

New Hampshire Board of Accountancy  
Minutes from the August 17, 2009  
Public Meeting  
Held at the Office of the Board of Accountancy



Present: Jefferson Chickering, CPA, Chairman, Deborah Butler, CPA, Secretary, Richard O. Hanson, CPA, Owen Walton, Public Accountant, and Andrea Goldberg, Public Member.

Absent: Wayne Geher, CPA, Sheila Christie, Public Member,

1. The public session of the Board convened at 8:50 am and adjourned at 11:00 am. The non-public session convened at 11:05 am and adjourned at 11:55 am.
2. The minutes from the July 20, 2009 meeting were adopted with minor grammatical changes.
3. Marlene Gazda, CEO and Harold Williams, CPA, attended this meeting as representatives of the NH Society of CPAs.

4. **The following Newsletters were reviewed:**

A. **NASBA State Board Report- July 2009  
Comments.**

>From this report and other information received it seems that the convergence of the International Reporting Standards and GAAP have slowed down.

>Also noted in this report was a statement from the task force entitled "International Exam Administration" which outlined the task force's proposal which would require foreign candidates who take the exam to sign an informed consent agreement stating they intend to become licensed within three years and to abide by certain security policies. When the NH Board had previously met with Ken Bishop of NASBA and Craig Mills of the AICPA, the Board members expressed a deep concern over that 3 year commitment. They felt it might be too restricting. A further concern was how individual Boards of Accountancy would adopt this and the differences in the adoption language.

>The last article of interest was an article on firm names. It was the recommendation of the NASBA study group that the reference to "fictitious names" in the Model UAA Rules be changed to "misleading" instead. It was further recommended that individual Board's make this change. New Hampshire will take this under consideration.

5. **General Correspondence Reviewed**

A. **NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act Committee Report.**

>Included in this document was a draft white paper regarding CPA firm names. This information will be helpful when revising the New Hampshire's Administrative Rules.

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**B. NASBA Quarterly Communications.**

>Contained in this report were the following documents:

- a. Highlights of the July 17, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors
- b. Minutes of the April 24, 2009 Board of Directors' meeting; and
- c. Responses to the regional directors' focus questions for this quarter and it was noted that New Hampshire is working on a memorandum of understanding with NASBA in order to join the ALD and for NASBA to assist NH with an on line lookup.

**C. AICPA Content and Skill Specifications for the Uniform CPA Examination Preview dated May 15, 2009 (Effective Date To Be Announced).**

>Mr. Hanson noted that this document contains proposed content where candidates are expected to demonstrate an awareness of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards,

> It was also noted that there does not appear to be any proposed content that would test the candidate's ethical awareness.

**D. NASBA's Letter to California Board of Accountancy Dated July 29, 2009.**

>This NASBA letter responds to the California Board of Accountancy's letter to all State Boards regarding each Board's consideration of two paths to licensure. California's proposal offered one pathway which required a Baccalaureate degree with 24 months of general accounting experience, and the second pathway required 150 semester hours of education and 12 months of general accounting experience. This Board did not respond. NASBA's response was that in order for California to remain substantially equivalent it would need to terminate its alternative pathways.

**E. International Mutual Recognition Agreement.**

>NASBA has signed an agreement on behalf of the Boards of Accountancy to enter into a mutual agreement with the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants. This agreement is the same in substance as the current agreements NASBA has with Canada, Ireland, Australia and Mexico. The New Hampshire Board voted unanimously to adopt the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants agreement and will adopt rules accordingly.

**F. NASBA Candidate Care Department Report-Q09Q2.**

>This report contained information on problems at exam sites and how they were resolved, proactive steps regarding the H1N1 virus, complaints and other related subjects.

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**6. Correspondence Requiring a Response**

**A. Exceptions from Military Service**

>An individual emailed and asked the Board what its position was on returning military personnel and pro ration of their continuing professional education. The Executive Director will send the individual a copy of the new statute adopted July 1, 2009 and the existing administrative rules regarding military service. This individual will also be informed that the Board does review each request on a case by case basis.

**B. Question on 150 Credit Hours**

>Stacey Grooms of NASBA asked the Board's Executive Director for information regarding masters degrees offered in New Hampshire by colleges and universities located in New Hampshire. The question was in regards to the equivalency of the masters in relation to the 150 hours of education requirement. It was found that UNH, Dartmouth, New England College, Plymouth State University, Rivier College and Southern New Hampshire University's masters programs would meet the 150, if the candidates received an Masters in Business Administration or Masters in Accounting.

**C. Out of State Firm Registration**

>A CPA Firm with an office in New Hampshire and in Maine asked the Board if the Maine office would need to register if the New Hampshire office was properly registered. The Board discussed this and concluded that if the NH office did not issue any reports and the Maine office did, then the Maine office would need to file an Out of State Firm Registration.

**D. Exemption Request From the 18 Months**

>An exam candidate requested additional time, beyond the 18 months, to complete the four parts of the exam. The candidate presented financial hardship as she was a candidate from outside the United States as a reason for the requested waiver. The Board found that this in itself did not meet the hardship criteria and the request had to be denied. The vote was unanimous.

**7. Old and New Business**

**A. Ethics Committee**

>The Ethics Committee was scheduled to meet on August 12<sup>th</sup> however it had to be cancelled. A new date will be scheduled.

**B. House Bill 256 -Mobility Legislation**

>House Bill 256 became law as of July 1, 2009 and this agenda item will now be referenced as Rule Writing for HB 256.

**C. House Resolution 5716 Licensing of Tax Preparers**

>Harold Williams reported that on July 30<sup>th</sup> the IRS held public forums to hear testimony on how best to ensure that tax preparers are qualified, ethical and will provide a high level of service. There were two panels, one was consumer groups and the second panel was the AICPA, National Association of Enrolled Agents, the National Association of Tax Professionals and the National Society of Accountants. This matter will be kept on the agenda and discussed as information is received.

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- D. Peer Review Oversight Committee**  
>Wayne Geher and Louise O. Romeo of the NH Board of Accountancy Peer Review Oversight Committee met and reviewed the peer review of the Massachusetts Society of CPA's peer review program. It was found that nothing came to the attention of the committee that would cause concern.
- E. CPE for Board Meetings**  
>No Discussion
- F. International Standards (GAAP vs IFRS)**  
>Ms. Gazda noted that there has been a slow down in the convergence of these two standards.
- G. State and Board Budget for 2009**  
>The Board was notified that the study committee on consolidation of Boards and Commissions is scheduled for September 15, 2009 at 10:00 am in Room 306 of the Legislative Office Building in Concord.
- H. Peer Assistance Program**  
>No discussion
- I. CPE Audit**  
>The staff is communicating with the remaining individuals who have not yet been approved.
- J. NASBA Committee Updates (UAA, Communications and CLEC)**  
>Jefferson Chickering reported that he had a UAA Committee conference call with its members; however felt that this one was not as informative as previous calls. He did note that some of the participants were concerned that New Hampshire's effective date for implementing the 150 was July 1, 2014 and questioned how we could be substantially equivalent now when only a bachelor's degree is required up to that date. This Board adopted the UAA language with the backing of NASBA and other interested parties, therefore no comments were made during the phone conversation by Mr. Chickering regarding this topic.  
>Richard O. Hanson has volunteered for CLEC (CPA Licensing Examinations Committee) of NASBA, but as of the date of the Board meeting he has not received a response.
- K. Exam Content**  
>Please see 7C of this agenda
- L. Society Update**  
>Ms. Gazda presented to this Board the final draft of the joint Memorandum of Understanding. This document will be signed at the September meeting of the CPA Society by both parties.  
>Ms. Gazda stated that she was receiving questions on whether or not law degrees would qualify for the 150 hour education requirement effective July 1, 2014. The Board determined that a law degree would qualify if the degree met the 30 hours of accounting and 24 hours of business.  
>Ms. Gazda asked the Board members to confirm their attendance for the CPA Swearing in Ceremony in October at the September Board meeting.

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**M. Memorandum of Understanding With NH Society**

>See 7, L

**N. Board Meetings at Colleges**

>Southern New Hampshire University is confirmed for October 19, 2009.

>UNH is scheduled but the Executive Director is waiting for final confirmation for November 23, 2009.

**O. Multi-State Compact**

>No discussion

**8. The following applications for Certification as a Certified Public Accountant in New Hampshire were approved on August 17, 2009.**

Mohammad I. Al Fuqaha	4977
Kristen N. Bournival	4978
Mabel F. Casillas	4979
Timo Duits	4980
Stephane Dziedzic	4981
Masaaki Hatsuse	4982
Arda Kaya	4983
Steven R. Lavoie	4984
Carleen M. Loveday	4985
Ross P. Monaghan	4986
Andrey V. Parfenov	4987
Azmeena M. Pathan	4988
Nathan E. Pearson	4989
Jason P. Ramsay	4990
Nicolas Raucourt	4991
Chadi G. Rmeih	4992
Michael R. Sheehan	4993
Igor Shvykov	4994
Ekta Singh	4995
Nora P. Tellifson	4996
Stephan P. Thouet	4997

**9. The following applications for certification were denied by majority vote of the Board on August 17, 2009 for failure to meet the statutory requirements of RSA 309-B:5 of the NH Board of Accountancy. The individuals will be sent formal Order of Application Denial.**

Ingrida Soldatova  
Lorenzo Manuel De Leon  
Marc E. Lombardo

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- 10.** Upon the motion of Owen Walton and the second of Andrea Goldberg, the Board, by roll call vote, resolved to conduct a non-public session for the purpose of discussing complaints of alleged licensee misconduct. This non-public meeting is authorized by RSA 91-A: 3,II (c), RSA 91-A: 3,II (e), RSA 91-A: 5, IV Lodge v. Knowlton, 118 N.H. 574 (1978) and the Board's executive and deliberative privileges. Each member recorded his or her vote on the motion, which passed by a unanimous roll call vote which is as follows:

Vote: Jefferson Chickering, Yea  
Andrea Goldberg, Yea  
Deborah Butler, Yea  
Richard O. Hanson, Yea  
Owen Walton, Yea

- 11.** Upon the motion of Deborah Butler and the second of Jefferson Chickering, the Board, by roll call vote, resolved to withhold the minutes of the preceding non-public session from public disclosure pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, III on the grounds that public disclosure would be likely to effect adversely the reputation of a person other than a Board member and to render the proposed action ineffective. Each member recorded his or her vote on the motion, which passed by a unanimous roll vote of all members present which is recorded as follows:

Vote: Jefferson Chickering, Yea  
Andrea Goldberg, Yea  
Deborah Butler, Yea  
Richard O. Hanson, Yea  
Owen Walton, Yea

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Deborah Butler, Secretary and Certified Public  
Accountant