

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 68-2
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920**

**AMENDED
MEETING NOTICE**

February 17, 2015

**1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920
Conference Room 68-1**

1:30 PM

OPEN MEETING AGENDA

(1) Call to Order

(2) Meeting Minutes (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

- 1. Acceptance of the January 20, 2015 Open Session Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Acceptance of the January 20, 2015 Executive Session Meeting Minutes**

(3) National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) matters – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

Information was sent from NASBA and forwarded to all Board members prior to the meeting to include the following:

a. NASBA – CPETracking – Clarification of the Rules Regarding Carry Back – The Board will respond “No to tracking. Will handle on a case-by-case basis.” NASBA is looking for a more definitive response.

b. NASBA – Amendment to CPAES fee change between NASBA and the Board. This involves the fees charged to the Examination Candidates

c. NASBA – Focus Questions

d. NASBA – State Highlights for the 2015 Executive Director’s (ED) Conference

e. NASBA – Exam-related topics State Board Survey

(4) American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants (RISCPA) matters – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

a. Comments from Robert Mancini, Executive Director, (RISCPA) – (1) Status of Internship Opportunity with Roger Williams University.

b. AICPA Enhancing Audit Quality (EAQ) Initiative – Comments are requested by June 15, 2015

• Evolving the CPA Profession’s Peer Review Program for the Future. This was continued.

(5) Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

a. None at this time.

(6) Consideration of approval of the following initial applications for certification – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

April Arruda Mark Pezza

Elimelech Berlin Daniel Sweditis

Jennifer S. Douglas

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(7) Consideration of approval of the following reciprocity applications for certification – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

Peter R. Lang

A. Consideration of approval of the following reinstatement applications – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

Caryn Mitchell (2491)

B. Old Business: (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

a. Development of Board's Newsletter - Mr. Tracy is currently working on this project.

b. Regulations Merger – The Board's Regulations are being merged into one (1) document. The Merged Regulation was sent to the "Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR)" for approval to move forward.

c. 2015 Legislation – The Department of Business Regulation (DBR) legislative package was submitted to the Governor’s office for review as to which legislation will move forward. “Firm Mobility” will not be introduced after confirming with NASBA.

**d. CPA Exam Candidate – Acceptance of Transcripts for Eligibility –
Maamoun Janoudi**

C. New Business: (Review/Discuss/Take Action)

a. Renewal Applications – Attestations –

- **Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Public Accountant (PA) - The Continuing Professional Education (CPEs) will no longer be submitted with the renewal application. CPEs will be acknowledge by attestation and will be subject to a random audit.**

- **Practice Unit – The insurance and peer review documents will no longer be submitted with the renewal application. The Practice Unit will acknowledge by attestation and will be subject to a random audit. The Board will send a “Request for Legal Services (RLS)” for review by the DBR Legal Division as to clarification options of CPE non-compliance.**

b. Should there be reconsideration of developing a “CPA – retired” status besides the “CPA – inactive” status (currently in the Uniform Accountancy Act) that would apply to people who have been in public practice for at least 20 years with no disciplinary charges against them? This question was asked on the NASBA Focus Questions.

c. Public Accountants (PA) – Eliminating the status

d. Application for Individual Permit Renewal Application – Paper and

Online – Wording of Disclosure Question.

e. Any other new business.

D. Next Meeting Date: (Review Discuss/Take Action)

a. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

E. Executive Session

The Board will also discuss the following matters in closed session pursuant to RI General Laws §42-46-5(a)(4) for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

PENDING MATTERS:

- One (1) complaint alleging the person did not complete her taxes properly and that she now owes \$4300 to the IRS. This person is advertising boldly on his signboard at his business location that he is a CPA. His CPA license expires June 30, 1998.**
- One (1) CPA license reinstated that was “inactive.” It came to the Board’s attention that the CPA license was previously suspended. The Board requested a written explanation of that suspension and all related documents for Board review.**

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NEW BUSINESS:

- **One (1) complaint alleging that the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) was retained with a \$1000 to help settle back taxes owed after Chapter 7 bankruptcy was filed. The CPA then proceeded to question the Complainants as to whether or not they were current with their 2014 taxes at which time they were not. At that point, the CPA indicated that he could not help them. The Complainants requested a refund of the retainer fee and only got \$500 back.**
- **One (1) matter CAFA notification received pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act, 28, U.S.C. §1715(b) in inform the Board of a proposed class action settlement involving a Practice Unit.**

OLD MATTERS:

- **One (1) CPA was indicted on sixty-six (66) counts and charged with stealing identities of the terminally ill and elderly. The CPA please guilty to two (2) of the charges.**

F. Adjournment

All are welcome to any public meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Accountancy held at the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (“DBR”). If any reasonable accommodation is needed to ensure equal access, service or participation, please contact the DBR at (401) 462-9551, RI Relay at 711, or email at dbr.directorofficeinquiry@dbr.ri.gov at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

Posted on February 13, 2015 at Department of Business Regulation, State House Library, and electronically on Secretary of State's Office website. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Law, R.I. Gen. Laws Sec. 42-46-6(b). Business not included in this notice may be considered with consent of the majority of the members, and/or may convene into Executive (closed) Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Sec. 42-46-5.