

December 15, 2023
Board of Accountancy
Department of Business and Professional Regulations
Division of Real Estate Board Room,
400 W. Robinson Street, Suite N901, Orlando, Florida 32801

Notice

Friday December 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call of Attendees was called by Roger Scarborough, and reflected the following persons present:

Board Members

William Blend (Chair)	Present
Brent Sparkman	Present
Jason Lafser	Present
Tracy Keegan	Present
Shireen Sackreiter	Present
Michelle Maingot	Present
William Benson	Present
Steve Platau	Present
Caridad Vasallo	Present

Staff

Roger Scarborough	Present
Kevin Brown	Present

Rachelle Munson, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Board Counsel. Katie Pareja, Chief Attorney, Samantha Ceres, Senior Attorney, Office of the General Counsel. Jason Harrell, Shelly Weir, Paul Brown and Key O'Keefe of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accounting. Jennifer Green of Liberty Partners of Tallahassee. The court reporter was Brett Green. Mr. Platau and Ms. Maingot left the meeting at 12:32pm.

1. Deceased

A moment of silence was held for deceased licensees.

2. Approve Minutes

- a. October 27, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Vasallo, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter, to approve minutes. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. OGC Final Action

Informal Hearing

- a. Anderson, Ralph

Mr. Anderson was not present with Mr. Tom Buchan present as Counsel.

Ms. Pareja was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Ms. Maingot, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and qualifies to have a hearing before the Board involving no disputed issues of material fact and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Platau, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to accept the recommended penalties as presented with consideration given to mitigation presented by counsel. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Green, Travis J.

Mr. Green was present.

Ms. Keegan was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Lafser to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and qualifies to have a hearing before the Board involving no disputed issues of material fact and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Platau, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to accept the recommended penalties as presented with the amendment that the respondent shall have no ability to engage in attestations. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Jadnauth, Vijaiantie

Ms. Jadnauth was not present.

Ms. Keegan was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Lafser to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and qualifies to have a hearing before the Board involving no disputed issues of material fact and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Ms. Vasallo, seconded by Mr. Lafser to accept the recommended penalties as presented. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

d. Labeau, Heather L.

Ms. Labeau was not present.

Ms. Keegan was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Ms. Vasallo, seconded by Ms. Maingot to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and qualifies to have a hearing before the Board involving no disputed issues of material fact and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Lafser to accept the recommended penalties as presented. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

e. Mistina, Carrie L.

Ms. Mistina was not present.

Mr. Benson was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Vasallo to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and qualifies to have a hearing before the Board involving no disputed issues of material fact and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Keegan to accept the recommended penalties as presented. Upon vote, the motion failed with Mr. Platau, Ms. Vasallo, Ms. Maingot, and Mr. Lafser voting no.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Maingot to accept the recommended penalties as presented with the amendment that the fine is increased to \$2000. Upon vote, the motion passed with Ms. Keegan voting no.

f. Orr, Anna L.

Ms. Orr was present.

Ms. Keegan was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Benson, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and qualifies to have a hearing before the Board involving no disputed issues of material fact and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Ms. Sackreiter, seconded by Mr. Benson to accept the recommended penalties as presented. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Waiver

g. Erisman, Angela

Ms. Erisman was not present.

Ms. Keegan was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and failed to file an Election of Rights form or otherwise establish a disputed issue of material fact in response to the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Platau to accept the recommended penalties noting aggravating circumstances that the respondent failed to report multiple convictions. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

h. Fistel, Charles

Mr. Fistel was not present.

Ms. Keegan was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and failed to file an Election of Rights form or otherwise establish a disputed issue of material fact in response to the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Maingot to accept the recommended penalties. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

i. Green and Company CPAs, LLC

Mr. Green was present.

Ms. Keegan was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Platau, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and failed to file an Election of Rights form or otherwise establish a disputed issue of material fact in response to the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Lafser, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter to accept the recommended penalties. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

j. Lynch, Gregg A.

Mr. Lynch was present.

Ms. Keegan was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Ms. Sackreiter, seconded by Mr. Benson to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and failed to file an Election of Rights form or otherwise establish a disputed issue of material fact in response to the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Benson, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter to accept the recommended penalties. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

k. Mai, Thienphuong T.

M. Mai was not present.

Mr. Benson was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Maingot to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and failed to file an Election of Rights form or otherwise establish a disputed issue of material fact in response to the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Maingot to accept the recommended penalties. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

l. Matta, Eliu

Mr. Matta was present.

Name was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Platau, seconded by Ms. Maingot to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and failed to file an Election of Rights form or otherwise establish a disputed issue of material fact in response to the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Platau, seconded by Ms. Vasallo to accept the recommended penalties with the amendment that the fine is reduced to \$500, suspended for six months, and extend the time to pay the fines and costs to six months. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

m. Minter, Cynthia L.

Ms. Minter was not present.

Mr. Benson was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Vasallo to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and failed to file an Election of Rights form or otherwise establish a disputed issue of material fact in response to the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Lafser to accept the recommended penalties. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

n. Myer, Stephen

Mr. Meyer was not present.

Mr. Benson was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Maingot to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and failed to file an Election of Rights form or otherwise establish a disputed issue of material fact in response to the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter to accept the recommended penalties. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

o. Solomon, Aaron CS

Mr. Solomon was not present.

Mr. Benson was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Keegan to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and failed to file an Election of Rights form or otherwise establish a disputed issue of material fact in response to the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter to accept the recommended penalties with the amendment that the deadline to satisfy the terms of the final order is set to 90 days. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

p. Zwolenski, Jeffrey S.

Mr. Zwolenski was not present.

Mr. Benson was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Vasallo to acknowledge that Respondent was properly served, and failed to file an Election of Rights form or otherwise establish a disputed issue of material fact in response to the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code and accept the allegations of fact and violations of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Vasallo to accept the recommended penalties with an amendment that the respondent will remain in a suspended status until the respondent complies with all terms listed in the final order. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Settlement Stipulation

q. Gonzalez, Kevin F.

Mr. Gonzalez was not present.

Ms. Keegan was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to adopt the terms of the proposed Settlement Stipulation. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

r. Grimes, Brianna C.

Ms. Grimes was not present.

Ms. Keegan and Ms. Sackreiter were recused.

Ms. Ceres presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Blend to adopt the terms of the proposed Settlement Stipulation. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

s. Mansilla, Edgar E.

Mr. Mansilla was not present.

Mr. Benson was recused.

Ms. Pareja presented the case.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to adopt the terms of the proposed Settlement Stipulation. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Petitions for Variance or Waiver from Rule

a. Coture, Craig

Mr. Coture was not present.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Maingot, to continue the petition contingent upon the petitioner waiving the 90-day requirement no later than December 22, 2023, otherwise the petition is denied. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Labrador, Taylor

Ms. Labrador was present.

Motion was made by Mr. Platau, seconded by Ms. Vasallo, to approve the petition for permanent variance for Rule 61H1-28.0052(1) (b), F.A.C. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Marquez, Mayte

Ms. Maquez was not present.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Vasallo, to deny the petition for permanent variance for Rule 61H1-33.003, F.A.C. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

d. Moore, Jennifer

Ms. Moore was present.

Motion was made by Ms. Keegan, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter, to approve the petition for permanent variance for Rule 61H1-28.0052(1) (b), F.A.C. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

e. Pureza, Leticia

Ms. Pureza was present.

Motion was made by Mr. Platau, seconded by Ms. Vasallo, to approve the petition for permanent variance for Rule 61H1-28.0052(1) (b), F.A.C. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

f. Williams, Brittany

Ms. Williams was not present.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Vasallo, to approve the petition for permanent variance for Rule 61H1-28.0052(1) (b), F.A.C. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Request for Hearing

a. Standley, Julia

Ms. Standley was present.

Motion made by Mr. Benson, seconded by Ms. Maingot to overturn the prior notice of intent to deny the application. Upon vote, this motion passed unanimously.

6. Exams – Considerations

a. Greer, Courtney A.

Ms. Greer was present.

Motion was made by Ms. Keegan, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter, to approve for convictions only. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Hammoud, Lucy N.

Ms. Hammoud was present.

Motion was made by Ms. Keegan, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter, to approve for convictions only. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Hutchings, William A.

Mr. Hutchings was not present.

Motion was made by Ms. Vasallo, seconded by Mr. Sparkman, to approve for question four only. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

d. Medina, Ramon A.

Mr. Medina was present.

Motion was made by Ms. Keegan, seconded by Ms. Vasallo, to approve for convictions only. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

e. Mercedes, Cristian

Mr. Mercedes was not present.

Motion was made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Vasallo, to continue the petition contingent upon the petitioner waiving the 90-day requirement no later than December 22, 2023, otherwise the application is denied. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

f. Porter, Tabitha A.

Ms. Porter was present.

Motion was made by Mr. Benson, seconded by Ms. Keegan, to approve for convictions only. Upon vote, the motion passed with Mr. Blend and Ms. Vasallo voting no.

7. Endorsement – Considerations

a. Gonzales, Randall B.

Mr. Gonzales was present.

Motion was made by Ms. Keegan, seconded by Ms. Sackreiter, to approve for question four only. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Matlock, Brian D.

Mr. Matlock was present.

Motion was made by Ms. Keegan, seconded by Mr. Sparkman, to approve for question four only. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Endorsement – Military

Motion made by Ms. Sackreiter, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to ratify the list as presented. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

9. Initial Licensure

- a. Vasquez-Solis, Alexander

Mr. Vazquez-Solis was present.

The applicant requested to withdraw their application.

Motion was made by Ms. Keegan, seconded by Mr. Platau, to accept the withdrawal. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Maintenance & Reactivation – Null and Void

- a. Priest, Donna S.

Ms. Priest was present.

Motion was made by Ms. Keegan, seconded by Mr. Benson, to approve the request to reinstate the applicant's null and void license. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

11. Maintenance & Reactivation – Voluntary Relinquishment

Motion made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to ratify the list as presented. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

12. Chief Attorney's Report

Ms. Pareja presented the Chief Attorney Report.

Motion made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to allow Chief Attorney to continue to prosecute year-old cases. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

13. Board Counsel's Report

- a. December 2023 Rules Report

This was an informational item.

- b. Rule 61H1-27.001, FAC (Updating Accrediting Agencies)

Motion made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Ms. Maingot to amend the rule language as identified below:

61H1-27.001 College or University Requirements.

(1) An accredited college or university within the meaning of Section 473.306, F.S., is a four-year degree granting college or university in the State University System or other four-year degree granting educational institution accredited at the time applicant's degree was received by virtue of membership in one of the following accrediting agencies ~~or for (a) through (f) its predecessors~~ listed:

~~(a) Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools;~~ ~~(ab) Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE);~~

~~(be) New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) Association of Schools and Colleges;~~ ~~(cd) Higher Learning Commission (HLC);~~

~~(de) Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU);~~

~~(ef) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC);~~

~~(fg) Western Association of Schools and Colleges, WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC);~~
(gh) Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB);
(hi) European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS);
(ij) Association of Independent Colleges and Schools. After August 2, 1992 the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools (AICS) will no longer be deemed an acceptable accrediting agency, unless the college or school accredited by the AICS is regulated by the Commission for Independent Education and exempted from licensure by the CIE under the provisions of section 246.085, F.S.

Upon vote, this motion was passed unanimously.

c. Substantial Equivalency (Ohio and New York Legacy Paths)

Motion by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to change rule and revise reference materials as presented below:

Revised August 15, 2014 January 1, 2024
CPAs & Mobility - Substantially Equivalent States

Incorporated by Rule 61H1-29.002, Florida Administrative Code

An active licensed CPA in good standing who does not have an office, pursuant to section 473.3141(1)(a), Florida Statutes and defined by Rule 61H1-20.001(8) Florida Administrative Code, could practice in Florida without notification or fee. The following states are considered substantially equivalent:

Alabama* Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado CNMI Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Georgia Guam Hawaii* Idaho Illinois* Indiana Iowa Kansas* Kentucky Louisiana Maine* Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana* Nebraska* Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York** North Carolina North Dakota Ohio** Oklahoma* Oregon Pennsylvania Puerto Rico Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Virgin Islands Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming

*These are two-tier states. The first tier is examination; a certificate is issued when an applicant passes the examination, which does not allow the individual to practice as a CPA in their home state nor does it allow the individual to practice in Florida. The second tier is licensure; only those individuals who hold an active license to practice in their home state are eligible to practice in Florida without Florida licensure, pursuant to section 473.3141(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

** These states currently meet the 3E pathway requirement for substantial equivalency under the UAA, and also have a legacy pathway to licensure that can apply in specific cases with explicit board approval. Individuals licensed or certified through one of these legacy pathways after 2012 do not automatically qualify as being substantially equivalent (SE) to the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA) and are not eligible for mobility practice privileges in other SE states.

~~The following jurisdiction has been found to **not** be substantially equivalent and individuals would need to obtain verification from the Florida Board pursuant to section 473.3141(1)(b), Florida Statutes that their personal qualifications are substantially equivalent to the certificate required in Section 5 of the Uniform Accountancy Act in the issuance of licenses.~~
Virgin Islands

Upon vote, this motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Sparkman, seconded by Ms. Vasallo that proposed rules 61H1-27.001 and 61H1-29.002, FAC would not have an adverse impact on small business or likely to directly or indirectly increase regulatory cost to any entity (including government) in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate in Florida within one (1) year after the implementation of the rule. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Lafser that the proposed rules or any part of the proposed rules will not be designated a minor violation. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Lafser that the proposed rules are subject to a sunset provision. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

14. Committees

a. November 9, 2023 – Education Advisory Committee

Motion made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Lafser to approve the minutes of the committee, and ratify the decisions made. Upon vote this motion passed unanimously.

b. Clay Ford Scholarship Committee – Confirm Appointment of Luis Marquez

Motion made by Mr. Blend, seconded by Mr. Sparkman to appoint Mr. Luis Marquez to the Clay Ford Scholarship Committee. Upon vote, this motion passed unanimously.

15. Administrative Items

a. Remarks from Chair

i. Peer Review Failed Reports

Mr. Blend presented NASBA's recommendation pertaining to the peer review process concerning failed reports.

Ms. Green presented a historical and statutory perspective on peer review. She highlighted legislative challenges that arose when implementing the peer review program, and the role that the regulatory board would take when peer review was implemented. She also identified public records exemptions and policies as it pertains to peer review.

Mr. Brown presented the AICPA's role with the peer review process, and how failed reports work with firms. He emphasized the importance of the process as educational and rehabilitative for firms that are found to be deficient during the process. He also outlined the processes in which a firm may be dropped from peer review, and in which a firm is terminated from peer review.

b. Remarks from Executive Director

i. Request to Revoke Approved Status for Ethics Provider: Global CPE Network, LLC

Motion made by Mr. Sparkman, seconded by Ms. Vasallo to revoke Global CPE Network LLC's approval as an ethics provider. Upon vote, this motion passed unanimously.

ii. NASBA CEO Ken Bishop's Retirement

This was an informational item.

iii. Delegation of Authority

Mr. Scarborough presented an update to the delegation of authority memorandum to allow the executive director to approve voluntary relinquishments on behalf of the Board for licensees who do not have any disciplinary issues.

Motion made by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Blend to approve the delegation of authority memorandum with the proposed changes as presented by Mr. Scarborough. Upon vote, this motion passed unanimously.

c. Update from Board Members Serving on NASBA Committees

None at this time.

d. Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair

Motion made by Mr. Platau, seconded by Ms. Vasallo to elect Mr. Sparkman as Chair and Mr. Benson as Vice-Chair. Upon vote, the vote passed unanimously.

16. Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Ms. Weir presented an update pertaining to Minnesota's proposed removal of auditing requirement for smaller governmental organizations. The Florida Auditor General's office reiterated the current practice will remain in place for audits. She provided an update concerning a professional licensing taskforce at the national level, that will explore new ways to improve recruitment into the profession while maintaining substantial equivalency and mobility. She also gave an update pertaining to Ohio's proposed change to their laws that would make getting a license easier but would remove their status as substantially equivalent. Ms. Weir provided an update on beneficial ownership.

Ms. Weir provided an update on the credit relief program on a national level. Mr. Scarborough emphasized the current practice that the Board will hear petitions for variance and waiver of the exam window rule.

Mr. Harrell provided a legislative update, identifying prep work that has gone into house bills set to be filed for consideration. A bill has been filed with the Florida House of Representatives (HB 813) and Senate (SB 954) that will provide a retired status for CPAs and give them a pathway back to licensure. Mr. Harrell identified that a bill that would exempt professional licensees from CPE after 10 years of compliance. This bill would not apply to CPAs, architects, and certain medical professions. Mr. Harrell provided an update pertaining to proposed legislation that would add CPE requirements for firms/ licensees that provide audits for insurance companies.

17. Public Comments

None at this time.

18. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



William Blend, Chair

February 9, 2024
Date