

**New Hampshire Board of Accountancy**  
**Minutes from the March 17, 2008**  
**Public Meeting**  
**Held at 78 Regional Drive, Concord, NH 03301**



Present: Jefferson Chickering, CPA, Chairman, Professor Richard Hanson, CPA, Secretary, Deb Butler, CPA, Wayne Geher, CPA, Owen Walton, Public Accountant, Andrea Goldberg, Public Member, and Sheila Christie, Public Member

Absent: NONE

1. The public session convened at 8:42 am and adjourned at 11:12 am. The non-public session convened at 11:20 and adjourned at 12:15 pm.
2. The minutes from the February 11, 2008 meeting were approved with minor changes.
3. The New Hampshire CPA Society was represented by Marlene Gazda.
4. The Board changed the following meetings:  
  
The May 2008 meeting is now being held on May 12, 2008 at 8:30 am.  
The June 2008 meeting is now being held on June 23, 2008 at 8:30 am.
5. **The following Newsletters were reviewed:**

**A. NASBA State Board Report, February 2008**

>The Board reviewed the "Presidents Memo". Contained in that memo was information on the May 19, 2008 special conference on the exam. Professor Hanson will attend on behalf of the Board.

**B. State Board Report of North Carolina, No. 1-2008**

**>Requests For "Comfort Letters"**

The Board reviewed the article on page one regarding "Comfort Letters" that lenders are requesting from CPA's on behalf of their clients. These letters verify that clients are self-employed, financially sound, profitable, creditworthy, or a combination of such attributes. The Chair was concerned about the pressure placed on CPA's by their clients and the lenders to obtain this letter. Even an apparently harmless verification of client information, such as self employment, carries much more risk than it appears to, especially if the CPA prepared tax returns based on information provided by the client with out performing procedures to verify the information. It is to the CPA's advantage that the CPA speak to his or her client, verify all information, review all applicable attest and assurance standards, and check with his or her professional liability carrier before providing any information to a lender or loan broker. The Board cautions CPA's when issuing these letters and if they do, to ensure that the proper disclaimers are included in the letters.

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**5. Continued**

**>When is Financial Presentation a Compilation**

The newsletter contained information article on compilations and the Executive Director suggested that it be placed on the website. The Board agreed.

**C. South Dakota Board of Accountancy Report**

>Nothing of interest noted.

**6. General Correspondence From:**

**A. NASBA Notification of the Special Exam Conference**

>On May 19, 2008 a special exam conference will be held in the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Dallas. Professor Hanson, Secretary to the Board will attend.

**B. CPA Examination Alert Winter/Spring 2008**

>The Board reviewed the articles in this publication. The Executive Director provided additional information which was downloaded from recommended sites in the news letter. The downloaded information contained exam pass rates for 2007, scoring information and a document entitled "Summary of the Exam Candidate Test-Taking and Pass-Fail Patterns in the First Ten Windows of the Computer-Based Testing".

>Professor Hanson initiated a discussion on the possible logic behind NASBA's recommendation that candidates take two parts per exam window instead of just one. This matter will be discussed in the future.

**C. Request for Quick Poll**

>The board requested that the executive director perform a quick poll on the reasons that Boards consider for extending an exam candidates 18 month period to complete all parts of the exam.

**D. NASBA and Disciplinary Referrals**

>NASBA has proposed a "Governmental Agency Referral Process". The outline laid out a strategy that a Governmental agency would use in referring a complaint to a State Board with a copy of the complaint to NASBA. The Executive Director notified NASBA that in accordance with RSA 309-B: 11, the pendency of a complaint could only be divulged to law enforcement agencies. New Hampshire can not prohibit another governmental agency from sending NASBA a copy of a referral they had sent to us, but the Board would be precluded from acknowledging or discussing the pendency of the complaint. A complaint can only become public once the Board has established probable cause and issues a hearing notice or another form of disciplinary action has been taken, such as a settlement agreement. Upon signing of the settlement agreement by all parties, the settlement agreement would become public.

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**E. NASBA's Legislative Support Web Page**

>NASBA has established a new Web page that will assist NASBA's members in formulating, enacting and implementing legislation that will enhance the effectiveness of state Boards. The Executive Director downloaded some of the information found at that site for the Board members to review.

**7. General Correspondence Requiring a Response**

**A. Request for Exam Extension and Waiver of 12 Accounting Credits**

>A CPA Exam candidate requested an extension of the 18 months requirement to complete all four parts of the exam. The Board will freeze her grades at this time, pending additional information from her doctor. This candidate was in a devastating car accident and may require extensive rehabilitation.

>Another CPA Exam candidate requested an extension of the 18 months as she went into pre-mature labor the day before she was scheduled to take the last part of her exam. The Board granted her an extension until May 31, 2008.

>The third exam candidate requested an extension due to visa problems beyond his control and was allowed additional time to complete his exam parts.

**8. Old and New Business**

**A. Ethical Standards and CPE**

The Executive Director will obtain samples.

**B. Peer Review Oversight Committee**

The Executive Director will review material received regarding this subject and report back to the Board.

**C. Mobility**

>The Board reviewed an email from Wayne Geher regarding mobility. New Mexico has adopted the July 2007 mobility provisions, the first state to do so in 2008.

**D. Sells Award**

New Hampshire had a Sells Award winner. This candidate had a score that placed her as the second highest score in the nation for 2007.

**E. SB 347**

>This legislation passed the senate and now will be introduced into the house. The Board Chair Jefferson Chickering and Wayne Geher will be the appointed members from the Board to serve on this committee.

**F. SB 440**

>This legislation allows military experience relative to licensing boards and commissions to be counted as experience. The Executive Director will forward to the boards counsel for advice on how this would effect the Board's experience requirement.

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**G. Peer Reviewers**

This will be kept on the agenda.

**H. Administrative Rules**

The public hearing on Ac 401.07 and Ac 403.01 will be held April 28, 2008 at the office of the board. The notice to licensees will be sent out next week.

**I. Indemnification & Limitation of Liability Provisions in Client Engagement Letters.**

>No discussion, but will be kept on the agenda.

**J. Discussion Paper on 120 vs 150 and Public Protection**

>The Executive Director spoke to Lisa Axisa at NASBA who will be collecting data on this subject. NASBA is looking for empirical data to provide documentation on whether or not 150 hours protects the public better than 120. The individual will keep the Boards Executive Director apprised of developments and will contact the Executive Director if assistance is required.

**K. CPA Swearing in Ceremony Scheduled for October 29, 2008**

>The Board discussed the CPA Swearing in Ceremony and how the Board had discussed this event at the last meeting. It was expressed that the event should be centered around the CPA and his or her family and should be an intimate occasion. Secretary Hanson expressed that he would like to see it in a smaller venue. The Board asked the representative of the Society to explain the history of where the ceremony had been held in the past and when the ceremony had become both student night and CPA Swearing in night. Secretary Hanson made it expressed that he supports student night and supports the CPA Swearing in Ceremony; however, he expressed concern about the student night overshadowing the CPA Swearing in Ceremony.

**L. Maryland Senators Propose to Register Tax Preparers**

>MD SB 817 would create a Board of Tax Preparers charged with registering all commercial tax preparers. The bill would require individuals to become registered in order to prepare federal and state personal income tax returns.

**9. Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings**

March 17, 2008

April 28, 2008

~~May 19, 2008~~ Changed to May 12, 2008

~~June 16, 2008~~ Changed to June 23, 2008

July 21, 2008

August 18, 2008

September 22, 2008

October 20, 2008

November 17, 2008

December 15, 2008

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**10. Discussions Held By Board Members**

**A. Board Visibility**

>The Board discussed how to increase the general public's knowledge of the Board, including but not limited to, its mission and services. Chairman Chickering, who is a member of NASBA's Communications Committee asked the Executive Director if she would be the Communications Officer for the Board and she agreed. Dr. Richard O. Hanson, Secretary of the Board, agreed to assist in any way possible. Chairman Chickering expressed the need for Board members on NASBA committees and that if any Board members had the time, they could participate in a number of committees.

**B. Complaints**

>The Board discussed complaints and how they are handled. Dr. Hanson asked the representative from the Society how the Society handles complaints. She reported to the Board that the society received complaints from many sources and they are all handled internally and are not shared with the Board. The society does report complaints to the AICPA and the AICPA may publish a disciplinary action in the AICPA CPA Letter.

**11. The following applications were approved for certification by the Board at the March 17, 2008 meeting:**

Said Mohd Adawiya	4461
Nigora A. Askarova	4462
Eduardo Martin Ballve	4463
Carl B. Bindman	4464
Nicole Yolande Blaise	4465
Servant Jacques Bleindou	4466
Zenniere Dinichi Bowry	4467
Santiago Francisco BravoViteri	4468
Utha Butler	4469
Chen Chen	4470
Anthony Thomas Coraine, Jr.	4471
Pascal Daye	4472
Gerd De Vuyst	4473
Anke Drexler	4474
Theresa G. Enkosky	4475
Patricia Ann Fontaine	4476
Lisa Marie Gnatek	4477
Cynthia Habib	4478
Raymond Antoine Helayel	4479
Irene Louise Houde	4480
Ibrahim Melhem Kazan	4481
Mohammed A. O. Khdair	4482
Nikoletta Kiss	4483
Vladimir Kozyrev	4484
Jiri Krten, Jr.	4485

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Osamu Kumagai	4486
Dennis M. Labbe	4487
Pierre-Marie Lagnaud	4488
Cathryn C. Lajewski	4489
Christopher Archie Lee	4490
Antoine Lefort	4491
Steve Stanislus Lucas	4492
Erica Lynn Lussier	4493
Mary T. O'Connell	4494
Jehad Mohammad Musa Sweidan	4495
Melissa N. Shaffer	4496
Mariyam Faritovna Shafikova	4497
Sergeevna Anna Tendryakova	4498
An-Yu Tseng	4499
Aner Zafrir	4500
Farooq Zahir	4501
Ellen Zielhoff	4502
Donald Christopher Cross	4503

- 12.** Upon the motion of Owen Walton and the second of Sheila Christie, 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, Professor Hanson, Yea, Wayne Geher, Yea, Owen Walton, Yea, Deb Butler and Andrea Goldberg, and Sheila Christie, Yea.

- 13.** Upon the motion of Jefferson Chickering and the second of Owen Walton 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, Professor Richard O. Hanson, Yea, Wayne Geher, Yea, Owen Walton, Yea, Deb Butler, Yea and Andrea Goldberg, and Sheila Christie, Yea.

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Professor Richard O. Hanson, Secretary and  
Certified Public Accountant