

**STATE BOARD OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
OF LOUISIANA**

601 Poydras Street, Suite 1770
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

November 9-10, 2015

The regular meeting of the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana was called to order by Chairman Mr. Tham on Monday, November 9, 2015 and Tuesday, November 10, 2015 in the offices of the Board at 601 Poydras Street, Suite 1770, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The purposes of the meeting were to review information and statistics concerning the CPA Examination, review information concerning reinstatement of Certificates, consider applications for certification, consider firm permit applications and related issues, conduct formal administrative hearings, consider executive session matters, and to transact any other business that requires the Board's attention.

The following Members were present:

Michael A. Tham, CPA	-	Chairman
Michael D. Bergeron, CPA	-	Secretary
Michael B. Bruno, CPA	-	Member
Mark P. Harris, CPA	-	Member
Lynn V. Hutchinson, CPA	-	Member
Desireé Honoré Thomas, CPA	-	Member

The following Member was absent:

Letti Lowe-Ardoin, CPA	-	Treasurer
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Also present were:

Staff:	Darla M. Saux, CPA	-	Executive Director
	Erin St Pierre England	-	Deputy Director
	Lisa A. Benefield	-	Compliance Investigator
	Carolyn A. Wainright	-	Compliance Investigator
Guests:	Ronald A. Gitz, II, CPA	-	Executive Director, LCPA
	Stacey Lockwood	-	Director of Professional Oversight, LCPA
	Linda Babin, CPA	-	State Government Relations Manager

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Tham at 9:10 a.m. on Monday, November 9, 2015, upon motion by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Bergeron and unanimously adopted.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Tham at 9:08 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Honoré Thomas and unanimously adopted.

I. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Personnel

1. Ms. Ivana Butler was hired as an Administrative Assistant effective September 2, 2015.
2. **Performance Evaluations 2014-15** – Performance Evaluations were completed and submitted to the state by the deadline of August 31, 2015. Employees that received favorable evaluations received a 4% performance adjustment effective October 1, 2015 unless capped by Civil Service's pay range.
3. **Performance Plans 2015-16** – The Deputy Director, in coordination with employees and the approval of the Executive Director, prepared Employee Performance Plans (performance expectations) for fiscal year 2015 – 2016. Plans were reviewed by all three parties on September 30, 2015.

B. Office of Group Benefits Changes

The Executive Director informed the Board that the period of open enrollment for changes or updates to employee health insurance plans began October 1 and will end November 15, 2015. All employees were made aware of the opening and are consistently reminded of when open enrollment closes.

C. Reminder – Required Courses for Public Servants

Chairman Mr. Tham reminded all Board Members and Board staff to complete a one-hour sexual harassment course and a one-hour ethics course by December 31, 2015 as required by the State. Upon completion, certificates should be forwarded to Mrs. England to update personnel folders.

D. Property Audit

The Executive Director informed the Board that in September 2015, the Louisiana Property Assistance Agency (LPAA) notified the Board there would be a property audit in October. Because of renewals and the Board meeting, Board staff requested the audit be conducted the week of October 19-23.

Shannon Arceneaux of LPAA visited the office on October 22 and found all property items in place and no major infractions. She did note several pieces of technology we should dispose

of, but due to pending policy from IT the items cannot be moved. The Board was waiting for the final report.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The regular and executive session minutes for the July 2015 Board Meeting were previously sent to Board members for review.

By motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the July 2015 regular and executive session minutes as drafted.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

- A.** The GASB 45 OPEB Valuation Report as of July 1, 2014 to be used for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 was not yet available on Louisiana’s Division of Administration website for the July meeting. The report is used to calculate the fiscal year’s OPEB liability. Additionally, the Board did not receive final GASB 68 calculations for the unfunded liability of the retirement plans until August 19, 2015. Therefore, financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 were not presented at the July meeting.
- B.** Mrs. Saux presented the Financial Statements for the quarters ended June 30, 2015 and September 30, 2015.
- C.** The Annual Financial Report (AFR) for the 2014-15 fiscal year was completed and filed with the Office of Statewide Reporting and the Legislative Auditor by August 31, 2015, as required by State policy.
- D.** The Board previously approved two single-year audits to accommodate the GASB 68 requirement for the current fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s office has completed the field work and advised the audit reports for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are being reviewed by upper management.

Upon motion by Mrs. Honoré Thomas seconded by Mr. Bergeron the Board approved the Treasurer’s reports.

IV. DEATHS AND RESIGNATIONS

A. Deaths (2 deaths: 1 Active; 1 Inactive)

Name	Certificate No.	Year Issued	Certification Status
Daniel Louie Butler, Jr.	4680	1968	Active
Alvin Justin Ourso, Jr.	2115	1961	Inactive

A moment of silence was requested in memory of the above.

B. Resignations (0 resignations)

The Executive Director reported that there were no resignations of certificates since the July 2015 Board meeting.

V. CERTIFICATE & INACTIVE STATUS REINSTATEMENTS

A. Reinstatement of Certificates / Inactive Status That Expired March 2015 (Same Year Reinstatements)

The Executive Director informed the Board that the following CPAs and CPA Inactive Status Registrants with expirations on March 1, 2015, reinstated their CPA Certificates or CPA Inactive Status registrations since the July 2015 Board meeting. **(12 Total: 7 Active; 5 Inactive Status):**

Name	Credential Number	Certification Status
Gregory Michael Beyer	25570	Active
Trina Strickland Dubois	24809	Active
Casey W. Grimes	26644	Active
Sherina Coleman Lewis	24330	Active
John Burton Lusk	26675	Active
Kenneth Joseph Rachal	15083	Active
Amy Durham Smith	24241	Active
Maureen Ann Dunne	15186	Inactive
Samuel Joseph Guzzo	21155	Inactive
Michael Gerard Johnson	22112	Inactive
Claire A Lemaire-McNabb	20491	Inactive
Jennifer Albert Welsch	23127	Inactive

VI. CPA EXAMINATION

A. CBT Results Compared - Previous Windows and National Rates Performance – All candidates – By section

July –August 2015 – 687 sections; 513 candidates (1.34 section per candidate):

	AUD		BEC		FAR		REG	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<u>Louisiana:</u>								
Passed sect's	95	49.5%	62	42.2%	86	48.0%	90	53.3%
Failed sect's	<u>97</u>		<u>85</u>		<u>93</u>		<u>79</u>	
	192		147		179		169	
<i>National pass rate</i>		48.2%		59.2%		50.4%		51.3%

April-May 2015 – 462 sections; 384 candidates (1.20 section per candidate):

	AUD		BEC		FAR		REG	
	No.	_____%	No.	_____%	No.	_____%	No.	_____%
<u>Louisiana:</u>								
Passed sect's	59	50.4%	55	48.3%	46	38.3%	49	44.1%
Failed sect's	<u>58</u>		<u>59</u>		<u>74</u>		<u>62</u>	
	117		114		120		111	
<i>National pass rate</i>		49.2%		57.6%		48.9%		50.9%

Jan-Feb 2015 – 468 sections; 401 candidates (1.17 section per candidate):

	AUD		BEC		FAR		REG	
	No.	_____%	No.	_____%	No.	_____%	No.	_____%
<u>Louisiana:</u>								
Passed sect's	77	38.8%	56	51.3%	76	40.6%	53	51.4%
Failed sect's	<u>39</u>		<u>59</u>		<u>52</u>		<u>55</u>	
	116		115		128		108	
<i>National pass rate</i>		44.6%		53.4%		44.1%		47.9%

Oct-Nov 2014 – 631 sections; 504 candidates (1.25 section per candidate):

	AUD		BEC		FAR		REG	
	No.	_____%	No.	_____%	No.	_____%	No.	_____%
<u>Louisiana:</u>								
Passed sect's	152	40.08%	153	54.03%	169	47.90%	157	53.50%
Failed sect's	<u>62</u>		<u>83</u>		<u>81</u>		<u>84</u>	
	214		236		250		241	
<i>National pass rate</i>		42.1%		52.0%		46.0%		44.4%

Jul-Aug 2014 – 715 sections; 529 candidates (1.35 section per candidate):

	AUD		BEC		FAR		REG	
	No.	_____%	No.	_____%	No.	_____%	No.	_____%
<u>Louisiana:</u>								
Passed sect's	103	53.92%	75	47.17%	96	45.08%	74	48.68%
Failed sect's	<u>88</u>		<u>84</u>		<u>117</u>		<u>78</u>	
	191		159		213		152	
<i>National pass rate</i>		47.4%		57.9%		51.1%		52.2%

B. Candidates Passing Examination Sections - July/August 2015

The Executive Director informed the Board that the following candidates passed the CPA examination in the last window. CPA Examination Services (CPAES) sent a final grade letter (“passing” letter) to these candidates notifying them that they completed the examination and are eligible to apply for a license if they have met the experience requirements. **(60 Candidates Passing)**

Name	Name
Lauren Aldrich	Kelsey Hunter
Kaylin Arockiam	Katie Jacola
Robert Aucoin	Ruiyi Jiang
Shelby Aulds	Tonilyn Lagarde
Jennifer Baer	Lindsey LaJack
Ellen Bailey	Rebecca Latiola
Luke Blalock	Kelly Laws
Ashley Boudreaux	Kate Leleux
Meagan Bourgeois	Sean Loftus
Morgan Brasher	John Luster
Ashley Braud	Katrina McDonald
Darren Cardinale	Linda McEachrane
Hanh Chung	Caroline Mouton
Tracy Cloud	Barrett Perry
Catherine Cowart	DeAnna Ray
Patrick Cunningham	Caroline Rittiner
Ross Dauzat	Samantha Seiter
Evelyn Dean	Ezekiel Sonnier
Nicholas DeHart	Kristen Spedale
Thomas Deweese	Varun Thacker
Dana Dugas	Will Thompson
Lesley Engolia	Dipika Timilsina
Samantha Falgout	Franklin Vazquez-Negrett
Patrick Finneman	Ryan Veters
Shelby Franklin	Evelyn Warner
Jill Ganier	Valarie Wells
Kenneth Guidry	Danielle Wetzel
Hans Gurtner	Patrick Whelen
Eddi Hernandez-Mejia	Alexander Wolf
Brandon Holleman	Jennifer Zamani

C. Request for acceptance of Community College Hours toward 150-Hour Requirement

The Board reviewed a request for acceptance of community college credit hours earned at Sowela Technical College which were not previously accepted by McNeese State University when the student transferred. As a senior at McNeese, the student is preparing to sit for the CPA exam upon receiving a BS in Accounting and would like the Board’s approval of

additional hours received while earning an Associates of Applied Science in Accounting at the community college to apply toward the Board's 150-hour requirement.

After reviewing the information provided by the candidate, upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson and unanimously adopted, the Board voted to accept, as recommended by the Executive Director, 35 additional hours earned at Sowela Technical College towards the Board's 150-hour requirement.

D. Request to Accept Community College Hours and Certification Credits as accepted by Delgado Community College toward the 150-hour requirement

The Board reviewed a request for acceptance of community college hours and acceptance of the hours awarded for Certification Credits by Delgado Community College toward the 150-hour requirement. Hours were earned/awarded after the candidate earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Southeastern in May 2010.

After reviewing the information provided by the candidate, upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson and unanimously adopted, the Board voted to accept 18 hours earned at Delgado Community College towards the Board's 150-hour requirement after completion of the Bachelor's degree. Further, upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson and unanimously adopted, the Board accepted 6 hours of Certification Credit hours (ACCT 215 Tax Accounting – Corporations, and CNET 297 – Certification Preparation) credited by Delgado Community College to be used towards the Board's 150-hour requirement.

The Board requested the Executive Director survey Louisiana universities to determine if any would accept certifications for credit.

E. Request for Extension of Exam credit for REG

The Board considered a request from an exam candidate for an extension of exam credit beyond 18 months for the REG section citing a family emergency which the candidate believed adversely affected her last exam (FAR) taken three days later. She has successfully passed 3 of 4 parts, and was unsuccessful in passing the remaining part, FAR, before her credit for REG expired.

After reviewing the information provided by the candidate, a motion made by Mr. Harris to grant the candidate an extension for the candidate's REG credit to February 29, 2016 failed for lack of a second. Upon motion by Mr. Bergeron, seconded by Mrs. Honoré Thomas and by a vote of 5-1, the Board voted to decline the candidate's request for an extension of the REG credit beyond the 18 month window.

F. Request for acceptance of Delgado Community College credits to attain 150 Hours

The Board considered a request for approval of real-estate courses completed in lieu of 4 hours of community college courses previously pre-approved by the Board at its January board meeting.

After reviewing the materials provided by the candidate, upon motion by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mrs. Honoré Thomas and unanimously adopted, the Board approved 6 hours earned at Delgado Community College by the candidate towards the Board's 150-hour requirement.

G. Ratification of Board Determination of Community College Credits Accepted (Request for 18 Community College Hours to be accepted toward 150-Hour Requirement)

The Board was asked to ratify its determination on this request. Mr. Thien Long Tran submitted a request for the Board's acceptance of 18 community college hours toward the 150-hour requirement that were earned at Delgado Community College while earning an Associate Degree in Bio-medical Equipment Repair. He since earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of New Orleans majoring in Accounting.

Upon motion by Mrs. Honoré Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson and unanimously adopted, the Board ratified its determination to accept 18 hours of hours earned at Delgado by the candidate over and above what UNO accepted as transfer courses.

H. Ratification of Board Determination of Community College Credits Accepted (Request for 27 Community College Hours to be accepted toward 150-Hour Requirement)

The Board was asked to ratify its determination on this request. Ms. Sue Miller submitted a request for the Board's acceptance of hours earned at the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) towards an Associate Degree in Weather Technology in 1999 prior to earning a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting at the University of Maryland in 2008.

Upon motion by Mrs. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Bergeron and unanimously adopted, the Board ratified its determination to accept 27 hours of hours earned at Community College of the Air Force by the candidate over and above what the University of Maryland accepted as transfer courses.

I. CPA Exam Services and NASBA International Evaluation Services – Advisory Evaluation

The Executive Director informed the Board of notice from NASBA's CPA Exam Services (CPAES) and NASBA International Evaluation Services (NIES) that a new Advisory Evaluation service is being developed in response to the overwhelming need from potential candidates. This service will replace the pre-evaluation service that is currently available and the fee will increase from \$50 to \$100 for domestic and \$150 for international.

J. NASBA Extensions on Exam Windows

The Executive Director informed the Board that NASBA sent notice regarding the extension of exam windows. NASBA is planning to extend testing through the 10th of the third month of each testing window beginning with the second quarter 2016 thru the first quarter 2017 to accommodate an influx of candidates before new versions of the examination are in place.

K. AICPA’s CPA Examination Exposure Draft

AICPA BOE released its CPA Exam Exposure Draft on 09/01/2015, which was forwarded to the Board on 09/04/2015. AICPA is seeking responses from individuals and board members by 11/30/15. NASBA’s response was included for the Board’s review. The Board indicated that NASBA’s response would be appropriate and no further response was required.

VII. APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATES

A. Ratification of Original Actives Issued by the Executive Director

The Executive Director informed the Board that the following individuals passed the CPA examination and submitted applications for CPA Certificates. The Executive Director evaluated the applications and the applicants’ experience and issued CPA Certificates, subject to ratification by the Board.

Upon motion by Mr. Bergeron, seconded by Mr. Bruno and unanimously adopted, the Board ratified the issuance of the following CPA Certificates:

1. Current CPA Applicants (Passed Exam After June 1999) (79)

Name	Certificate No.	Date Licensed/Certified
Jenny Norton Phillips	27841	08/05/2015
Natalie Suzanne Georgia	27842	08/05/2015
Jesse J. Bergeron	27844	08/08/2015
Gavin Michael Pitre	27845	08/08/2015
Peyton Shaye Hargrave	27846	08/08/2015
Zhanna A. Landis	27847	08/08/2015
Ryan J. Boudreaux	27848	08/10/2015
Sudie Sutter Joint	27849	08/10/2015
Robin Collom Brown	27850	08/10/2015
Caleb J. Atwell	27851	08/11/2015
Elizabeth Murla Weidner	27852	08/11/2015
Sara A. Riccio	27853	08/11/2015
Alfredo J. Herrera	27855	08/11/2015
Alexander Triplett White	27857	08/11/2015
Kayrie Lynn Spinney	27858	08/11/2015
Jared Michael Taylor	27859	08/11/2015
Hillary Alix Ozenne	27860	08/11/2015
Brooke A. Carrier	27861	08/13/2015
Darrin Charles Bouchon	27862	08/13/2015
Jill J. Kennedy	27863	08/13/2015
Sara Ann Hogan	27864	08/13/2015
Fabian John Cheramie	27865	08/13/2015
Cynthia Hendershot Bankston	27866	08/14/2015

Kasey Weldon Brand	27867	08/14/2015
Ashley Marie Rodriguez	27868	08/15/2015
Kylie Lynn Duet	27869	08/15/2015
Ngozi Josephine Ugwuegbu	27870	08/15/2015
Brooke Ashley Joffrion	27871	08/15/2015
Caitlin Lorraine Mohs	27872	08/15/2015
Rachel Michelle Laux	27873	08/15/2015
Kasandra Sousa Larsen	27874	08/16/2015
Jacob Heath Poole	27875	08/16/2015
Richard A. Cisneros	27876	08/16/2015
Heather Meliet Montelaro	27877	08/16/2015
Mark Christian Berger	27878	08/16/2015
Dustin Charles Brown	27881	08/18/2015
Kallie Elizabeth Degatur	27882	08/19/2015
Laurel Armstrong Keys	27883	08/19/2015
Hayley Ann Tilton	27884	08/19/2015
Alison Rose Murphy	27885	08/19/2015
Catherine Grace Cowart	27886	08/19/2015
Haley Chop Pulliam	27887	08/29/2015
Bryan D. Scofield	27888	08/29/2015
Claude Mason Williams	27889	09/07/2015
Alexander Kevin Wolf	27891	09/12/2015
Ashley Elizabeth Boudreaux	27892	09/12/2015
Sean Michael Robicheaux	27893	09/12/2015
Lauren Marie Aldrich	27894	09/12/2015
Shelby E. Aulds, IV	27895	09/12/2015
Kate Anne Leleux	27896	09/12/2015
Aric C. Dunaway	27897	09/12/2015
Ellen Elizabeth Bailey	27898	09/12/2015
Barrett Blake Perry	27899	09/12/2015
Laura Kathryn Ford	27901	09/15/2015
Katie Jessica Jacola	27902	09/15/2015
Albert Francis Clesi, III	27903	09/15/2015
Donald Ray Ford	27905	09/26/2015
Elizabeth Grace Olinde	27906	10/10/2015
Quanta Maria Cabral	27907	10/10/2015
Shelby Lynne Franklin	27909	10/10/2015
Jennifer Lynne Baer	27910	10/16/2015
Louis Stephen Trocquet	27911	10/16/2015
Hanh H. Chung	27912	10/16/2015
Andrew Paul O'Dwyer	27913	10/16/2015
Jack Andrew Blanding	27914	10/16/2015
DeAnna Rochelle Ray	27915	10/16/2015
Ryan Patrick Veters	27916	10/16/2015
Lesley Anne Engolia	27917	10/16/2015
Franklin Vazquez	27918	10/16/2015
Thomas Sennett Deweese	27919	10/16/2015
Jessica Elizabeth Hewett	27920	10/16/2015

Kristen Lee Spedale	27921	10/16/2015
Rachel Elizabeth Winstead	27922	10/16/2015
Adam Jefferson Cain	27923	10/16/2015
Matthew Joseph Springer	27924	10/16/2015
Meagan Sherwood Bourgeois	27925	10/16/2015
Rebecca Johnson Latiola	27926	10/16/2015

2. Reissuance of Certificates as Active (Licensed) (3)

The following individuals took the exam prior to 1999, but were never licensed because they did not submit the experience required. Each has now submitted verification of their experience. The Executive Director evaluated the applications and the applicants' experience and reissued their certificates as Active CPA Certificates to Practice subject to ratification by the Board.

Upon motion by Mr. Bergeron, seconded by Mrs. Honoré Thomas and unanimously adopted the Board ratified the reissuance of the following certificates:

Name	Certificate No.	Date Licensed (Active)
Londa McClure LeBrun	21174	09/07/2015
George Alexander Moisant, III	16575	08/11/2015
Jennifer Winters	16022	10/10/2015

B. Reinstatements of Prior Active Certificates (Licenses) (7) Prior Year Reinstatements

The following CPAs were initially licensed and later elected not to renew their licenses, and recently submitted applications to reinstate to active status. The Executive Director evaluated the applications, the applicants' experience and continuing education as applicable and reinstated CPA Certificates to Practice (License Reinstatements), subject to ratification by the Board.

Upon motion by Mrs. Honoré Thomas, seconded by Mr. Bergeron and unanimously adopted, the Board ratified the reinstatement of the following CPA Certificates (License Reinstatements) (Item B):

Name	Certificate No.	Active Certification Reinstatement Date
Tracy DeHart Carmichael	21800	08/08/2015
Janet Clare Emig	15923	08/29/2015
Casey W. Grimes	26644	08/07/2015
Piyush Mittal	26824	08/24/2015
Robert Myers	23085	08/08/2015
David Gerard Simoneaux, Jr.	24930	08/10/2015
Stacey Hightower Watson	21015	08/13/2015

C. Approval of Reciprocal Certificates Issued by the Executive Director (11)

The Executive Director informed the Board that the following individuals submitted applications for Louisiana Reciprocal Certificates. The Executive Director evaluated the applications and approved the Reciprocal Certificates, subject to ratification by the Board.

Upon motion by Mrs. Honoré Thomas, seconded by Mr. Bruno and unanimously adopted, the Board ratified the issuance of the following Reciprocal Certificates (Item C):

Name	Certificate No.	Issue Date	Original State
Ronald Wade Dutton, Jr.	27843	08/06/2015	TX
Denise R. Letard	27854	08/11/2015	TX
Megan Marianna Toles	27856	08/11/2015	MS
Jacob Heath Poole	27875	08/16/2015	FL
Richard A. Cisneros	27876	08/16/2015	MS
Vallaire N. Fields	27879	08/16/2015	TX
William Joel Kolarik, II	27880	08/16/2015	CA
Matthew Ryan Zimmerman	27890	09/07/2015	PA
Todd Parker Fontenot	27900	09/15/2015	VA
William Brooks Champion	27904	09/15/2015	TN
Robert J. Hicks	27908	10/10/2015	MO

D. Approval by the Executive Director of Transfer of Grades for Original Louisiana Certificates (0)

The Executive Director informed the Board that there were no transfer of grades approved during the period from the last Board meeting to the current Board meeting.

E. CPAs in Default on Student Loans

The Board reviewed notification which was received from the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LOSFAC). LSA R.S. 37:2951 requires all Boards to withhold an applicant’s license, permit, or certificate and to deny the granting of a conditional license, permit, or certificate to practice or engage in a trade, occupation, or profession if the individual applying for such license, permit, or certificate has a defaulted student loan held by the LOSFAC.

The Board has developed a report of all CPAs eligible for renewal which will be submitted yearly to LOSFA for review. In addition, the information for all new CPAs will be submitted as it is received. Any candidate or CPA in default will be sent a letter notifying them that their application or renewal cannot be approved until payment plans are made with LOSFA.

F. Application of License - Experience Verification

A candidate successfully passed the CPA exam and has submitted an application for license including work experience, and requests the Board’s consideration of the experience. The Board reviewed and discussed the candidate’s information in the Executive Session.

Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Honoré Thomas and unanimously adopted, the Board affirmed that experience beyond 4 years prior to the application could not be considered, and the work experience provided during the past 4 years by this applicant was not sufficiently verified by a licensed CPA; the applicant for license was not approved.

VIII. CPA FIRM PERMITS AND FIRM RELATED ISSUES

A. New CPA Firm Permit Applications

The following Firms submitted applications for CPA Firm Permits. The Executive Director reviewed the applications and determined that the Firms satisfied all requirements. The Executive Director issued the Firm Permits, subject to Board ratification.

Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson and unanimously adopted, the Board ratified the issuance of the following CPA Firm Permits (Items B 1, 2, and 3):

1. New Firm Permits (32)

Firm Name	Firm Location	Firm Permit No.	Issue Date
Edward Weidner, CPA, LLC	Louisiana	5238	05/20/2015
O'Connor Davies, LLP	New York	5239	05/20/2015
Vollenweider CPA Services, LLC	Louisiana	5240	05/20/2015
McKean, CPA, LLC	Louisiana	5241	05/20/2015
Valure CPA, LLC	Louisiana	5242	05/27/2015
Moore, Reichl & Baker, PC	Texas	5243	05/28/2015
LJ Mosby, PC	Texas	5252	07/20/2015
Daniel Robinson, CPA, LLC	Louisiana	5253	08/06/2015
Matthews, Cutrer & Lindsay, P.A.	Mississippi	5254	08/06/2015
Somerset CPAs, P.C.	Indiana	5255	08/13/2015
KS CPA Services LLC	Louisiana	5256	08/08/2015
Blue & Co, LLC	Indiana	5257	08/08/2015
RAL Forensics, LLC	Louisiana	5258	08/08/2015
Dave V. John, LLC	Florida	5259	08/08/2015
Leshkowitz & Company, LLP	New York	5260	08/08/2015
Jessica D. LeBlanc, CPA, LLC	Louisiana	5261	08/08/2015
Meaux, CPAs, LLC	Louisiana	5262	08/08/2015
Larson & Company, PC	Utah	5263	08/19/2015
Powell Financial Consulting LLC	Louisiana	5264	09/07/2015
R. Andrew Gately & Co.	California	5265	09/07/2015
Robin T. LeBlanc, CPA, CGMA, LLC	Louisiana	5266	09/14/2015
Christiane Vellier, CPA, LLC	Louisiana	5267	09/14/2015
Mildred Dillon CPA	Louisiana	5268	09/16/2015
John S. Rozier, IV, CPA A			
Professional Accounting LLC	Louisiana	5269	09/15/2015
LCS&Z, L.L.P.	New York	5270	09/24/2015

Vicenti, Lloyd & Stutzman LLP	California	5271	10/01/2015
Wilf & Henderson, PC	Texas	5272	10/01/2015
BGG Holdings II, LLC	Louisiana	5273	10/01/2015
Bobby Gill CPA, LLC	Louisiana	5274	10/01/2015
Rotherham & Co.	California	5275	10/02/2015
Myers and Stauffer LC	Missouri	5276	10/01/2015
Frazier & Deeter, LLC	Georgia	5277	11/02/2015

2. Reinstatement of Firm Permits Expired In Prior Years (0)

The Executive Director informed the Board that there were no firm permits reinstated prior year approved during the period from the last Board meeting to the current Board meeting.

3. CPA Firms – Change in Name or Legal Entity (1)

Original Firm Name	New Firm Name	Firm Permit No.	Issue Date
Waguespack & Gallagher, LLC	Waguespack, Gallagher & Barbara, LLC	4075	06/23/2015

B. CPA Firms Retired or Canceled (1)

Firm Name	Firm Permit No.	Issue Date	Reason
Alvin Justin Ourso, Jr.	4425	1961	Owner Deceased

C. Request for Firm Name “Forensic Insights, LLC”

The Executive Director reported that a firm permit application in the name of “Forensic Insights, LLC” rather than using the CPA’s name has been received. After discussion with the CPA owner, the CPA requested a Board determination on the firm name.

R.S. §37:83(G) provides that “No...firm holding a permit...shall use a professional or firm name or designation that is misleading about the legal form of the firm or about the persons who are partners...of the firm...or about any other matter.”

Board Rules §1707(D)(4) says “A firm name not consisting of the names of one or more present or former partners, members, or shareholders may not be used by a CPA firm unless such name has been approved by the board as not being false or misleading.”

After a review of the documentation provided and discussion, upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Bruno and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the request for the firm name “Forensic Insights, LLC”.

D. Peer Review Items

1. Peer Review Oversight Committee (PROC) Reports

The Board reviewed individual reports submitted by PROC Members which were previously submitted to the Board’s office.

**2. Peer Review Results – Prior Year vs Current Year to Date
(Accumulated from Louisiana Society Peer Review program)**

Peer Review Oversight Committee Report

	2015 to present	2014	2013
Engagement Reviews	78	84	45
Pass	57	55	37
Pass w/def	12	16	0
Fail	9	13	8
System Reviews	94	65	40
Pass	84	56	39
Pass w/def	7	1	1
Fail	3	8	0
Grand Total	172	149	85

Data reported by Board meeting scheduled in that Calendar year

6 Peer Review committee meetings held in 2014;

4 Peer Review committee meetings held in 2013

3. Report on Selected Staff Activity Stemming from Peer Reviews

	Since 07/2015 (previous Board Meeting)	2015	2014	2013	2012
Practice Restrictions*	0	4	8	30	31
Extensions	3	4	6	12	7
Provisional Permits	0	0	0	0	7
Year End Changes	0	4	5	5	12
First Fail Letters	7	14	28	24	15

* Prior to 2014 Exemption from Peer Review Practice Restriction agreements were offered to firms who had no engagement to review during that PR cycle, but later may re-enroll into Peer Review.

IX. RECURRING MATTERS AND DEFERRED ITEMS

A. NASBA Items

Mr. Harris presented a summary of topics discussed at NASBA's annual meeting in October including non-traditional education and accreditation concerns.

B. Society of Louisiana CPAs (LCPA)

Mr. Gitz discussed matters of interest to the Board and the profession, including a recap of the 2015 Legislative Session and looking ahead to next year, the AICPA's proposal to expand the CGMA designation to non-CPAs, and the nominating process for State Board membership with the new Louisiana administration.

X. CPE ITEMS

A. CPE Informational Bulletin

The Executive Director informed the Board that the CPE informational bulletin was sent to all licensed CPAs during the last week of September. It included information on the current reporting cycle for CPE as well as the new rules effective January 1, 2016.

Additionally, CPE Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are now available on the Board's website.

B. Board Policy on CPE Extensions to Complete Required CPE

The Executive Director reported that for the past several CPE reporting periods the Board has adopted a standard policy for requests for CPE extensions, whereby the licensees would sign a Consent Order and pay a fine for an extension to complete their CPE requirements and continue to maintain their license in good standing. The Consent Orders were standardized relative to the length of extension requested, and the Investigating Officer had authority to grant waivers of fines for extenuating circumstances.

After reviewing an updated draft of the previous board policy on CPE extensions, upon motion by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the CPE Extension policy as presented to the Board. Mr. Than appointed the Executive Director as the Investigating Officer to make decisions on CPE extension requests.

C. Request for Board approval on CPE Credit for Published Articles

Ms. Wainright informed the Board that Rebecca B. Martin, CPA (License No. 25928) submitted a request to obtain CPE credit for publication of two articles:

- “An assessment of patterns of co-authorship for academic accountants within premier journals edited outside the U.S.: Evidence from 1995-2009” published by *The Clute Institute*, 2013.

- “Trust, Organizational Justice, and Whistleblowing” published online in the journal of *Behavioral Research in Accounting*. Vol. 26, No. 1. 2014. Published online, August 2013.

Ms. Martin is requesting 20 hours of CPE credit for the article published in *The Clute Institute* and 10 hours for the article published in *Behavioral Research in Accounting*. The articles were previously sent to the Board for review, and are also included for the Board’s review.

Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the request for 20 hours of CPE for Ms. Martin’s published article in *The Clute Institute*.

Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the request for 10 hours of CPE for Ms. Martin’s published article in *Behavioral Research in Accounting*.

D. Request for Board approval on CPE Credit for Publication

Ms. Wainright informed the Board that Wilson A LaGraize, CPA (License No. 7572) submitted a request to obtain CPE credit for publication of a book:

- *Case Studies in Forensic Accounting and Fraud Auditing*. D. Larry Crumbley, Wilson A. LaGraize, Christopher E. Peters. Cch Incorporated, August 5, 2013.

Mr. LaGraize has asked the Board to grant 16 hours of CPE credit for work on the book. The book was made available for Board review.

After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Bruno and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the request for 16 hours of CPE for Mr. LaGraize’s work on the published book *Case Studies in Forensic Accounting and Fraud Auditing*.

E. Request for Board approval on CPE Credit for Published Articles

Ms. Wainright informed the Board that Mark Williams Shirley, CPA (License No. 16852) submitted a request to obtain CPE credit for work completed on three published articles:

- “Appendix V.” Published in *Cost of Capital*. April 2014. Available <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-821224.html> (30 hours requested)
- “Professional Practice Valuation.” Parts of this chapter adapted from articles originally published in *The Value Examiner*. (20 hours requested)
- “Professional Practices: Systemic Strategies for Application of Traditional Valuation Methodologies.” *Valuation Strategies*. March/April 2014. Vol. 17, No. 4. (5 hours requested)

Upon motion by Mrs. Hutchinson, seconded by Mrs. Honoré Thomas and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the request for 30 hours of CPE for work completed on the published article in *Cost of Capital*.

No further action was taken on the remaining hours requested as the maximum limit of 30 hours of CPE for publications during a reporting period was met by the Board's first vote.

F. Request for Waiver of CPE or Reduction of CPE

The Executive Director informed the Board that Dennis Muckelroy, CPA (License No. 23402), submitted a request for a waiver of CPE hours or a reduction in the amount of hours he is required to submit due to unemployment. Mr. Muckelroy was licensed in 2000 and would be required to earn and report 120 hours for the current CPE reporting period. A copy of Mr. Muckelroy's request is provided.

After reviewing the information provided, upon motion by Mrs. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Harris and unanimously adopted, the Board declined Mr. Muckelroy's request for a waiver at this time, voicing that it is premature for such a request with nearly 2 months left in the reporting period.

G. Request for Approval of Six Sigma Green Belt training as CPE for reinstatement

The Executive Director informed the Board that there are two reinstatement candidates who want to use the 2-week Six Sigma Green Belt classroom training sponsored by their employer, Coca Cola, as part of their CPE to reinstate.

After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson and unanimously adopted, the Board approved coursework hours completed by these two candidates while being trained for the Six Sigma Green Belt as eligible CPE hours to be used for their reinstatement.

H. Final CPE Rule Changes – update

Pursuant to the Board's decision at its July meeting to adopt the CPE rules as presented in the June 20, 2015 *Louisiana Register*, final rule changes were published in the September 20, 2015 *Louisiana Register*.

I. Pro-bono work credited as CPE – follow-up

Previously the Board determined it would allow, on a trial basis, up to 4 hours annually of CPE credit for pro-bono work completed for a non-profit, education, government, or civic organization. However, there were questions presented regarding whether this would be an ethics conflict for individuals serving in public positions. Being cautious, the Board asked the Ethics Board for an advisory opinion which was sent in September 2015. The response was received in October 2015. Both are provided for the Board's review.

The Ethics Board concluded, based on the information provided in the initial request, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit a licensed Louisiana CPA from receiving continuing education credit for their pro-bono service on a state or local board or similar body.

J. Reporting of CPE Electronically

The Board's office continues to search for effective CPE tracking software. The tracking software found works for the individual CPA but lacks in analysis ability from the enforcement side. Meanwhile, an Excel worksheet which can be downloaded by individuals and courses input was created and posted on the Board's website. It is also saved as an Adobe file on the website.

XI. NEW MATTERS

A. LLA Confidentiality Agreement

In order to allow the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's office to share confidential information with the State Board on matters referred for enforcement review, a confidentiality agreement was reviewed by the Board's chair and counsel (Eric Derbes), and executed by Ms. Saux and Mr. Daryl Purpera with LLA after minor revisions. A copy is provided for board members.

B. Enforcement Cloud -- Update

Mrs. Benefield reported that all board members now have access to SmartSheet and overall it is working as intended.

C. Review of Current Statutes and Board Rules – Update

The proposed statute changes were sent to John Johnson, Director, Legislative & Governmental Affairs at NASBA for input, as well as Ron Gitz and Linda Babin at the LCPA.

There was discussion of adding language for firm mobility in the statutes, with the Board favoring that we allow for firm mobility with firms registered in states that allow firm mobility with firms permitted in Louisiana.

Upon motion by Mr. Harris and seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson, the Board voted 4-2 to amend the age requirement for its proposed CPA-Retired status from age 65 to age 55 which would bring it in line with the proposed Uniform Accountancy Act language providing the creation of a Retired-CPA status. Mr. Tham and Mr. Bruno voted against the amendment motion.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. 2016 Renewals

Renewal notice letters, containing each registrant's user ID and password for online renewal, were mailed to licensed CPAs, inactive status registrants, and Firm Permit holders

on October 30, 2015. Paper renewal forms are available on the Board's website for those registrants who cannot renew online.

7,521 Active Certificate Holders (licensees)
3,017 Inactive Status Registrants (unlicensed)
2,216 Firm Permits
12,754 TOTAL

XIII. REPORTS ON CONFERENCES / MEETINGS

- A. AICPA Peer Review Conference**
August 3-4, 2015 – New Orleans, LA
Ms. Wainright attended.
- B. NASBA 108th Annual Meeting**
October 25-28, 2015 – Dana Point, CA
Mr. Harris and Mrs. Hutchinson attended.

XIV. FUTURE MEETING / CONFERENCE DATES

- A. 34th Annual Conference for Executive Directors**
March 15-17, 2016
Tucson, AZ
- B. 21st Annual Conference for Legal Counsel**
March 15-17, 2016
Tucson, AZ
- C. NASBA Eastern Regional Meeting**
June 7-9, 2016
Asheville, NC
- D. NASBA Western Regional Meeting (includes Louisiana)**
June 22-24, 2016
Denver, CO

XV. UPCOMING BOARD OFFICE HOLIDAYS

November 11, 2015	Veteran's Day
November 26, 2015	Thanksgiving Day
December 25, 2015	Christmas Day
January 1, 2016	New Year's Day
January 18, 2016	Martin Luther King's Birthday
February 9, 2016	Mardi Gras

XVI. NEXT BOARD MEETINGS

A. Future Board Meetings

The Board was reminded that Monday, January 25, 2016 through Wednesday, January 27, 2016 was previously reserved for its January 2016 Board meeting.

The Board was reminded that Monday, April 25, 2016 through Wednesday, April 27, 2016 was previously reserved for its April 2016 Board meeting.

The Board reserved Wednesday, July 20, 2016 through Friday, July 22, 2016 for its July 2016 Board meeting.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

In order to conduct administrative hearings, report on the status of compliance with Board Decisions and Consent Orders and status of investigations and to address other executive session matters, an executive session was convened and called to order by Chairman Mr. Tham on November 10, 2015 upon motion(s) made, as follows:

Upon motion by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mrs. Honoré Thomas the Board went into executive session on November 10, 2015 at 9:10 a.m. Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Honoré Thomas, the executive session adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

A. Consideration of Consent Order Laura A Gustavson, CPA, LLC – File No. 2015-31

Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Bergeron, the Board, by a vote of 5 to 0 approved the Consent Order in this matter. The Investigating Officer abstained from voting.

B. Consideration of Consent Order Bryce Ledet, CPA, APC – File No. 2015-33

Upon motion by Mrs. Honoré Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson, the Board, by a vote of 4 to 0 approved the Consent Order in this matter. Mr. Bergeron and the Investigating Officer abstained from voting.

C. Consideration of Consent Order B. Michael Grissom, CPA, APC – File No. 2015-19

Upon motion by Mrs. Honoré Thomas, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board, by a vote of 5 to 0 approved the Consent Order in this matter. The Investigating Officer abstained from voting.

**D. Consideration of Consent Order
Mock & Associates, LLC – File No. 2015-32**

Upon motion by Mrs. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Bergeron, the Board, by a vote of 5 to 0 approved the Consent Order in this matter. The Investigating Officer abstained from voting.

**E. Consideration of Consent Order
Timothy Lowell Ratcliff, CPA – File No. 2013-24**

Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson, the Board, by a vote of 5 to 0 approved the Consent Order in this matter. The Investigating Officer abstained from voting.

F. Request for Reinstatement - Louis R. Bradley

Upon motion by Mrs. Honoré Thomas, seconded by Mr. Bruno, the Board, by a vote of 6 to 0 approved the license reinstatement of Mr. Bradley provided the Continuing Professional Education per the Board's Final Decision dated January 11, 2010 as well as the current reporting period's required CPE of 120 hours be completed prior to reinstatement. Additionally, there will be restrictions on a firm permit including enrolling in the LCPA's Peer Review program and reporting all attest clients and engagements to the State Board annually.

G. Request for Permission to sit for the CPA Exam

A prospective CPA exam candidate requested the Board's consideration to be allowed to sit for the CPA exam. Documents presented for the Board's review included a Report of Investigation (U.S. Naval Criminal Investigation Service), an East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court Docket Report, and other court documents, as well as college transcripts and several letters of recommendation.

Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Bergeron, the Board, by a vote of 4-2, determined that, provided a background check resulted in no additional findings, the candidate would be allowed to sit for the CPA exam as a Louisiana candidate. Mrs. Honoré Thomas and Mrs. Hutchinson voted against the motion. The Board instructed that the candidate be made aware that an application for license would be reviewed by the then sitting Board and this was not an assurance of future licensure.

**H. Consideration of Payment Terms
Gary Francis Rinck – File No. 2005-21**

The Board was advised that Mr. Rinck offered to pay the Board assessed fines in weekly payments of \$60. Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson, and unanimously approved, the Board agreed to the payment terms with Mr. Rinck.

I. Files Recommended To Be Closed With no Cause for Further Action

File No. 2013-18
File No. 2013-22
File No. 2013-26
File No. 2014-16
File No. 2014-19
File No. 2015-08
File No. 2015-09
File No. 2015-11
File No. 2015-15
File No. 2015-16
File No. 2015-18
File No. 2015-24
File No. 2015-26
File No. 2015-34

Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson, the Board found no cause for *further* action and officially closed the above files.

J. Files Recommended To Be Closed With No Cause for Action

File No. 2011-23
File No. 2012-33
File No. 2015-06

Upon motion by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Bergeron, the Board found no cause for action and officially closed the above files.

K. Acceptance of Reports

Upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Bruno, the Board unanimously accepted the reports made by each respective Investigative Officer on the status of their investigative file and other reports on status of matters provided by Board staff.

XVIV. ADJOURNMENT

Monday, November 9, 2015:

There being no further business to discuss, upon motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Honoré Thomas and unanimously adopted, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2015.

Tuesday, November 10, 2015:

There being no further business to discuss, upon motion by Mrs. Hutchinson, seconded by Mrs. Honoré Thomas and unanimously adopted, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2015.