018**

1. Date, Place and Attendance of Meeting:

A regular meeting of the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy was held on Friday, May 11, 2018, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor conference room of the RSA Plaza, located in Montgomery, Alabama at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. J. Earl Blackmon, CPA  
Mr. Michael Terry Comer, PA  
Mr. Delbert Madison  
Mr. Wim Schaffers, CPA  
Ms. Connie Sheppard-Harris, CPA

Board Members Absent: Mr. Steven M. Barranco, CPA  
Dr. Steve Grice, CPA

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

Also present were D. Boyd Busby, Executive Director; Carol J. Preston, Deputy Executive Director; Amy Thompson, Senior Accountant; Nicole T. Robinson, CPE Administrator; Billington Garrett, Assistant Attorney General; Charles Jordan, Board Consultant; and Jeannine Birmingham, CEO & President of the Alabama Society of CPAs.

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 Connie Sheppard-Harris, CPA, Chair.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Comer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented for the May 11, 2018 meeting. Mr. Schaffers seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Madison made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2018 meeting. Mr. Schaffers seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Declaratory Ruling Request:

Mr. Busby presented a letter from Mr. F. Ralph Dowdy, CPA on behalf of MDA Professional Group—Huntsville, PC requesting a declaratory ruling with regards to whether or not they may continue to use the firm name of “MDA Professional Group—Huntsville, PC” since it was significantly similar to the firm MDA Professional Group PC. The Board reviewed Mr. Dowdy’s request and began deliberating on this issue. Mr. Comer made a motion to go into executive session to deliberate the declaratory ruling pending before the Board. Mr. Blackmon seconded the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Sheppard-Harris, Messrs. Blackmon, Comer, Madison and Schaffers. The Board asked Mr. Busby to join them in Executive Session to answer questions regarding the request. Qualified Board members and Mr. Busby excused themselves at 10:30 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 10:40 a.m., Ms. Sheppard-Harris called the meeting back to order and called for a motion in the matter. Mr. Blackmon made a motion that the Board find the name “MDA Professional Group—Huntsville, PC” misleading and that Mr. Dowdy and partners must change all references to the name “MDA Professional Group—Huntsville, PC” within ninety days of this ruling. Mr. Schaffers seconded the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Sheppard-Harris, Messrs. Blackmon, Comer, Madison and Schaffers.

6. Requests for Reinstatement:

a. Deborah Lynn Fernow, CPA, Certificate 9528-R:

Mr. Busby presented a letter from Deborah Lynn Fernow, CPA Certificate No. 9528-R, 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. Fernow did not attend the hearing and it was conducted in her absence. Ms. Fernow’s written request also included the required assertion on felonies, a completed 2017-2018 personal registration form, and payment in the amount of \$200.00. The payment comprised the reinstatement fee of \$100.00 and the \$100.00 registration fee for the fiscal year 2017-2018. After discussion, Mr. Schaffers made a motion to reinstate Ms. Fernow’s CPA Certificate No. 9528-R to active status. Mr. Comer seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Blackmon, Comer, Madison, Schaffers and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

b. Reena J. Allen, CPA, Certificate 7401:

Mr. Busby presented a letter from Reena J. Allen, CPA Certificate No. 7401, 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. Allen did not attend the hearing and it was conducted in her absence. Ms. Allen’s written request also included the required assertion on felonies, a completed 2017-2018 personal registration form, and payment in the amount of \$2,875.00. The payment comprised the reinstatement fee of \$100.00; the \$2,000.00 administrative fine levied in the Board’s Order; the \$175.00 registration fees for the fiscal years

2016-2017 and 2017-2018; and \$600 late renewal penalties for fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. Mr. Busby also informed the Board that Ms. Allen's CPE was short live hours and that Ms. Allen was in the process of resolving the CPE deficiency. Mr. Busby requested that the Board consider reinstating Ms. Allen to inactive status. After discussion, Mr. Madison made a motion to reinstate Ms. Allen's CPA Certificate No. 7401 to inactive status. Mr. Schaffers seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Blackmon, Comer, Madison, Schaffers and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

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

(a) Update on enforcement activities:

Mr. Busby updated the Board on enforcement activities over the past year. Mr. Busby provided the Board with statistical data regarding the number of visits made and the results found.

(b) Out of State CPAs:

Mr. Busby informed the Board that letters were mailed to all CPAs who have an Alabama address but do not have an Alabama license. He updated the Board of the responses and plans for continued monitoring.

(c) Newsletter:

Mr. Busby informed the Board that NASBA and Board staff completed a newsletter that went out to licensees on April 24, 2018.

(d) Online CPA Exam Applications:

Mr. Busby informed the Board of the goal to have our CPA exam application online by the fall of 2018.

(e) Enforcement Projects for Next Year:

Mr. Busby informed the Board of plans for additional enforcement efforts next year.

(f) New Pathway to CPA:

Mr. Busby updated the Board on NASBA's proposed idea of an alternative CPA designation.

8. Approval of Rule Changes:

a. 30-X-1-.01(f)

Mr. Busby presented proposed changes to Section 30-X-1-.01(f) of the Board's Rules. Mr. Blackmon made a motion that the Executive Director and the Board Counsel proceed with the rulemaking procedures required in the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act to effect the adoption of the proposed amendments to Board Rule 30-X-1-.01(f). Mr. Comer seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Blackmon, Comer, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

b. 30-X-3-.03

Mr. Busby presented proposed changes to Section 30-X-3-.03 of the Board's Rules. Mr. Madison made a motion that the Executive Director and the Board Counsel proceed with the rulemaking procedures required in the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act to effect the adoption of the proposed amendments to Board Rule 30-X-3-.03. Mr. Schaffers seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Blackmon, Comer, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

c. 30-X-3-.07(4)

Mr. Busby presented proposed changes to Section 30-X-3-.07(4) of the Board's Rules. Mr. Schaffers made a motion that the Executive Director and the Board Counsel proceed with the rulemaking procedures required in the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act to effect the adoption of the proposed amendments to Board Rule 30-X-3-.07(4). Mr. Comer seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Blackmon, Comer, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

d. 30-X-4

Mr. Busby presented proposed changes to Chapter 30-X-4 of the Board's Rules. Mr. Madison made a motion that the Executive Director and the Board Counsel proceed with the rulemaking procedures required in the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act to effect the adoption of the proposed amendments to Board Chapter 30-X-4. Mr. Schaffers seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Blackmon, Comer, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

e. 30-X-5-.01(b)

Mr. Busby presented proposed changes to Section 30-X-5-.01(b) of the Board's Rules. Mr. Blackmon made a motion that the Executive Director and the Board Counsel proceed with the rulemaking procedures required in the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act to effect the adoption of the proposed amendments to Board Rule 30-X-5-.01(b). Mr. Schaffers seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Messrs. Blackmon, Comer, Madison, Schaffers, and Ms. Sheppard-Harris.

9. Approval of New CPA Certificates:

Mr. Blackmon made a motion to approve new CPA Certificates No. 13356 through 13407-R. Mr. Schaffers seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Approval of January-February-March 2018 CPA Examination Grades:

The Board was presented with the AICPA Advisory Grades for the January – March 2018 Uniform CPA Examination. After review, Mr. Schaffers made a motion to approve the grades as released to candidates. Mr. Blackmon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

11. 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.

12. New Certifications by Transfer of Grades:

A statistical summary of new certifications by transfer of grades was presented to the Board for review. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

13. FY 2017-2018 Delinquencies Update:

A statistical summary of 2017-2018 Delinquent Licensees was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

14. Peer Review Delinquencies Update December 31, 2017:

A statistical summary of Delinquent Peer Reviews as of December 31, 2017 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. Other Business:

No other business was brought before the Board.

18. Adjournment of Meeting:

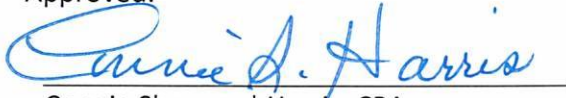
The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, July 27, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board office. There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Comer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Blackmon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Michael Terry Comer, PA  
Secretary

Approved:



Connie Sheppard-Harris, CPA  
Chair