ASBPA Update

FALL 2019 VOLUME 02 - 2019



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.

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2019 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

November 15

Meetings of the Board are open to the public, except some portions which may be closed under state law.



ASBPA OFFICE CLOSED

In accordance with the schedule adopted by the State of Arkansas, the Board office will be closed on the following dates:

November 28-29	
December 24-25	
January 1	

Thanksgiving Christmas New Year's Day

A MEMBER OF

DIVERSITY OF ACCOUNTING STUDENTS UP

The AICPA reports that in the 2017-2018 academic year, racial/ ethnic diversity among accounting graduates has increased, including

2018 ACCOUNTING TRENDS



7% increase in Hispanic/Latino accounting graduates 23,941 Candidates passed the fourth section of the CPA Exam

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) Financial Accounting & Reporting (FAR) Regulation (REG) Business Environment & Concepts (BEC)	\$209.99 \$209.99 \$209.99 \$209.99
EXAM APPLICATION FEES Initial application - 4 sections Initial application - 3 sections Initial application - 2 sections Initial application - 1 section	\$170.00 \$155.00 \$140.00 \$125.00
Re exam - 4 sections Re exam - 3 sections Re exam - 2 sections Re-exam - 1 section	\$120.00 \$105.00 \$90.00 \$75.00

CPA EXAMINATION OVERVIEW

Arkansas Statistics CPA Exam Summary: 2019 Q1

Overall Statistics CPA Exam Summary: 2019 Q1

	Sections	Avg. Score	%Pass
First time	34	61.8	38.2%
Re-exam	151	72.9	56.3%
AUD	56	72.1	57.1%
BEC	46	73.4	54.4%
FAR	49	66.0	44.9%
REG	34	72.2	55.9%

	Sections	Avg. Score	%Pass
First time	12,644	70.7	52.7%
Re-exam	28,835	71.4	48.6%
AUD	11,766	71.4	48.6%
BEC	9,821	75.2	58.0%
FAR	12,451	68.4	44.4%
REG	7,441	70.3	50.2%

Jurisdiction Ranking for Arkansas



41ST SECTIONS

16TH P/





Arkansas Statistics CPA Exam Summary: 2019 Q2

	Sections	Avg. Score	%Pass
First time	42	69.2	47.6%
Re-exam	181	72.4	49.7%
AUD	52	71.8	40.4%
BEC	58	73.6	48.3%
FAR	50	67.9	46.0%
REG	63	73.4	60.3%

Overall Statistics CPA Exam Summary: 2019 Q2

	Sections	Avg. Score	%Pass
First time	13,900	72.3	57.6%
Re-exam	35,146	73.1	54.6%
AUD	14,053	73.0	55.1%
BEC	11,289	75.9	59.8%
FAR	13,188	69.9	49.4%
REG	10,516	72.9	58.6%

Jurisdiction Ranking for Arkansas



40TH SECTIONS

ONS 43RD





JUNE BOARD DISCIPLINARY CASES

The following cases were closed at the June 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

AUGUST BOARD DISCIPLINARY CASES The following cases were closed at the August 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: A 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.

RETIRED STATUS

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

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

SEPTEMBER BOARD DISCIPLINARY CASES

The following cases were closed at the September Board Meeting:

Respondent: William Baker License Number: 9167 Violation: Licensee was convicted of felony drug charges Action: Revocation of the license

Respondent: Richard Beauchamp Jr. License Number: 8916 Violation: Unlicensed firm Action: The licensee signed a Compliance Statement and paid \$110 penalty Respondent: Lisa Lachowsky

License Number: 9332

Violation: Failure to respond timely to 2019 CPE Audit

Action: The licensee signed a Compliance Statement and paid \$250 penalty

Respondent: Vicki Ingle License Number: 7788

Violation: CPE audit – failure to meet Arkansas Board Ethics course requirement

 $\ensuremath{\textbf{Action:}}$ The licensee signed a Compliance Statement and paid \$125 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 <u>website</u> 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.

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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
Robbi 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	Van Buren, AR
Chance Locklear	Fort Smith, AR	Ricky Johnson Jr.	Stuttgart, AR
Aaron Dale	Russellville, AR	Kevind Nembhard	Bentonville, AR
John Hale	Judsonia, AR	Michael Armenteros	Batesville, AR
Amy Buss	Conway, AR	Frederick Chrimes	Clarksville, TX
Anthony Beeler	Lonoke, AR	Sarah Caldwell	Tulsa, OK
Turner McDaniel	Jupiter, FC	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	Bentoville, 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 Stephen Allmond Bonnie Olzack **Michelle Jenkins** Trusha Patel **Diane Moellers** Michael Overturf Mark Campbell Lisa Paland Elaine Hunthrop Michael Wilkinson Jacob Nolte Woodlief Thomas Barbara Heavener Kaki Giauque David Marano Christopher Wesley David Knutte Regina Wood Nicholas Miller

Rogers, AR Joseph Coles North Little Rock, AR Gwena Becket St. Louis, MO McKinney, TX Vero Beach, FL William Goff Conway, AR Richardson, TX Kaci Matthews Houston, TX Voldosta, GA Hervey Houser Little Rock, AR Little Rock, AR Michael Thornberry Tulsa, OK Little Rock, AR **Ross Winton** Fort Smith, AR Hot Springs, AR Thomas Weber McGregor, TX Scott Benton Owings, MD Cassville, MO Sherwood, AR Jacob Flournoy Little Rock, AR North Little Rock, AR Glen Grayham, CPA, PLLC Little Rock, AR Springdale, AR Packer & Company Inc. Mountain Home, AR Little Rock, AR Hicok, Fern, & Company Abington, VA HMM, CPAs LLP Hauppauge, NY Covington, LA Rogers, AR Eric J. Scism Professional Association Benton, AR Fort Smith, AR Knutte & Associates, P.C. Darien, IL Chapel, FL Jones and Lawton, CPAs, P.A. Russellville, AR Darien, IL Long CPA & Consulting, PLLC Rogers, AR Little Rock, AR Benton CPA, P.C. Cassville, MO Atlanta, TX

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

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

Brandon Abbott Jordan Akiyoshi **Michael Armenteros Timothy Barnes** Anthony Beeler Conrad Boyd Bo Brandt Aaron Brock Mei-Mei Brown Amy Buss Stephanie Butcher Sarah Caldwell Brett Calhoun Jared Carver Sandra Cole Sarah Coles Caleb Crawley Aaron Dale Li Davidson Julia Dell Brooke Elder Jacob Fair Brian Forse North Christina Freeman Mitchell Freer William Gammill Kasha Gansky Joseph Gatliff Christopher Gentry Bret Gordon Megan Grabow William Gregory Heather Haag Ryan Hackett

Bixby, OK San Jose, CA Batesville, AR Fayetteville, AR Lonoke, AR Little Rock, AR Springdale, AR Smackover, AR Little Rock, AR Conway, AR Maumelle, AR Tulsa, OK Centralia, MO Denver, CO Lavaca, AR Little Rock, AR Conway, AR Russellville, AR Little Rock, AR Poplar Bluff, MO Fort Smith, AR Little Rock, AR Little Rock, AR Van Buren, AR El Dorado, AR Little Rock, AR Hot Springs, AR Sherwood, AR Little Rock, AR Magazine, AR Dallas, TX Little Rock, AR Poteau, OK Rogers, AR

Christy Haley Amy Hall Leslie Harp Vaniel Hart Lauren Hazard Dakota Hicks Ellen Huckabay Zane Jeffers Sara Jennings **Roy Jetton** Kailey Johnson **Ricky Johnson Elizabeth Jones Benjamin Jones** Joshua Katz Seth Kendrick Daniel Kleine Shelley Latimer Jennifer LaVite Thomas Leath Chance Locklear Nathan Loftin Megan Mathews Turner McDaniel Brett McReynolds Shanna Miller **Brooke Million** Jesse Moore Joanna Moore **Krystal Moore Robert Morgan** Nicole Mullen Madeline Mullis David Murph

Benton, AR Centerton, AR Little Rock, AR Austin, AR Little Rock, AR Bentonville, AR Conway, AR Hot Springs, AR DeWitt, AR Ashdown, AR Conway, AR Stuttgart, AR Alexander, AR Fayetteville, 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 Fayetteville, AR Bryant, AR Little Rock, AR Fayetteville, AR Little Rock, AR Fayetteville, AR Christopher Nagy Taylor Nealey Kevin Nembhard Obed Onvemakonor Katherine Papa Justin Parker **Marcus** Patterson Paxton Penny Samuel Phan Jennifer Pitzer Sarah Porter Sawyer Raulerson Nicholas Rice **Brittany Robbins** Alexander Ross **Quincy Scott Connor Shannon** Katie Smith Heather Solano **Rachel Street Elizabeth Stultz Dylan Sutton** Yolanda Szabo Mark Tackett Simon Tagne Allison Tiefel Daniel Tu Andrew Walsh Christopher Ward Melinda Weller Jontavis Willis Michael Worley

Little Rock, AR Conway, AR Bentonville, AR Conway, AR Harrison, AR Texarkana, TX Fayetteville, AR Bismarck, AR Houston, TX Rocky Ford, CO Plano, TX Searcy, AR Benton, AR Hobbs, NM Little Rock, AR Baton Rouge, LA Jonesboro, AR Little Rock, AR Hensley, AR Bentonville, AR Monroe, LA Jonesboro, AR Little Elm, TX Little Rock, AR Arkadelphia, AR Houston, TX Fort Smith, AR Little Rock, AR Little Rock, AR Conway, AR Dallas, TX Little Rock, AR

NEW FIRMS

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

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Collins, Barr & Hembree, Ltd. Keith Mabry, Inc. Smith Marion & Co Custom Accounting Solutions Ricky B Beauchamp JR CPA PA Kendal Powers CPA PA Jones & Lawton, CPAs, PA OM CPA Services Prof Corp CBW Certified Public Accountants, PLLC J. Richard Morgan, CPA, PLLC Julie Wilson, CPA, PLLC Mountain Home CPA, LLC Miller, Smith & Company CPAs PLLC MJJ Accounting, LLC NWA CPA and Consulting, LLC Madison, MS Dover, AR Brentwood, TN Little Rock, AR Fort Smith, AR Fayetteville, AR Russellville, AR Bentonville, AR Star City, AR Smackover, AR Fayetteville, AR Mountain Home, AR Little Rock, AR Conway, AR Rogers, AR

Raven L. Adams, CPA LLC	Bentonville, AR
Carter & Company Certified Public Accountants	Destin, FL
Jermey 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 Ryan Botha Katie Chandler Melanie Hodges
- Frisco, TX Fayetteville, AR Dallas, TX Pagosa Springs, CO

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY BOARD MEMBERS



SHERRY CHESSER, CPA PRESIDENT NORTH LITTLE ROCK TERM: 2015 – 2020



DAVID VADEN, CPA SECRETARY CAVE SPRINGS TERM: 2016 – 2021



DEANA INFIELD, CPA TREASURER FORT SMITH TERM: 2017 – 2022



MIKE WATTS, JD, CPA LITTLE ROCK TERM: 2014 – 2019



RICHARD L. BELL, JD, CPA, CVA NORTH LITTLE ROCK, TERM: 2018 – 2023



KEVIN CANFIELD SPRINGDALE PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE TERM: 2018 – 2023



DENNY WOODS, JD FAYETTEVILLE CONSUMER ADVOCATE TERM: 2017 – 2022

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY STAFF



JIMMY CORLEY, CPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (501) 682-5533 James.Corley@arkansas.gov



MELISSA HAMRIC EXAM SPECIALIST (501) 682-2574 Melissa.Hamric@arkansas.gov



DALE EDGE, CPA INVESTIGATOR (501) 682-5525 Dale.Edge@arkansas.gov



APRIL MURPHY LICENSING SPECIALIST (501) 682-5532 April.M.Murphy@arkansas.gov



TIM MONTGOMERY, CPA BOARD INVESTIGATOR (501) 683-1984 Tim.Montgomery@arkansas.gov



ALAN FORTNEY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER (501) 682-2512 Alan.Fortney@arkansas.gov



TRISTA SAYLORS FISCAL OFFICER (501) 682-5534 Tristakaye.Saylors@arkansas.gov



MARY ROBERTS CREDENTIALING ASSISTANT (501) 682-1520 Mary.Roberts@arkansas.gov



MARK OHRENBERGER LEGAL COUNSEL (501) 682-2516 Mark.Ohrenberger@arkansas.gov



TIFFANY VANO CPE COORDINATOR (501) 682-2690 Tiffany.Vano@arkansas.gov



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

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 I 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