

e-Newsletter Winter 2012

Check out the VBOA website at www.boa.virginia.gov

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From The Chair

The mission of the Virginia Board of Accountancy (VBOA) is "to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth through a regulatory program of licensure and compliance of Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) and CPA firms."



Tyrone E. Dickerson, CPA Board Chair

It is hard to believe that I am in my final year of serving on the board. I owe a great debt to my former colleagues: Regina P. Brayboy; Dr. Whit Broome; Dian Calderone; Steve Holton; Billy Hunt; Larry Samuel and my current colleagues: W. Barclay Bradshaw; Dr. Robert J. Cochran; Andrea Kilmer; Marc B. Moyers and Stephanie S. Saunders. These individuals have spent many hours upholding our mission. I want to also thank our executive director Wade Jewell and his dedicated staff for all they do in serving the public.

The VBOA has developed a national reputation for providing a leadership role in developments within state board operations. We are a member of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), which has 55 jurisdictions as members. Our members are very active in the association and serve on various strategic committees.

The VBOA has established partnerships with other accounting professional organizations, but the one we are most proud of is working with the Virginia Society of CPAs (VSCPA). Ms. Stephanie Peters and her staff work very closely with the board on issues that affect the profession.

There are two initiatives that the board has recently undertaken that we are proud of, communications and the fee package. The board did a complete revision of its website to make it more user friendly for our constituents; educators; exam and licensee candidates; licensees and students along with the general public. If you haven't visited it recently go to <u>www.boa.virginia.gov</u>. You can also now follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. You can always call the board and talk with our able staff on any issues that you may have.

As further discussed in this newsletter, a fee increase has been approved with an effective date of January 1, 2013. The board looked carefully at its operations and projected where we would be in the coming years. Even though we are an independent state agency, we are obligated to pay for mandated services. These services, along with a required move to a new location and an increase in staffing dictated that a fee increase was needed. When we surveyed other member state board of accountancies, we found that our current fee structure ranked us the lowest of all 55 state boards, while maintaining the eighth largest number of CPAs in the country.

We are here to serve you.

Fee Increase Effective January 1, 2013



The Virginia Board of Accountancy (VBOA) will implement a fee increase effective January 1, 2013. As an independent, nongeneral fund agency, fees the VBOA charges for services it provides are its only source of revenue. Virginia CPA licensure fees have not been increased since 1991 (over 20 years). During this time, the profession has continually grown, technology has changed with a significant increase in expenditures, over-all expenses have risen with inflation, and the need for staff resources has increased. Projections indicated that the VBOA would have exhausted all cash balances by early calendar year 2013.

A significant portion of the VBOA expenditures are state-mandated. Excluding salaries and fringe benefits, only six percent of the VBOA's budget is considered "discretionary." Additionally, the process for changing a regulatory agency's fee structure is very time-consuming, often taking up to three years from initial notification to implementation. Many factors can change during this lengthy process that can affect a nongeneral fund agency's cash position.

The VBOA has kept fees as low as possible over the past 20 years, remaining prudent with regard to all expenditures, and believing that fees should only be changed when absolutely necessary.

The new fee structure is summarized into four major categories: CPA Exam related fees, CPA Licensure fees for individuals, CPA Licensure fees for firms, and administrative fees. Each of these major categories is explained in further detail.

CPA Exam Fees

- A one-time, initial application fee of \$120 payable to the VBOA has not been changed.
- A new, re-exam application fee of \$20 has been added. This fee will be charged for processing each additional application to take one or more sections of the CPA Exam.
- A new, pre-evaluation of transcripts fee of \$25 has been added. This fee will be charged for performing a preliminary evaluation of whether a person has met the requirements to take the CPA Exam.
- A new, CPA Exam scores transfer fee of \$25 has been added. This fee will be charged for providing or obtaining information about a person's grades on sections of the CPA Exam (as it relates to a request to transfer scores to another jurisdiction).

CPA Licensure Fees for Individuals

- The initial application fee for CPA licensure in Virginia for individuals has increased to \$75.
- The annual renewal fee for an individual CPA license (timely renewal) has increased to \$60.
- This fee must be paid by the last day of the calendar month in which the renewal is due to avoid an <u>additional</u> fee for a renewal that is NOT timely.
- The <u>additional</u> fee for processing an individual CPA license that is NOT timely has increased to \$100. To avoid this fee, the renewal fee of \$60 must be paid by the last day of the calendar month in which the renewal is due.
- The fee for processing an application for the reinstatement of an individual CPA license, or for the lifting of the suspension of an individual CPA license, has increased to \$350.

Fee Increase Effective January 1, 2013, continued

CPA Licensure Fees for Firms

- The initial application fee for CPA licensure in Virginia for firms has increased to \$100.
- The annual renewal fee for a firm CPA license (timely renewal) has increased to \$75.
- This fee must be paid by the last day of the calendar month in which the renewal is due to avoid an additional fee for a renewal that is NOT timely.
- The additional fee for processing a firm CPA license that is NOT timely has increased to \$100.
- To avoid this fee, the renewal fee of \$75 must be paid by the last day of the calendar month in which the renewal is due.
- The fee for processing an application for the reinstatement of a firm CPA license, or for the lifting of the suspension of a firm CPA license, has increased to \$500.

Administrative Fees

- The <u>additional</u> fee for not using the online payment option for such services provided by the VBOA has increased to \$25.
- The fee for processing a written (official) verification of licensure has increased, as follows:
 - ° For requests submitted through our online system \$25
 - ° For requests submitted through mail, email, or fax \$50
- This fee does not in any way affect a person's ability to verify an individual or firm's licensure status in Virginia, for no fee. The VBOA provides that ability on its website in a section called "Licensee Search." This is a free service to anyone.
- The \$25 fee for providing an additional wall certificate has not been changed.
- A new fee of \$100 for not responding within 30 calendar days to any request for information by the VBOA has been added.

A summary chart of the new fee schedule that is effective January 1, 2013 has been included in this e-newsletter on page 4.

Additionally, a copy of an interview between the Virginia Society of CPAs (VSCPA) and the VBOA Executive Director that addresses many questions relative to the new fee schedule has also been included (VBOA Executive Director Jewell Discusses Changes to Licensure Fees). This interview begins on page 5.



The Virginia Board of Accountancy (VBOA) is working to enhance communications with Virginia CPA Licensees and Exam Candidates. In August 2012 we launched our social media sites for Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. Please "follow", "connect" and "like" us:



VIRGINIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY FEE SCHEDULE * Effective January 1, 2013

| FEE TYPE | FEE |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| | |
| EXAM FEES ** | |
| Initial CPA Exam Application | \$120 |
| Re-Exam Application | \$20 |
| Pre-Evaluation of Transcripts | \$25 |
| CPA Exam Score Transfers | \$25 |
| | |
| LICENSING FEES (INDIVIDUALS) | |
| Initial Application for License | \$75 |
| Annual Renewal | \$60 |
| Late Renewal (additional fee) | \$100 |
| Reinstatement (or lifting suspension) | \$350 |
| | |
| LICENSING FEES (FIRMS) | |
| Initial Application for License | \$100 |
| Annual Renewal | \$75 |
| Late Renewal (additional fee) | \$100 |
| Reinstatement (or lifting suspension) | \$500 |
| | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE FEES | |
| Manual Fee Payments (non on-line use) | \$25 |
| Written (Official) Verification of | |
| Licensure: | |
| Online | \$25 |
| Manual | \$50 |
| Additional Wall Certificate | \$25 |
| Failure to Respond to Board Requests | \$100 |

* Excludes Enforcement related fees.

** Does not include the CPA Exam fees charged by the AICPA, NASBA and Prometric.

Note: Payments returned by the bank for insufficient funds are subject to a returned payment fee, pursuant to <u>§ 2.2-4805</u>, <u>Code of Virginia</u>.

For Individual & Firm Licensees: Late Renewals – Tough on the pocketbook and wallet!

As previously communicated in this e-newsletter, the <u>additional</u> fee for processing an individual or firm CPA license that is NOT timely has increased to \$100. To avoid this fee, the renewal fee of \$60 for individuals and \$75 for firms must be paid by the last day of the calendar month in which the renewal is due.

In short, and when doing the math, a late renewal of your individual CPA license will cost you \$160! A late renewal of your firm CPA license will cost you \$175!

Avoid the headache! When you receive our renewal notice at the beginning of the month when your license must be renewed, immediately go online and take care of renewing your license then! While we make every effort to notify you as a courtesy, it is your responsibility to renew your license. We also suggest that you set up an electronic reminder for each year to avoid missing the deadline to renew your license!

We're sure the extra \$100 can be used for other important needs!

Remember - there is NO grace period. A renewal due on the last day of the month is due the last day of the month!

VBOA Executive Director Jewell Discusses Changes to Licensure Fees

The Virginia Board of Accountancy (VBOA) is in the process of updating its CPA licensure fees. Governor McDonnell approved the revised fee proposal in February, moving it into the public comment stage. The Virginia Society of CPAs (VSCPA) spoke with VBOA Executive Director Wade Jewell (right) to shine some light on the potential changes from the Board's perspective.

This interview was conducted via email.

Published April 18, 2012 at www.VSCPA.com



VSCPA: In a big-picture sense, what was the decision-making process that led you to decide to increase licensure fees?

Wade Jewell: The Virginia Board of Accountancy (VBOA) was re-established as an independent board effective July 1, 2001. As an independent, nongeneral fund agency, fees the VBOA charges for services it provides are its only source of revenues. Penalties assessed by the VBOA for violations of the accountancy statutes and regulations do not provide revenues for the VBOA. Instead, they are deposited into the Commonwealth's Literary Fund. In addition to maintaining an Operating Account, the VBOA is required to maintain a separate Trust Account. The Trust Account (internally referred to as the "Madoff Fund") is primarily designed to have sufficient cash to fund expenses incurred in the study, research, investigation or adjudication of matters involving possible violations of the accountancy statutes or regulations, not routinely conducted by staff or board members.

VBOA Executive Director Jewell Discusses Changes to Licensure Fees, continued

Fees the VBOA charges for services it provides must be sufficient to fund both its operating expenses and the needed accumulation of cash in the Trust Account. Virginia CPA licensure fees have not been increased since 1991 (over 20 years). During this time, the profession has continually grown, technology has changed with a significant increase in expenditures, overall expenses have risen with inflation, and the need for staff resources has increased. Projections indicate the VBOA will exhaust all cash balances by early calendar year 2013.

A significant portion of the VBOA expenditures are statemandated. Excluding salaries and fringe benefits of a lean staff operation, only 6 percent of the VBOA budget is considered "discretionary." Additionally, the process for changing a regulatory agency's fee structure is very time-consuming, often taking up to three years from initial notification to implementation, and regulatory agencies must often wait at least six years between fee increases. Many factors can change during this lengthy process that can affect a nongeneral fund agency's cash position.

VSCPA: How do the increased fees compare to licensure fees for other professions in Virginia? How do they compare to individual CPA and firm licensure fees in other states?

WJ: Examples of other professional licensure fees in Virginia include:

- Lawyers Original Application: \$375; Annual Dues for Active Members: \$250
- Landscape Architects Original Application: \$125; Annual Renewal: \$55
- Chiropractors Original Application: \$277; Annual Renewal:\$156
- Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) Original Application: \$170; Annual Renewal: \$60
- Barbers, Cosmetologists and Nail Technicians Original Application: \$70; Annual Renewal: \$70; "Shop" (i.e. firm) license – Original Application: \$112.50; Annual Renewal: \$112.50

Each state board of accountancy has a unique fee structure relative to their specific licensing statuses. Virginia currently ranks the lowest in fees out of 55 jurisdictions, while maintaining the eighth-largest number of individually licensed CPAs. **VSCPA:** What is the financial situation at the VBOA? What steps has the Board taken to reduce its expenses?

WJ: For reasons explained above, the VBOA has projected that at the current rate of expenditures, it will exhaust all cash balances by early calendar year 2013 without a fee increase.

The following is a breakdown of the VBOA's current budget:

- Salaries and benefits: 65 percent
- Fixed costs:
 - I Information technology (IT)-related: 17 percent
 - Support services and insurance: 7 percent
 - Building/space rental: 5 percent
 - Discretionary costs: 6 percent

While only 6 percent of the VBOA budget is considered "discretionary," the Executive Director continually looks for opportunities to improve efficiencies and to reduce costs.

The VBOA has reduced expenditures where appropriate, to include information technology expenses associated with hardware and telecommunications (fixed costs). Day-to-day operating expenses are monitored frequently, with monthly financial reports reviewed by the Executive Director and Board members to ensure resources are effectively utilized while ensuring the VBOA mission to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth is not compromised.

In conclusion, the VBOA takes its fiduciary responsibilities seriously and must balance the need to provide outstanding customer service, processes and products with associated costs.

VSCPA: Virginia licensure fees have not been increased since 1991. What was the VBOA's reasoning behind keeping them the same for so long?

WJ: The fact that licensure fees have not been increased for such a long period of time has been intentional. The VBOA remains prudent with regard to all expenditures, believing that fees should only be changed when absolutely necessary.

VBOA Executive Director Jewell Discusses Changes to Licensure Fees, continued

VSCPA: How have state-mandated expenses affected the VBOA's financial status?

WJ: As an independent, nongeneral fund agency, fees the VBOA charges for services it provides are its only source of revenues. All increases in expenditures must be absorbed by the existing fee structure (revenues). Comparing fiscal year 2003 expenditures to the fiscal year 2012 budget, the following are highlights of significant increases in state mandated expenditures during this time:

- Nearly 800 percent increase in information technologyrelated expenses.
- Nearly 200 percent increase in building rental expenses (2007 consolidation with other state agencies).
- State-mandated employee salary increases and bonuses approved by the General Assembly and the Governor.
- Compliance with new internal control requirements as a result of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (Agency Risk Management and Internal Control Standards).

Rising or new costs relative to state-mandated expenditures, coupled with no fee increase for over 20 years, have led to the VBOA's current financial status.

VSCPA: Under the proposal, the additional fee for processing an application of a license renewal that is not timely would quadruple to \$100. What is the reason for such a dramatic increase?

WJ: The VBOA mission is to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth through a regulatory program of licensure and compliance of CPAs and CPA firms. A key component of this mission is to ensure that Virginia CPAs maintain or renew their license on an annual basis. Failure to renew a license and to continue practicing and/or using the CPA title may result in disciplinary action. The increased fee for the late renewal of a license is meant to encourage compliance to avoid further potential disciplinary action and to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia from unlicensed activity. It is the goal of the VBOA to have no late renewals.



2013 Virginia-Specific Ethics Course

The VBOA has released the <u>2013 Ethics Outline</u> for the Virginia-Specific Ethics Course. The Board requires that all licensees providing services to the public or to an employer using the CPA title complete a Virginia-specific ethics course on an annual basis that complies with Board Regulation *18VAC5-22-90* and the annual outline approved by the Board. The 2-hour ethics course is a separate and distinct annual requirement from the one time 8-hour AICPA professional ethics course needed for initial licensure. Sponsors who provide a Virginia-specific ethics course must ensure that the course content is compliant with the VBOA annual outline. Sponsors may not provide the course later than January 31 for the previous calendar year. The VBOA does not currently require licensees to obtain CPE from specific or approved sponsors, does not maintain agreements with sponsors and does not pre-qualify sponsors or individual courses. Sponsors must provide to licensees, at a minimum, documentation of a certificate of completion that includes the sponsor's name, participant's name, course and content name, date taken, and CPE hours earned. It is the responsibility of licensees to complete a course that complies with Board Regulations and the annual outline. Licensees who believe the course taught by the instructor does not satisfy the requirements are encouraged to contact the VBOA.

Governor McDonnell Announces Regulatory Reform Initiative

On October 22, 2012, Governor Bob McDonnell announced the launch of the Governor's Regulatory Reform initiative and creation of a new portal for citizens to submit ideas for regulatory reform. Governor McDonnell has also charged regulatory agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of regulations currently in place and repeal regulations that are unnecessary or no longer in use, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on individuals, businesses, and other regulated groups, and identify statutes that require unnecessary or overly burdensome regulations.

Following a comprehensive review and revision to the Board's <u>statutes</u> effective July 1, 2007, the Board completed a comprehensive review and revision to its <u>regulations</u> with an effective date of September 16, 2010. These revisions included actions taken similar to the Governor's Regulatory Reform initiative. The Board's regulatory reform included: (1) removing regulations that were addressed by the statutes, (2) adding emergency regulations that became effective May 14, 2009, (3) adding interpretations required as a result of the 2007 revisions to the statutes, (4) clarifying the existing guidance that continues to be applicable, (5) eliminating the regulations that were timesensitive and were no longer needed and the regulations that only referred to other regulations, and (6) making the regulations that went from approximately 27 pages to 10 pages.

While the VBOA believes that it has already taken significant steps in regulatory reform, we recognize this opportunity to further examine our existing regulations. The VBOA has submitted a Regulatory Reform Work Plan, which includes communication efforts to our CPA examination/licensee candidates, and licensees. The VBOA is interested in your ideas and suggestions. Please submit any ideas or suggestions directly to the VBOA by January 3, 2013 to:

<u>Via Mail</u> Virginia Board of Accountancy 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 402 Henrico, VA 23233 Attn: Executive Director

<u>Via Email</u> boa@boa.virginia.gov

<u>Via Fax</u> (804) 527-4409

The VBOA will consider all ideas/suggestions that are submitted to the VBOA at its January 8, 2013 Board meeting to comply with deadlines in the Regulatory Reform Work Plan.

In addition, Governor McDonnell welcomes recommendations through the following new portal: <u>www.RegReform.Virginia.Gov</u>. At this time there is no time limit or deadline for submitting recommendations through the regulatory reform portal.

Governor McDonnell Announces VBOA winner of the first "Governor's Bowl Food and Fund Drive"

On August 6, 2012, the Governor called Wade Jewell, VBOA Executive Director, to congratulate him and thank VBOA employees for their generous participation. The Governor's Bowl competition among state agencies was awarded based on the highest total pounds collected divided by the number of employees in each agency. VBOA employees donated 514.38 pounds per person. The VBOA will receive a one-of-a-kind handcrafted ceramic bowl created by potters Rick Erickson and Kendra Spicer from Farmville, VA.



FY13 VBOA Board Members

Tyrone E. Dickerson, CPA Board Chair Richmond, VA

Andrea M. Kilmer, CPA, CFF, CGMA Board Vice-Chair Virginia Beach, VA

> W. Barclay Bradshaw, CPA *Richmond, VA*

Regina P. Brayboy, MPA, MBA Citizen Member Suffolk, VA

Robert J. Cochran, Ph.D., CPA Board Educator Midlothian, VA

> Marc B. Moyers, CPA Manakin Sabot, VA

Stephanie S. Saunders, CPA Virginia Beach, VA

VBOA Office

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VBOA Staff Members

Wade A. Jewell Executive Director 804-367-8540

Chantal K. Scifres Deputy Director 804-367-0511

Mary T. Charity Director of Operations 804-367-0495

Jeannette Grant Enforcement Manager 804-367-0725

Dreana L. Gilliam Board Administrator CPE & Peer Review Coordinator 804-367-0728

> Krystal D. Hambright Executive Assistant 804-367-0502

Patti B. Hambright Licensing & Examination Coordinator 804-367-4880

Valeria S. Ribeiro-Quimpo Financial & Procurement Coordinator 804-367-1101

Nicholas R. Tazza Licensing & Examination Coordinator 804-367-1496

New Board Members

In August 2012, the Governor appointed two new Virginia Board of Accountancy members, Marc B. Moyers, CPA of Manakin-Sabot and Stephanie S. Saunders, CPA of Virginia Beach. Mr. Moyers and Mrs. Saunders are currently serving their first term on the board which expires on June 30, 2016.



Marc is the National Sector Leader for KPMG's Private Equity practice in the United States. He serves as Global Lead Partner to the Carlyle Group, a KPMG Global Account. Marc also sits on the KPMG Global Private Equity Steering Committee along with KPMG partners leading private equity in other regions of the world. Mr. Moyers joined the Richmond office of KPMG in 1977 and was admitted to the partnership in 1986.

Marc graduated from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce.

Marc has over 30 years of experience in public accounting, including serving diverse investment firms. He has extensive experience serving consumer and industrial businesses from manufacturers to distributors to various retail outlets, including durable and non-durable goods, as well as food and beverage.

Marc holds professional memberships in the Virginia Society of CPAs (VSCPA) and the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), and has also served on the Board of Directors for the YMCA and Trustee for the Richmond Ballet.



Stephanie serves as a shareholder with Saunders & Saunders, PC, in Virginia Beach. Before starting her own practice with her husband, Stephanie was the Tax Manager with Price Waterhouse (merged with Waller & Woodhouse in 1980).

The firm founded by Stephanie and her husband has allowed Stephanie to spend more time with her family and stay involved in her professional and family communities. Stephanie holds professional memberships in the Tidewater Chapter of the Virginia Society of CPAs (VSCPA), Virginia Society of CPAs (VSCPA) and the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA).

Stephanie is a Past Chair of the VSCPA Board, Past Chair of the VSCPA Educational Foundation, Past President of the Norfolk Chapter of American Society of Women's Accountants and was named a Super CPA by Virginia Business Magazine from 2006 to 2012.

Stephanie earned a Bachelor of Science with a Business Administration concentration in Accounting from Old Dominion University.

Stephanie enjoys golf, skiing and reading.

Brayboy / Calderone / Samuel Recognition Day

During the final meeting of the fiscal year, the Board licensing system in 2009, hiring of a new Executive recognized three outgoing Board members for their Director in 2009, a new website in 2011, implementaeight years of service to the Board. Incoming Board tion of an e-newsletter beginning in 2011, and the de-Chair Tyrone Dickerson read the following proclama- velopment of a new fee structure (effective date of Janution:

Whereas, each of these members have faithfully served their terms actively, dutifully and with integrity and professionalism; and Now, be it resolved, that the Virginia Board of Accountancy recognizes June 26, 2012 as a special day of recognition on behalf of Regina P. Brayboy, MPA, MBA, Dian T. Calderone, MTX, CPA, and Lawrence D. Samuel, CPA, for their contributions, dedication and great respect for the CPA profession...

The VBOA is a voluntary Board of seven members appointed to four-year terms by the Governor. Appointees may only serve two consecutive terms. All three members were initially appointed in 2004 and again in 2008.

During their tenure on the Board, these members oversaw significant accomplishments, to include a complete rewrite of the Board's statutes (Code of Virginia) in 2007 and regulations in 2010, implementation of a new

ary 1, 2013).

Brayboy, who serves as the Vice President of Administration and Financial Services for Virginia International Terminals, Inc. (the operating company for the Virginia Port Authority), Calderone, Vice President of Hunt & Calderone, P.C., Certified Public Accountants (specializes in taxation, consulting and litigation support), and Samuel, a retired partner with Deloitte & Touche, LLP (Professional Practice Director for Deloitte's Greater Washington audit practice, including the Washington D.C., Baltimore, Northern Virginia and Richmond offices) were each active participants on boards and committees of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and/or the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), along with other boards appointments and community involvement.

The Board and staff of the VBOA will forever be grateful and thankful for their combined 24 years of tremendous service and professionalism! Best wishes to each of them!



Regina P. Brayboy, Dian T. Calderone and Larry Samuel accepting Board proclamation from Tyrone Dickerson.



July 2012 to October 2012 Board Disciplinary Actions

Suspensions & Revocations

Tax-related Issues, Due Professional Care and Discreditable Acts

| License # | City, State | Violation | Date | Statutes/Regulations | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------|---------|---|--|--|
| 27230 | Leesburg, VA | Discreditable Acts | 8/21/12 | § <u>54.1-4413.3</u> and <u>18VAC5-22-90</u> | | |
| Final Order | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

The Board ordered the immediate revocation of Cilenti's CPA License and for Cilenti to: (1) Return his wall certificate; (2) Pay a monetary penalty of \$100,000; and (3) Reimburse the VBOA for the reasonable cost of \$500 for the investigation of this matter.

| Name | License # | City, State | Violation | Date | Statutes/Regulations |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|--|---------|---|
| Dwayne H. Coston | 12759 | Portsmouth, VA | Discreditable Acts; Practicing Public Accounting without a valid VA firm license; Failed to submit the required CPE; and Failed to notify the Board of his change of address | 8/21/12 | § <u>54.1-4412.1</u> , § <u>54.1-</u> <u>4413.3</u> , <u>18VAC5-22-90</u> (A), <u>18VAC5-22-140 (A)</u> and <u>18VAC5-22-170 (B)</u> |

Final Order

The Board ordered the immediate revocation of Mr. Coston's CPA License and for Coston to: (1) Return his wall certificate; (2) Pay a monetary penalty of \$10,000; (3) Reimburse the VBOA for the reasonable cost of \$500 for the investigation of this matter; (4) Notify all clients by letter that he is no longer licensed by the VBOA as a CPA with a copy of such letter to the VBOA; (5) Advise all attest clients that they should seek an alternate CPA to provide their services; and (6) Remove all CPA signage from business cards, letterhead, computer software, advertisement, email signatures or any document in that he cannot use the CPA designation.

As a condition of consideration for any future applications for CPA licensure Coston is required to: (1) Obtain an additional 20 hours of CPE in Peer Review; (2) Obtain an additional 20 hours of CPE in management of an accounting practice; and (3) Coston shall demonstrate to the Board's satisfaction that he has obtained sufficient knowledge of how to effectively manage the administrative and personnel side of a public accounting practice. The additional CPE will not be considered as part of the standard requirements of 120 CPE to include the 2 hours of Virginia-specific ethics CPE to become licensed in Virginia as a CPA.

Suspensions & Revocations, continued

| Name | License # | City, State | Violation | Date | Statutes/Regulations | |
|--|-----------|--------------|---|---------|---|--|
| George Turner Jr. | 29447 | Culpeper, VA | Discreditable Acts, and Failed to submit the required CPE | 8/21/12 | § <u>54.1-4413.3</u> and <u>18VAC5</u> <u>-22-90 (B)</u> | |
| Final Order | | | | | | |
| The Board ordered the immediate revocation of Mr. Turner's CPA License and for Turner to: (1) Return his wall certificate: | | | | | | |

The Board ordered the immediate revocation of Mr. Turner's CPA License and for Turner to: (1) Return his wall certificate; (2) Pay a monetary penalty of \$50,000; (3) Remove all signage, business cards, letterhead, websites, telephone directory listings, advertising and other items containing the CPA designation; and (4) Reimburse the VBOA for the reasonable cost of \$500 for the investigation of this matter.

Other Professional Violations

Unlicensed Activity; Practicing with Expired License, Use of CPA Title, Tax-Related Issues, Due Professional Care, Discreditable Acts

| Name | License # | City, State | Violation | Date | Statutes/Regulations | |
|--|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------|----------------------|--|
| Kelly D. Hughes | 13761 | Fredericksburg, VA | Due Professional Care | 8/21/12 | § <u>54.1-4413.3</u> | |
| Consent Order | | | | | | |
| The Board ordered Mr. Hughes to: (1) Be reprimanded for failing to revoke the Power of Attorney with the IRS within a reasonable time; and (2) Reimburse the VBOA for the reasonable cost of \$500 for the investigation of this matter. | | | | | | |

| Name | License # | City, State | Violation | Date | Statutes/Regulations |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|--|---------|---|
| Abdul K. Baten | 6895 | Herndon, VA | Practicing with an expired CPA License | 8/21/12 | § <u>54.1-4414, § 54.1-4409.1,</u> and § <u>54.1-111</u> |

Consent Order

The Board ordered Mr. Baten to: (1) Refrain from practicing as a CPA in the Commonwealth until the VBOA has granted reinstatement of Mr. Baten's CPA license; (2) Remove all signage, to include business cards, letterhead, email signatures, resumes, newspaper, internet ads and software with the CPA designation on it until he has been granted reinstatement of his CPA license; and (3) Be reprimanded for the unlicensed use of the CPA designation during the time his CPA license was expired. As a condition of reinstatement of his expired CPA license, Mr. Baten shall provide the Board with a 1,000 word essay on the requirements of licensure as an individual CPA and as a CPA firm in Virginia referencing the importance of those requirements in protecting the public, to include in the essay all requirements for firms doing attest work in Virginia, to include peer review requirements.

Policy Notice: It is the policy of the VBOA to publish the information of licensees against whom the Board has taken a disciplinary action resulting in suspensions and revocations and for other professional violations. The VBOA publishes information of licensees found to be deficient in CPE credit-hours only in the event of a previous CPE deficiency finding or previous professional violation. This policy is subject to change without notice at any time.

All monetary penalties are transferred to the State Literary Fund and not available for use by the VBOA. Failure to pay monetary penalty shall be subject to collection efforts through the Department of Debt Collections of the State Attorney General's office. The debt to the Commonwealth will be recorded with the Virginia Department of Taxation for collections by attachment to any and all Virginia income tax refunds or any other tax monies.

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Other Professional Violations, continued

Unlicensed Activity; Practicing with Expired License, Use of CPA Title, Tax-Related Issues, Due Professional Care, Discreditable Acts

| Name | License # | City, State | Violation | Date | Statutes/Regulations | | | |
|---|---|----------------|---------------------|---------|---|--|--|--|
| Henok Mekonnen Tedla | Not Licensed in Virginia | Alexandria, VA | Unlicensed Activity | 9/18/12 | § <u>54.1-4414, § 54.1-</u> <u>4409.1,</u> and § <u>54.1-111</u> | | | |
| Consent Order | • | | • | • | | | | |
| Tedla a CPA license; (2 net ads and software withe reasonable cost of \$ | The Board ordered Mr. Tedla to: (1) Refrain from practicing as a CPA in the Commonwealth until the VBOA has granted Mr. Tedla a CPA license; (2) Remove all signage, to include business cards, letterhead, email signatures, resumes, newspaper, inter- net ads and software with the CPA designation on it until he has been granted a CPA license; and (3) Reimburse the VBOA for the reasonable cost of \$500 for the investigation of this matter. As a condition of licensure, Mr. Tedla shall submit to the Board a 1,000 word essay encompassing the use of the CPA designation and why the requirement to be licensed as a CPA is impor- | | | | | | | |

VBOA Publications

The VBOA produces numerous publications that provide information and statistics (current and historical) regarding board operations. Through these publications you can find information on various topics from the number of licensees and exam candidates, to the VBOA's strategic plan, to budget versus actual expenditures, and up to date information on current news topics. These documents are all posted on the VBOA website under <u>Resources/Publications</u>.

The following can currently be found on our publications page:

Biennial Reports Board Report Education Handbook News You Can Use e-Newsletters Strategic Plan

We encourage you to visit our website and to fully explore the wide range of information available through our publications!



Virginia Board of Accountancy

For comments and/or questions on the VBOA e-Newsletter, contact:

Chantal K. Scifres Deputy Director

Phone: 804-367-0511 Fax: 804-527-4409 E-mail: <u>chantal.scifres@boa.virginia.gov</u> The Virginia Board of Accountancy (VBOA) regulates Certified Public Accountants in Virginia through a program of examination, licensure of individuals and CPA firms, consumer protection through enforcement of VBOA statutes and regulations, continuing professional education and peer review.

The mission of the VBOA is to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth through a regulatory program of licensure and compliance of CPAs and CPA firms.

Have you Moved? Changed your Name? Changed your email address or phone number?

Please Update Your Contact Information!

In accordance with Board Regulation <u>18VAC5-22-170</u>, each holder of a Virginia license shall notify the Virginia Board of Accountancy (VBOA) in writing within 30 calendar days of any change in the holder's name, postal and electronic addresses, and phone number where the person or firm may be reached.

Licensees - *Login* to update address, phone number and/or email address. A name change may only be submitted with a *Change of Contact Information Form*.

Exam candidates - Submit a <u>Change of Contact Information Form</u> to update name, address, phone number and/or email address.

> Click to view the listing for <u>New Virginia Licensees</u> (Individual and Firm) on the VBOA website!

