BOARD PROPOSES RULE CHANGES

At the August 16th meeting the Board approved changes to its rules. The substantive changes include:

- **CPA Exam** – would move from limiting candidates to one section per testing window to unlimited testing per window, as long as the score from the previous exam has been received for that particular section.

- **CPE Nano learning** – would allow up to 4 hours of CPE credit (nano learning is CPE taken in ten-minute increments).

- **CPE content requirement** – would reduce the requirement that 50% of CPE (20 hours per year) be met through courses in Accounting & Auditing, Tax, or Ethics to 40% for those working in public accounting and to 20% for those who do not work in public accounting.

- **CPE Group Study requirement** – would reduce the group study requirement from 40% to 20% (16 hours to 8 hours per year).

- **Quality review** – would update rules surrounding Quality review for impact of the Peer Review requirement that became effective January 1, 2019.

- **Prelicensure Criminal Background Petition** – would create a process for individuals to petition the Board for a determination as to whether their criminal record would disqualify them from licensure or if they would be eligible to obtain a waiver from the Board.

The proposed changes are in draft form and are currently being reviewed by the Governor’s office. Once approved we will notify all licensees by email and post a link to the proposed changes to our website. The Board welcomes all feedback on these changes.
DIVERSITY OF ACCOUNTING STUDENTS UP

The AICPA reports that in the 2017-2018 academic year, racial/ethnic diversity among accounting graduates has increased, including a 7 percentage point rise in the number of Hispanic or Latino accounting graduates. 2019 Trends in the Supply of Accounting Graduates and the Demand for Public Accounting Recruits has been released by the AICPA https://www.aicpa.org/content/dam/aicpa/interestareas/accountingeducation/newsandpublications/downloadabledocuments/2019-trends-report.pdf. Those designating themselves as “white” in 2018 remain the largest percentage of new bachelor’s and master’s of accounting graduates (58 percent), followed by “Asian/Pacific Islanders” at 16 percent. In 2017-18 there was an equal percentage by gender of new accounting graduates with bachelor’s degrees, while women accounted for 53 percent of the master’s degree graduates in that year.

While there was a significant increase in the number of CPA Examination candidates in 2016, in 2018 the number fell to its lowest level in 10 years, 36,827. However, the number of CPA candidates who passed their fourth section of the Uniform CPA Examination in 2018 was 23,941, while in 2006 only 14,101 passed their fourth part.

Yvonne Hinson, the AICPA’s Academic-in-Residence, points out: “Across the last two Trends reports, we have experienced an approximate 30 percent decline in hiring of new accounting graduates. The marketplace continues to demand different competencies and, while accounting graduates are still being hired, firms are seeking other skill sets to expand services. We are seeing that the gap in skill required in the profession, especially as it relates to technology needs, is being met with non-accounting graduates.”

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EXAM FEES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 19, 2019

The Uniform CPA exam fees charged by Prometric, NASBA, and the AICPA will increase on October 19, 2019. The Board’s administrative fee will remain the same.

EXAM FEES
Auditing (AUD) $209.99
Financial Accounting & Reporting (FAR) $209.99
Regulation (REG) $209.99
Business Environment & Concepts (BEC) $209.99

EXAM APPLICATION FEES
Initial application - 4 sections $170.00
Initial application - 3 sections $155.00
Initial application - 2 sections $140.00
Initial application - 1 section $125.00
Re exam - 4 sections $120.00
Re exam - 3 sections $105.00
Re exam - 2 sections $90.00
Re-exam - 1 section $75.00
CPA EXAMINATION OVERVIEW

Arkansas Statistics
CPA Exam Summary: 2019 Q1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Avg. Score</th>
<th>%Pass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First time</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-exam</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Avg. Score</th>
<th>%Pass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUD</td>
<td>72.1</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEC</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAR</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REG</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
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Overall Statistics
CPA Exam Summary: 2019 Q1

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<th>Sections</th>
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<td>First time</td>
<td>12,644</td>
<td>70.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-exam</td>
<td>28,835</td>
<td>71.4</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUD</td>
<td>71.4</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEC</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAR</td>
<td>68.4</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REG</td>
<td>70.3</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
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Jurisdiction Ranking for Arkansas

Arkansas Statistics
CPA Exam Summary: 2019 Q2

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<tr>
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<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-exam</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>72.4</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>AUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEC</td>
<td>73.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAR</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REG</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
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Overall Statistics
CPA Exam Summary: 2019 Q2

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<td>13,900</td>
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<td>57.6%</td>
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<td>Re-exam</td>
<td>35,146</td>
<td>73.1</td>
<td>54.6%</td>
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<th>Section</th>
<th>Avg. Score</th>
<th>%Pass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUD</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEC</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAR</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REG</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jurisdiction Ranking for Arkansas
**JUNE BOARD DISCIPLINARY CASES**

The following cases were closed at the June Board Meeting:

**Respondent** Mark Rogers  
License Number: 4161  
Violation: Reported group study CPE hours that were not actually taken, aggregated hours on CPE renewal form, and failed to respond timely to Board communications.  
Action: A Board hearing was held and the licensee was assessed a $2,417.50 fine and ordered to complete 16 hours of Group CPE.

**Respondent** Leila Hutton  
License Number: 0173  
Violation: The licensee failed to renew their license for 2019 and failed to respond to Board communications.  
Action: A hearing was held and the license was revoked.

**Respondent** Mary Bittick  
License Number: 2987  
Violation: The licensee failed to renew their license for 2019 and failed to respond to Board communications.  
Action: A hearing was held and the license was revoked.

**Respondent** Pamela Langston  
License Number: 4919  
Violation: The licensee failed to renew their license for 2019 and failed to respond to Board communications.  
Action: A hearing was held and the license was revoked.

**Respondent** Charles Walbert  
License Number: 2955  
Violation: The licensee failed to renew their license for 2019 and failed to respond to Board communications.  
Action: A hearing was held and the license was revoked.

**Respondent** Rollo Ingram  
License Number: 1700  
Violation: The licensee failed to renew their license for 2019 and failed to respond to Board communications.  
Action: A hearing was held and the license was revoked.

**Respondent** H.M.S.W CPA PLLC  
License Number: 226LC  
Violation: The licensee failed to renew their license for 2019 and failed to respond to Board communications.  
Action: The licensee signed a consent order and paid a $1,000 fine.

**Respondent** Denman, Hamilton, & Associates CPA PLLC  
License Number: 196LC  
Violation: Firm licensee failed to adequately supervise an employee in a payroll tax engagement.  
Action: The licensee signed a consent order and paid a $1,250 penalty.

**Respondent** Orville Abrams  
License Number: 6772  
Violation: The licensee failed to complete Ethics CPE and failed to respond timely to Board communications.  
Action: The licensee signed a consent order and paid a $1,035 penalty.

**Respondent** Jimmie Lowrey  
License Number: 6811  
Violation: The licensee failed to respond timely to two certified letters from the Board regarding the 2018 CPE audit.  
Action: The licensee signed a consent order and paid a $1,035 penalty.

**RETIRED STATUS**

The following licensees were approved for retired status:  
April 1 through August 31, 2019:

Kent Brewster  
Little Rock, AR
Jo Ann McMasters  
Little Rock, AR
Dora Flesher  
Little Rock, AR
Billy Pryor  
Searcy, AR
Jerome Unser  
Little Rock, AR
Jon Fritch  
Little Rock, AR
Vicki Packard  
Mountain Home, AR
Brent Haraway  
Fulshear, TX
Vicki DeVore  
Fort Smith, AR
John Prince  
Scottsdale, AZ
Cheryl Browder  
Little Rock, AR

**AUGUST BOARD DISCIPLINARY CASES**

The following cases were closed at the August Board Meeting:

**Respondent** Robert Tucker  
License Number: 1310  
Violation: CPE violation – Arkansas Board Rules ethics requirement  
Action: The licensee signed a compliance statement and paid a $100 penalty.

**Respondent** William Reems  
License Number: 5059  
Violation: Inactive CPA failed to include term “inactive” next to CPA title on his resume and social media. Licensee also offered to perform professional services to the public on his website.  
Action: The licensee signed a consent order, corrected his website and paid a $250 penalty.

**Respondent** H.M.S.W CPA PLLC  
License Number: 226LC  
Violation: The licensee failed to renew their license for 2019 and failed to respond to Board communications.  
Action: The hearing was held and the license was revoked.

**Respondent** Denman, Hamilton, & Associates CPA PLLC  
License Number: 196LC  
Violation: Firm licensee failed to adequately supervise an employee in a payroll tax engagement.  
Action: The licensee signed a consent order and paid a $1,000 fine.

**Respondent** Orville Abrams  
License Number: 6772  
Violation: The licensee failed to complete Ethics CPE and failed to respond timely to Board communications.  
Action: The licensee signed a consent order and paid a $1,250 penalty.

**Respondent** Jimmie Lowrey  
License Number: 6811  
Violation: The licensee failed to respond timely to two certified letters from the Board regarding the 2018 CPE audit.  
Action: The licensee signed a consent order and paid a $1,035 penalty.
RESPONSIBLE LICENSING MATTERS

Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) Launches

In this era of rollback of regulations or even deregulation of occupations and professions, much talk has turned to the necessity of licensing professions. After all, the US was founded on individual freedoms, including freedom to earn a living. So why should you care about this?

The CPA profession, and your counterparts around the globe, are responsible for the fiscal integrity of the financial systems throughout the world. You hold a high level of public trust and influence in the financial arena. As we have seen in the past, when a CPA fails to perform, it has a lasting ripple effect.

Responsible licensing of highly complex and technical professions protects the public by ensuring licensees have met minimum competency requirements and maintain those competencies through CPE, which protects consumers from unqualified practitioners in areas where consumers do not have the expertise needed to evaluate the practitioner’s qualifications and performance. CPA initial licensing and maintenance is rigorous for a reason. Responsible licensing allows all qualified individuals to enter the profession without artificial deterrents but ensure public protection.

CPA regulation in the US has made great strides in eliminating unnecessary barriers to entry into the profession. Individual and firm mobility allows qualified practitioners to practice across state lines. Reciprocity of licensure and CPE reciprocity allows easy flow of licensing from one jurisdiction to another. Unfortunately, these accomplishments have not removed the CPAs from the broad-brush approach to deregulation of occupations and professions.

The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), of which the Arkansas Board of Accountancy is a member, has joined with other regulatory associations of highly complex technical professions (architect, landscape architects, professional engineers and professional surveyors) to create the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL). ARPL was created to ensure that a unified voice for advanced professions is present and heard in the growing debate around the appropriate level of licensure for professions and occupations. Visit their website to learn more about ARPL and their efforts to promote a responsible, balanced approach to professional licensing. Talk to your local legislator and stay involved. Help maintain public protection in the practice of public accounting.

Reprinted with permission from the September 2019 Montana Board News.
NEW INDIVIDUAL CPA LICENSES
The following individual CPA licenses were approved from April 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019:

- Austin Hart, Springdale, AR (Madeline Mullis, Little Rock, AR)
- Shelly Henson, Fort Smith, AR (William Gregory, Little Rock, AR)
- Heather M Haag, Poteau, OK (Brett McReynolds, Fort Smith, AR)
- Sarah Porter, Plano, TX (Mitchell Freer, El Dorado, AR)
- Caleb Crawley, Conway, AR (Daniel Kleine, Cave Springs, AR)
- Jordan Walker, Little Rock, AR (Kasha Gansky, Hot Springs, AR)
- William Gammill, Little Rock, AR (Shelley Latimer, El Dorado, AR)
- William Bumpers, North Little Rock, AR (Joseph Gatliff, Bryant, AR)
- Robin Riggs, Little Rock, AR (Christopher Bumpers, Little Rock, AR)
- Thomas Leath, Little Rock, AR (Li Davidson, Little Rock, AR)
- Warren Wolf, Monroe, LA (Christina Freeman, Stuttgart, AR)
- Chance Locklear, Fort Smith, AR (Ricky Johnson Jr., Bentonville, AR)
- Aaron Dale, Russellville, AR (Kevin Nembhard, Batesville, AR)
- John Hale, Judsonia, AR (Michael Armenteros, Clarksville, TX)
- Amy Buss, Conway, AR (Frederick Chrimes, Tulsa, OK)
- Anthony Beeler, Lonoke, AR (Sarah Caldwell, Little Rock, AR)
- Turner McDaniel, Jupiter, FL (Gregory Justus, Little Rock, AR)
- Jared Carver, Little Rock, AR (Logan Moore, Russellville, AR)
- Vaniel Hart, Austin, AR (Sarah Thomasson, Rockport, AR)
- Brittany Robbins, Richmond, TX (Dana Crawley, Fayetteville, AR)
- Elizabeth Jones, Alexander, AR (Margaret Eischen, Little Rock, AR)
- John Dalton, Bentonville, AR (Anant Shah, Bentonville, AR)
- Julia Ward, Poplar Bluff, MO (Gerald Reimer, Siloam Springs, AR)
- Nicole Mullen, Fayetteville, AR (Ryland Jones, Chapel Hill, NC)
- Christopher Nagy, Little Rock, AR (Jane Douglas, Little Rock, AR)
- Zane Jeffers, Hot Springs, AR (Nicole Taylor, Cave Springs, AR)
- Brooke Elder, Fort Smith, AR

SURRENDERS
The following licenses were surrendered from April 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019.

- Robin Forbis, Rogers, AR (Joseph Coles, North Little Rock, AR)
- Stephen Allmond, St. Louis, MO (Gwena Becket, McKinney, TX)
- Bonnie Olzack, Vero Beach, FL (William Goff, Conway, AR)
- Michelle Jenkins, Richardson, TX (Kaci Matthews, Houston, TX)
- Trusha Patel, Voldosta, GA (Hervey Houser, Little Rock, AR)
- Diane Moellers, Little Rock, AR (Michael Thornberry, Tulsa, OK)
- Michael Overturf, Hot Springs, AR (Ross Winton, Fort Smith, AR)
- Mark Campbell, Poplar Bluff, MO (Thomas Weber, McGregor, TX)
- Lisa Paland, Owings, MD (Scott Benton, Cassville, MO)
- Elaine Hunthrop, Sherwood, AR (Jacob Flournoy, Little Rock, AR)
- Michael Wilkinson, North Little Rock, AR (Glen Grayham, CPA, PLLC, Mountain Home, AR)
- Jacob Nolte, Springdale, AR (Packer & Company Inc., Little Rock, AR)
- Woodlief Thomas, Little Rock, AR (Hicok, Fern, & Company, Abingtom, VA)
- Barbara Heavener, Covington, LA (HMM, CPAs LLP, Hauppauge, NY)
- Kaki Giauque, Rogers, AR (Eric J. Scism Professional Association, Benton, AR)
- David Marano, Fort Smith, AR (Knute & Associates, P.C., Darien, IL)
- Christopher Wesley, Chapel, FL (Jones and Lawton, CPAs, P.A., Russellville, AR)
- David Knutte, Darien, IL (Long CPA & Consulting, PLLC, Rogers, AR)
- Regina Wood, Little Rock, AR (Benton CPA, P.C., Cassville, MO)
- Nicholas Miller, Atlanta, TX
SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

The following firm licenses were issued from October 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019:

Brandon Abbott  Bixby, OK
Jordan Akiyoshi  San Jose, CA
Michael Armenteros  Batesville, AR
Timothy Barnes  Fayetteville, AR
Anthony Beeler  Lonoke, AR
Conrad Boyd  Little Rock, AR
Bo Brandt  Springdale, AR
Aaron Brock  Smackover, AR
Mei-Mei Brown  Little Rock, AR
Amy Buss  Conway, AR
Stephanie Butcher  Maumelle, AR
Sarah Caldwell  Tulsa, OK
Brett Calhoun  Centralia, MO
Jared Carver  Denver, CO
Sandra Cole  Lavaca, AR
Sarah Coles  Little Rock, AR
Caleb Crawley  Conway, AR
Aaron Dale  Russellville, AR
Li Davidson  Little Rock, AR
Julia Dell  Poplar Bluff, MO
Brooke Elder  Fort Smith, AR
Jacob Fair  Little Rock, AR
Brian Forse North  Little Rock, AR
Christina Freeman  Van Buren, AR
Mitchell Freer  El Dorado, AR
William Gammill  Little Rock, AR
Kasha Gansky  Hot Springs, AR
Joseph Gatliff  Sherwood, AR
Christopher Gentry  Little Rock, AR
Bret Gordon  Magazine, AR
Megan Grabow  Dallas, TX
William Gregory  Little Rock, AR
Heather Haag  Poteau, OK
Ryan Hackett  Rogers, AR
Christy Haley  Benton, AR
Amy Hall  Centerton, AR
Leslie Harp  Little Rock, AR
Vanieil Hart  Austin, AR
Lauren Hazard  Little Rock, AR
Dakota Hicks  Bentonville, AR
Ellen Huckabay  Conway, AR
Zane Jeffers  Hot Springs, AR
Sara Jennings  DeWitt, AR
Roy Jetton  Ashdown, AR
Kailey Johnson  Conway, AR
Elizabeth Jones  Stuttgart, AR
Benjamin Jones  Alexander, AR
Springdale, AR
Dallas, TX
Cave Springs, AR
El Dorado, AR
Anderson, MO
Little Rock, AR
Fort Smith, AR
Dallas, TX
Magazine, AR
Jupiter, FC
Fort Smith, AR
Little Rock, AR
Little Rock, AR
Bryant, AR
Springdale, AR
Fayetteville, AR
Springdale, AR
Fayetteville, AR
Little Rock, AR

NEW FIRMS

The following firm licenses were issued from April 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019:

Collins, Barr & Hembree, Ltd.  Madison, MS
Keith Mabry, Inc.  Dover, AR
Smith Marion & Co  Brentwood, TN
Custom Accounting Solutions  Little Rock, AR
Ricky B Beauchamp JR CPA PA  Fort Smith, AR
Kendal Powers CPA PA  Fayetteville, AR
Jones & Lawton, CPAs, PA  Russellville, AR
OM CPA Services Prof Corp  Bentonville, AR
CBW Certified Public Accountants, PLLC  Star City, AR
J. Richard Morgan, CPA, PLLC  Smackover, AR
Julie Wilson, CPA, PLLC  Fayetteville, AR
Mountain Home CPA, LLC  Mountain Home, AR
Miller, Smith & Company CPAs PLLC  Little Rock, AR
MJ Accounting, LLC  Conway, AR
NWA CPA and Consulting, LLC  Rogers, AR
Raven L. Adams, CPA LLC  Bentonville, AR
Carter & Company Certified Public Accountants  Destin, FL
Jermy Byford CPA  Fayetteville, AR
Sikich LLP  Naperville, IL
Powell & Associates CPAs  Sheridan, AR

INACTIVE

The following licensees converted from active to inactive status from April 1 to August 31, 2019:

Jason Wilson  Frisco, TX
Ryan Botha  Fayetteville, AR
Katie Chandler  Dallas, TX
Melanie Hodges  Pagosa Springs, CO
Moving? Please Notify the Board Office of Your New Address

The rules and regulations require all licensees to notify the ASBPA of all such changes by sending a change of address form to the office. Please include a street address to facilitate any express mail deliveries. Click here to change your address, or complete and mail in the form below:

Name: ________________________________
Employer: ___________________________ License#: ___________
Old Address: ________________________________ New Address: ________________________________
Phone: ___________________________ Email: ________________________________
Signature: ________________________________ Date: ___________

Please Mail to: Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy
101 East Capitol, Suite 450, Little Rock, AR 72201