

**New Hampshire Board of Accountancy**  
**Minutes from the September 22, 2008**  
**Public Meeting**  
**Held at New Hampshire Technical Institute, 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 8:55 am at the New Hampshire Technical Institute and adjourned at 11:00 am. The non-public session was convened at the New Hampshire Board of Accountancy at 12:00 and adjourned at 1:25 pm.
2. The New Hampshire CPA Society was represented by Marlene Gazda, CEO, and Harold Williams, CPA. The meeting was attended by several students of the NH Technical Institute and Professor Lynn Hedge and Laura Morgan, CPA and teacher at the technical institute.
3. The Chair opened the meeting by having the Board members introduce themselves and each presented a quick bio as to how they became CPA's. Then the Chair asked the students and teachers to introduce themselves and to offer their educational background.
4. The Executive Director offered a Power Point Presentation regarding the Board of Accountancy, Examination, Certification, Continued Status and other related topics.
5. The minutes from the August 18, 2008 meeting were approved with minor changes.
6. **The following Newsletters were reviewed:**

**A. NASBA State Board Report -August2008**

>The Board discussed page one regarding an article on the 120-150. The article requests that interested parties respond to the July 2008 draft discussion paper on "Education and Licensure Requirements for CPA's: A Discussion Regarding Degreed Candidates Sitting for the Uniform CPA Examination with a Minimum of 120 Credit Hours and Becoming Eligible for Licensure with a Minimum of 150 Credit Hours," which has been posted on the NASBA Web site, [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org). The paper concludes by stating: "We have found no evidence of detriment to the public interest in those states allowing candidates to sit for the CPA examination at less than 150 hours of education and later filling the 150 hours...".

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The concept of 120 vs 150 was discussed and Ms. Gazda gave a brief explanation on the 150 and mobility provision of the UAA.

It was further noted by Mr. Geher that the NH Board of Accountancy has been asking for empirical evidence that 150 makes a better CPA and increased the Board's ability to protect the public.

Ms. Christie explained the Board's role in protecting the public and that in the past the Board has not been in favor of requiring 150 hours of credit for certification or exam; however, there is a study committee in the legislature which will address this subject.

**B. North Carolina State Board Report- No. 8**

> It was noted that the NC Board must receive a notarized complaint. Mr. Chickering noted this might be worth looking into for New Hampshire. In an article about a complaint it was noted that a CPA only exasperated the problem by ignoring the Board's request for information and cooperation. It was similar to a recent situation in New Hampshire where the Board had to eventually revoke the CPA's certificate. The complaint process was explained to the attendees and how levels of violations range from IRS fraud, and embezzlement to failure to meet the continuing education requirements.

**7. General Correspondence Reviewed**

**A. NASBA Announcing Three New ALD Participating States**

>NASBA has developed a Licensee Database and is looking for more states to join. New Hampshire has researched this service; however, whereas it is not available to the general public it does not serve a purpose for us at this time.

**B. AICPA Exposure Draft On Exam Content and Skill Specification**

>In a letter to the AICPA dated August 1, 2008, "The CPA Examination Committee" (CLEC) of NASBA's reviewed the Exposure Draft issued by the AICPA and made several suggestions:

1. The Exposure Draft should provide a summary of the underlying data gathered; and
2. Whereas differences exists in the previous Practice Analysis and this Practice Analysis the AICPA should provide a reconciliation of the two analyses; and
3. Since the Skills Specification Outlines are new, AICPA should provide a more comprehensive explanation about how they have created this category and how it will be used to develop the test blueprint.

**C. AICPA Examination Research into CPA Candidates Test Patterns and Behaviors Dated August 27, 2008**

>This was an update which reported on the test pattern of the first 15 windows. The new update finds that more candidates are taking one part at a time and less are taking all four sections in one window. This type of data will continued to be collected and reported.

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**D. AICPA Email regarding New Report**

>The AICPA sent an email to Boards regarding a reporting that will begin with the current testing window, (July/August) which will identify candidates with unusual response patterns or testing behaviors. These reports will be provided to NASBA. NASBA will in turn notify state boards if they determine there has been an incident which the Board then may want to investigate.

Richard Hanson questioned why would a candidate opt to take all four parts instead of one at a time, giving them more flexibility.

Mr. Hanson further suggested that if the students attending this meeting or any students had to write papers for their classes that some of the issues discussed at this meeting would make excellent subject matters; such as, substantial equivalency, mobility, 120 for exam and then 150 for certification, fingerprinting etc.

**E. Fingerprinting at the Exam Sites**

>An examination candidate, in a memo dated August 15, 2008, has again brought forth his concerns regarding the security and storage of the fingerprints that are collected at the examination testing centers. The Board has reviewed this candidates concerns and will continue to discuss this matter with NASBA..

**F. NASBA's Response to the Fingerprinting Concerns**

>Ken Bishop of NASBA emailed the state Boards informing them that NASBA was looking into the allegations of the candidate and would keep the Boards informed of their findings.

Sheila Christie noted that there has been cheating on other exams and that this process is to protect the takers and the integrity of the examination.

**G. Question on Firm Registration**

>A CPA wrote the Board and asked if she offered bookkeeper services to the public and in doing so printed a financial statement from the clients software and gave them to the client and if she worked for a non-profit and printed a balance sheet for them to bring to the trustees, would she need to be registered as a firm. The Board discussed the matter and the CPA would need to be registered and in addition would be subject to peer review requirements. The CPA will be notified of the Boards decision.

**H. Question on Experience**

>A CPA Examination candidate asked the Board to review his public accounting experience. After reviewing the following services the Board would consider them public accounting experience as long as the experience was earned in accordance with the statutes and rules of the Board.

- Assist clients in the implementation of Sarbanes Oxley
- Review and redesign client's month/quarter/year end closing processes in order to improve the controls;
- Review and redesign client's intra-month financial transacting processes to reduce error and the number of manual adjusting journal entries
- Assist in the redesign of company budgeting and forecasting processes in order to increase accountability and accuracy of financial projections

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**I. Request for Extension**

>An examination candidate wrote to the Board requesting an extension of the 18 months in order to complete all 4 parts of the exam. The candidate passed AUD and BEC in January 2007 and both AUD and BEC expired July 31, 2008. The candidate sat for FAR and REG in July 2008 and passed REG but did not pass FAR. The request for extension of the 18 months was received by the Board on September 10, 2008. The request for extension did not meet the Boards definition of hardship or circumstances beyond the candidate's control, as he had work requirements and financial matters which precluded him from coming to the US at this time. It was the Boards determination that although they understand financial situations are hard, in itself does not constitute hardship. The threshold is long term illness, death or other extenuating circumstance that precludes the individual from meeting the 18 month requirement.

**8. Old and New Business**

**A. Ethics Committee**

>The committee met again on September 17, 2008 and Harold Williams gave the Board an update on the committees progress. He read the revised mission statement. He stated that CPA's need guidance on ethical behavior and that the public trust CPA's, therefore it is imperative that CPA's know the right answer when it comes to an ethical dilemma. He also felt it extremely important that licensees know and understand the NH Board of Accountancy's administrative rules.

Mr. Hanson explained the current ethical requirement for licensees and that there are many sponsors out there offering CPE. He outlined the Committees intention to establish a checklist which would offer specific guidance to licensees as well as the vendors on what would be required in an ethics course.

**B. Peer Review Oversight Committee**

>No new information

**C. Peer Reviewing-Does it Constitute Practicing in the State**

>No new information.

**D. SB 347 Study Committee/Mobility**

>The Study committee met on September 16, 2008. Ms. Christie who is on the committee with Mr. Geher updated the Board on the committee and the mission statement. She also explained how the committee was established, for the benefit of the students. She gave the Board a brief overview of the meeting which included the request of the committee for guest speakers and some legislative research on the matter. The committee will continued to meet and will be required to submit a report on or by November 1, 2008.

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**E. Peer Reviewers**

The Board held a brief discussion and at this time. There is a consensus among the Board members that performing a peer review in the state of New Hampshire may constitute practicing in New Hampshire; however, this is still a topic of discussion.

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

>Board briefly discussed this matter. This will be on the agenda for future discussions.

**G. Board Meetings at Local Colleges**

This meeting was held at the NH Technical College in Concord, NH, students and faculty attended. The Board felt this was beneficial to the students as well as to the Board and enjoyed this venue very much and hopes to continue to visit schools for Board meetings throughout the year. The Board thanks Professor Lynn Hedge for her assistance and for allowing the Board to conduct its meeting at the technical college.

**H. Annual Meeting- Boston**

>Jefferson Chickering, and the Executive Director will be attending the NASBA annual meeting being held in Boston. NASBA has agreed to waive the registration fees for the two individuals. Additional funding will be requested from the Governors' office.

**I. IRS/Outsourcing**

Mr. Chickering noted that at the August Board meeting Mr. Williams had presented a brief press release regarding the release of certain client information. It was noted that Mr. Williams has provided, prior to the meeting and included in this agenda, additional information regarding licensees ability to release tax client information. A tax preparer may release tax client information if a consent is signed knowingly and voluntarily by the client. The new IRS regulations are 301.7216-3 & 301.7216-3T and Revenue Procedure 2008-35.

**J. IRS Licensing of Tax Preparers**

>H.R. 5716 Amending of the Internal Revenue Code Introduced April 8, 2008 into the House of Representatives. As of the date of this meeting no new information is available.

Maryland has adopted legislation to require tax preparers obtain licensure.

**9. Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings**

October 20, 2008 (being held at Southern New Hampshire University)  
November 17, 2008  
December 15, 2008

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**10. The following applications were approved for certification by the Board at the September 22, 2008 meeting:**

1. Mahmoud M. Abdel-khaliq	#4639
2. Roy C. Abou Jawdeh	#4640
3. Mohammad M. Aiqirem	#4641
4. Kiwako Atarashi	#4642
5. Natalia O. Bainova	#4643
6. Gianna J. Barnes	#4644
7. Christopher C. Barrett	#4645
8. Toufic Al Bawab	#4646
9. Oliver Burchardt	#4647
10. Fan Chen	#4648
11. Samantha N. Clarke	#4649
12. Lisa A. Cohen	#4650
13. John Christopher Currie	#4651
14. Olivier De Martel	#4652
15. Fatima Dolakova	#4653
16. Gennyne Laurelle Ellis	#4654
17. Lucy Yuan Fung	#4656
18. Robert Genovese	#4655
19. Steve Giovinelli	#4657
20. Nicole R. Goulet	#4658
21. Renoldo C. Harding	#4659
22. Stefan Hartwig	#4660
23. Elkies Hernandez	#4661
24. Philipp Kegele	#4662
25. Eiji Kubo	#4663
26. Mark R. LaPrade	#4664
27. Daiwei Ling	#4665
28. Tracey L. Livernois	#4666
29. Lauren M. Martin	#4667
30. Michal A. Meyer	#4668
31. Konstantin Petrov	#4669
32. Zhenyu Qui	#4670
33. Kubanychbek Sandybaev	#4671
34. Olga Shabalkina	#4672
35. Rohini P. Shah	#4673
36. Donald P. Silver	#4674
37. Danilo S. Simoes	#4675
38. Bassam D. Sobh	#4676
39. Patrick L. Urbanczik	#4677
40. John P. Weaver	#4678

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11. Upon the motion of Owen Walton and the second of Wayne Geher, 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, and Deb Butler, Yea, Sheila Christie, Yea and Andrea Goldberg, Yea.

12. Upon the motion of Jefferson Chickering and the second of Andrea Goldberg 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, and Deb Butler, Yea, Sheila Christie, Yea and Andrea Goldberg, Yea.

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Professor Richard O. Hanson, Secretary and  
Certified Public Accountant