State of Maryland

Board of Certified Public Accountants

Business Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

*In Person and Via Google Meets Teleconference*

**MEMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Jan Williams, Chair

Macon M. Ware III

Joseph Petito

Barrett E. Young

Brian Dunne

**ABSENT MEMBER:** James Marshall

Tamara Bensky, Secretary

**DLLR OFFICIALS/STAFF:** Christopher Dorsey, Executive Director

Robert Pambianco, Legal Counsel

Sharron McNeill, Office Supervisor

Shemirra Massie, Administrative Officer I

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mary Beth Halpern, MACPA

Rebekah Olson, MACPA

Kauser Syed

Amy Tongate, NASBA

Noelle Liger-Burton, NASBA

Erin Scruggs, NASBA

The June 11, 2024, Maryland Board of Public Accountancy meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by Dr. Jan Williams, Chair.

Upon a motion **(I)** by Mr. Petito and seconded by Mr. Young, the May 7, 2023, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Chairman’s Report**

1. Dr. Williams gave her 5th annual Maryland Board of Public Accountancy regulatory update at the MACPA Educators Symposium on June7th. There were approximately 56 accounting educators in attendance. She discussed regulatory changes and issues facing the board, and polled educators based on questions that have been discussed at our previous board meetings. She asked why students aren’t majoring in accounting. Most educators responded that students do not find accounting appealing. The students say that finance, data analytics, and some other majors are more appealing to them. She asked if educators believe 150 hours should still be required for licensure, and if we should consider going back to 120 hours for licensure. The responses were about 50%-50% for both questions. Dr. Williams asked if an online program for business students to obtain accounting requirements to sit for the exam and licensure be appealing. The majority of the faculty members responded that an online program would be appealing. They also mentioned that there are some schools that have those programs in place now. College Park and some other schools have an online master's and accounting program. She asked if attendees would be interested in the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy having a board meeting, or presentation about the licensing process at their campus. 74% responded yes, they would be interested, which is something the board has discussed in the past.
2. Mr. Petito gave a report on the NASBA Eastern Regional Conference he attended June 4-6, 2024, in Louisville, KY. He stated that about 80% of the meeting was dedicated to the pipeline issues, about 10% on the urgent issue of private equity, and 10% around random other issues.

Upon a motion **(II)** by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Petito, the Chairman’s Report was unanimously approved.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Dorsey announced that the staff has caught up on wall certificates and they have been mailed out to the necessary licensees.

Upon a motion **(III)** by Mr. Ware and seconded by Mr. Dunne, the Board unanimously approved the Executive Director’s report.

**Exam Appeals**

There were zero (0) Exam Appeals for June.

**Education Committee Report**

Mr. Dunne presented the Education Report. There was one (1) Transfer of Grades application approval (1-NY) for June and zero (0)Transfer of Grades application denials for June.

Upon a motion **(IV)** by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Petito the Board unanimously approved the Education Report.

**Experience Committee Report**

Mr. Dunne presented the Experience Report. There were Ten (10) Maryland candidate license application approvals and zero (0) Maryland candidate application denials for June.

Eleven (11) Reciprocal application approvals originated from the following jurisdictions: two (2)-CAL, two (2)-NY, one (1)-FL, one (1)-DEL, one (1)-NC, one (1)-PA, one (1)-NM, one (1)-VA, one (1)-GAUM.

There were zero (0)Reciprocal application denials for June.

Upon a motion **(V)** by Mr. Ware and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board unanimously approved the Experience Report.

**Firm Permit Committee Report**

Mr. Dunne presented the Firm Permit Committee Report. Two (2) firm approvals and zero (0) firms closed for the month of June.

Upon a motion **(VI)** by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Petito, the Board unanimously approved the Firm Permit Report.

**Peer Review Oversight Committee Report**

Mr. Ware reported the following: zero (0) newly enrolled firms in the Peer Review Program; five (5) firms had reviews accepted; zero (0) first-time passes with deficiencies; zero (0) first-time fails; and zero (0) firms were dropped or terminated.

Upon a motion **(VII)** by Mr. Petito and seconded by Mr. Dunne, the Board unanimously approved the Peer Review Report.

**Unfinished Business**

1. CPE Reciprocity:

The Board discussed CPE Reciprocity, which exempts CPAs who are licensed in multiple states from having to meet the CPE requirements in each state, if they meet the CPE requirements of their home state. Ethics became a topic of discussion since all states do not have a specific ethics requirement like Maryland. It was mentioned that if there is no ethics requirement in a state, Maryland can require ethics in non-home states. The Board will continue the discussion at the August meeting after gathering additional information and determining whether this would be a statutory or regulatory change.

1. NASBA CPE Tracker:

NASBA employees attended the Board meeting to answer questions about NASBA’s CPE Audit Service. In response to questions, NASBA will provide the Board with information on the states that use the service. Also, NASBA representatives will provide a presentation on the service at the August meeting.

1. The Attorney General’s Opinion on whether CPAs who assist clients with Beneficial Ownership Information Reports would be engaged in the unauthorized practice of law was received on May 8, 2024. The 27-page document discusses the topic in detail, including certain services a CPA may provide related to BOIRs that a Maryland court would most likely not consider the practice of law. It, however, states that “a CPA should not answer a BOIR-related question for a client where there is uncertainty as to the answer and resolving that uncertainty would require legal knowledge, skill, and judgment.” The document is shared with the public on the Attorney General’s website. It will be posted on the Board’s website, as well as MACPA’s website.
2. 2025 Fee Change Implementation Letter:

NASBA’s fee changes for 2025 were presented to the Board.

**New Business**

The Open Meeting Act Training must be completed by a board member before the board can hold a closed session. Mr. Petito volunteered to be the board designated member to complete the training. The Board discussed having additional members complete the training also.

Upon a motion **(VIII)** by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Petito, one of the two newly-appointed Board members, one of the two persons on the complaint committee, the Board Chair, and the Executive Director will complete the Open Meetings Act training.

Upon a Motion **(IX)** by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Ware, the Board unanimously voted to Table the Closed Session items until the August Meeting.

**Correspondence**

None

**Closed Session**

The Board voted to table the Closed-session items until the August meeting.

Upon a motion **(X)** by Mr. Petito and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board adjourned at 10:42 am.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, **August 6, 2024**, via Google Meets teleconferencing at 9:00 AM

\_\_\_\_\_ With corrections \_\_x\_Without corrections

Signature on file August 14, 2024

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Chairman Date