A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The District Board of Accountancy (Board) regulates the licensing of Certified Public Accountants (CPA) and protects consumers by upholding District accountancy laws and municipal regulations. The Board has regulatory authority over licensed CPAs and licensed CPA firms.

As Chair of the Board, I am excited to communicate that fiscal year 2017 saw a multitude of positive changes. In October 2017, the Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration launched a brand new online credentialing system. The CPA licensure process is now a fully digitized, streamlined process. In light of this major change, the District of Columbia Board of Accountancy website also changed. The new website is: https://www.dcopla.com/accountancy/.

As you’ll read below, we have had a change in board members and there are changes to the CPA exam. Bridget Gagne was a much appreciated and highly regarded asset to the Board. We wish Bridget well in her next ventures and we welcome Angela Avant and Antonia Browning Smiley, whose value we have already witnessed. Read on to find out about changes coming to the CPA exam this spring.

One of our core initiatives for 2017 was educating prospective applicants on the CPA examination and experience requirements. We conducted a successful outreach event at American University’s Kogod School of Business in Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2017. We spoke to several students about the CPA exam and licensure requirements in DC. The Board collaborated with Becker Professional Education to speak to 100 interns at KPMG’s DC headquarters on August 11, 2017. The session included information on eligibility requirements for the CPA examination and licensure requirements in the District.

As an outreach effort, the Board held its first-ever external board meeting at Howard University on October 6, 2017. The Board hopes to make this a recurring initiative. Having presenters like Daniel J. Dustin, CPA, Vice President, State Board Relations, National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and Alfonzo Alexander, Chief Relationship Officer of NASBA and President of NASBA’s Center for the Public Trust was invaluable. The information these gentlemen offered about NASBA’s recent happenings were an asset to students’ career planning and we sincerely thank them for their time and expertise.

Board members attended NASBA’s 110th annual meeting from October 29 – November 1, 2017 in New York City. This meeting provided members a platform to discuss issues and topics relating to the CPA credential and the accounting profession.

As the Board and field undergo changes, one constant is our members’ commitment to the industry. Dr. Joseph Drew, Consumer Member, has been reappointed to NASBA’s Legislative Support Committee.

We are proud of the Board’s continued investments in D.C. and the accounting industry worldwide, and we are equally proud of its efforts to remain innovative. I remain committed to and excited about being Chair of the DC Board of Accountancy.

Robert Todero, Chair, DC Board of Accountancy
NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Angela Avant, CPA, CGMA
The DC Board of Accountancy is pleased to announce the appointment of Angela Avant. Ms. Avant was appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser effective August, 2017. Ms. Avant previously served as the first President and CEO of The National Association of Black Accountants, where she was responsible for the management and administration of the operations and staff of the Association, reporting to the Board of Directors. Ms. Avant has a unique background, having served as a leader of two “top” professional organizations, including KPMG, LLP. Ms. Avant resides in the District of Columbia.

Antonia Browning Smiley, CPA
The DC Board of Accountancy recently appointed Antonia Browning Smiley as its newest member. Ms. Smiley previously served on the Board of Accountancy and the Board of Barber and Cosmetology. She is the owner of a private practice that concentrates in tax planning and compliance. She specializes in US taxation of non-citizens and US patriates. Ms. Smiley has studied at the Corcoran School of Arts, George Washington University and at Oberlin College. Ms. Smiley is currently working on completing "Adult Ice Cream," a book of recipes, with vignettes. Also, she is a supernumerary in the Washington National Opera.

BEST WISHES TO BOARD MEMBER

The Board would like to send a farewell message to Bridget Gagne, CPA whose three-year term ended in January, 2018. Bridget served on the board with professionalism and displayed a high level of integrity and commitment to the accounting industry. She brought new ideas to the Board and will be missed for her innovative thoughts and suggestions.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY NEWS

In October 2017, the Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration launched a brand new credentialing system. The District of Columbia Board of Accountancy website also changed. The new website is: https://www.dcopla.com/accountancy/.

The District of Columbia had an outreach event at American University’s Kogod School of Business on September 11, 2017 to speak to students about the CPA exam and licensure requirements in DC.

The Board held its scheduled October meeting at Howard University on October 6, 2017 as part of its outreach initiatives. In attendance were Daniel J. Dustin, CPA, Vice President, State Board Relations, National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and Alfonzo Alexander, Chief Relationship Officer of NASBA and President of NASBA’s Center for the Public Trust.
NEW LICENSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration (OPLA) is excited to introduce a brand new license management system that will fully digitize the licensing process. This new platform is now available and it is designed to improve your overall customer service experience.

We are pleased to invite you to utilize the new license management system.

Currently, the system capabilities will allow you to:
1. Activate your account
2. Change your email address and phone number

As more features are added, we will send out notifications.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Requirements for Certified Public Accountants Holding Permits to Practice

2530.1 A licensee seeking biennial renewal of a license shall provide proof of having completed no less than eighty (80) hours of acceptable continuing professional education during the two-year (2) period preceding the date the license expires.

2530.2 A licensee seeking to renew an initial license issued for less than two (2) years is not required to submit proof of continuing professional education for the first renewal.

2530.3 An applicant for reinstatement of a license, who has failed to renew the license for a period of less than five (5) years, shall provide proof of having completed since the previous issuance of the license, forty (40) hours of approved continuing education for each year of non-renewal, up to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) hours.

2530.4 The Board may exempt a licensee from continuing education requirements for reason of individual hardship including health, military service, foreign residence, retirement, or other good cause if the licensee does not hold oneself out to the public as a CPA and does not issue audit reports or certify other reports and statements.

2530.5 Licensees requesting an exemption from the Board shall file the request in writing no less than sixty (60) days before the expiration of the current license.

2530.6 Licensees granted such an exemption by the Board shall place their license on inactive status.

2530.7 Licensees granted an exemption by the Board shall comply with a re-entry competency requirement defined by the Board.

2530.8 Effective January 1, 2005, licensees shall be required to complete four (4) hours of Professional Ethics instruction per licensing cycle as part of the continuing professional education requirement.

Per: Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Municipal Accounting Regulations, 5/01 (rev 5/12)
NEW CPA LICENSES ISSUED

Between March and September, 2017 (End of Fiscal Year)– a total of 161 new CPAs were licensed in the District of Columbia. Please congratulate the following individuals on becoming licensed CPAs.

Emily Acker
David Adams
Oluwatoyin Akinsiku
Alexis Alfaro
Matthew Algee
James Alley
John Althouse
Yemisrach Amare
Olga Anguelova
Bawo Ayomike
Nihad Azizli
Michael Bell
Daniel Birkam
Jacquelyn Birkett
Tatyana Blecic
Frank Boccovi
Aki Bosco
Christopher Bouda
Christopher Boyes
Lindsey Brake
Emeline Bredy
Bradley Brookens
Jeffrey Brown
Hang Thi Thanh Bui
Jessica Burgos Martir
Evelyne Burr
Meghan Cadigan
Walter Charlton
Jillian Chavis
Haiyi Chen
Julia Chong
Thomas Conlon
Samantha Cooney
Lindsey Dean
Christopher Dean
Giuseppe Debartolo
Jacqueline Diah
Andrew Dillon
Sean Donlan
Holly Donley
Melissa Dozier
Alexander Duncan
Abasifreke Ekpe
Ann Ernotte
Vincent Ferraro
Michael Flynn
Donya Fowler
Amy Gallagher
Zlatin Gamishev
Natalia Garcia
Robert Gardner
Ashley Gardner
Vania Georgieva
Rose Gibbons
Kylie Gilbert
Lauren Gilligan
Einar Gitterman
James Givens
Morgan Hann
Connor Henne
Shaquan Herron
Kathryn Hester
Jordan Hillin
Morgan Hodges
Harold Hoey
Sean Huang
Audrey Jones
Sardhavo Kaluaratchi
Mary Kannapell
Irvana Kapetanovic
Munkuli Katampi
Bryan Keller
Kathleen Klein
Aaron Kline
Konner Krieger
Elena Krolk
Danielle Kucera
Hier Le
Giovanni Leon
Kaverne A J Yi-Jun Lim
Anastasia Lisitskaya
Moyan Lu
Cara Lutes
Debra Macleod
Langani Mafanire
Joseph Martello
Tabatha McCullom
Olivia McTavish
Grace Melton
Glenn Miller
Nicholas Mitchell
Golestan Monjezi
Avi Moses
Kevin Mtandwa
Emily Murawa
Jordan Natelson
Kelsey Nelson
Michael O’Brien
Mary O’Connell
Anifath Okanla
James Oleff
Ume Onwuka
Kristyn Ostman
Rene Pena
Peter Pentland
Elizabeth Perch
Courtland Perry
Corey Pfeifer
Jordan Pierce
John Porcelli
Jennifer Potts
Elizaveta Prytkova
Xiaoyao Qian
Stephen Rice
Mark Richter
Danielle Rolfes
William Rouquie
Nathaniel Russell
Philip Ryan
Burcu Sansan Cobb
Stephen Scheel
Iric Schoenfeld
Menachem Schreiber
Vikki Schwartz
David Scouten
Rosemary Sereti
Sara Shackelford
Mohammad Shah
Pauline Shannon
Debbie Shi
Katherine Sisemore
James Silvanya
Jasmine Small
Thomas Sofia
Melanie Stevenson
Jason Stockton
Amy Stowell
Ryan Sturm
Xinru Sun
John Sutton
Xing Tang
Hans Tanzler
Dina Testa
Andrew Todd
John Troyer
Katherine Utz
Mollie Valencia
Sarah Vergel De Dios
Alexander Voloshko
Timothy Ward
Robert Williams
Kyle Wolfer
Adam Wolken
Changyuan Wu
Zhe Xu
Mustafa Zaghal
Aixiang Zhang
When you decide to pursue the CPA license, know that it’s a significant decision that lays the groundwork for a rewarding career with expanded opportunity and enhanced earning potential. Like anything worth having in life, the journey to the CPA requires commitment, discipline and planning; a journey that begins with the gateway to the profession, the Uniform CPA Examination.

As a CPA candidate, you must be thoroughly familiar with the entire Examination journey from the time of application to sitting for the Examination and passing all four sections. You must learn how the process works, candidate responsibilities, the rules governing a candidate’s progress, and Examination and licensure requirements.

The accountancy board in the state in which you qualify as a CPA candidate determines the requirements governing applications for the Examination and licensure; the NASBA Candidate Bulletin provides candidates with requirements that apply to taking the Examination.

Study, Study, Study
Study is the best preparation for passing the Examination. You should avail yourself of preparation resources such as review courses, study guides or other materials, including the Examination Blueprints found on the Examination Content page of the AICPA website.

Know What’s On the Examination
To prevent unwelcome surprises on the day of the Examination, you must learn what subject matter comprises every section. Content to be tested on the Examination is covered in the Examination Blueprints. The blueprints provide an in-depth look at what you can expect to see on the Examination, including content topics, the skill level at which content will be assessed, and tasks representative of those you may be asked to complete. You should thoroughly study the Examination Blueprints before ever sitting for the Examination, familiarizing yourself with the task statements presented for each section. It’s also important for candidates to know when new pronouncements are eligible for testing. Be sure to review the Policy on New Pronouncements when preparing for the Examination.

The blueprints, as well as other content-related information, are found on the Examination Content section of the AICPA website.

Don’t Memorize
We advise you not to simply memorize sample questions or answers as a way of preparing for the Examination. It’s important to fully understand the Examination’s content and be capable of applying the concepts you’ve learned in school or on the job as they relate to the tasks presented in the Examination Blueprints.

Source: DC Board of Accountancy, Sept. 2017

Review the Tutorial and Take the Sample Tests
To familiarize yourself with the Examination, you should review the CPA Examination tutorial, which explains test navigate and what tools and resources will be available at the test center. After reviewing the tutorial, take the sample tests for each section to get a preview of content and to observe the Examination’s functions in action. You will be tested on the Examination using three different item types: multiple-choice questions (MCQ), task-based simulations (TBS), and written communication tasks. The sample tests will show you how these items will be presented to you.

Remember: The word processing and spreadsheet applications on the Examination are similar to but not identical to commercial applications. Candidates must learn how the Examination technology works. Reviewing the tutorial and sample tests

Continued on the following page.
CPA EXAM AND STUDY TIPS (Continued from page 5.)

before the Examination is important as these materials are not available at test centers.

CPA candidates are required to be familiar with the Examination’s functionality, format, and directions before reporting to the test center. Failure to review the directions provided in the tutorial and sample tests, including the directions on how to respond, may adversely affect scores.

Manage Time Wisely
Just as studying is important to passing the Examination, so too is planning for the testing experience. You have 18 months to complete all four sections. Plan your journey to allow sufficient time to study and test for each section.

The "clock" for the 18-month window typically starts after you receive your first score. However, this may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Contact your state board of accountancy for exact requirements.

Along with overall planning, test day planning is critical. Each section is composed of five testlets that must be completed within four hours. You should allow sufficient time to get through the various items types. A prepared candidate will typically be midway (two hours) through an Examination section after the completion of the third testlet. While this pace may vary from candidate to candidate, it’s a good rule of thumb to follow.

Leverage Mentors / Colleagues / Friends
Preparing for the Examination doesn’t have to be a solo act. Find other colleagues or friends who are taking the Examination and study together. Support among candidates can be valuable and encouraging. If you don’t understand something when studying, ask a CPA colleague or professor for guidance. There are also countless blogs, review courses*, and other preparatory resources to help you get prepared. Additionally, the AICPA manages a CPA Candidate group on LinkedIn where you can connect with others and receive up to date information throughout your Examination journey.

Source: DC Board of Accountancy

NEW LICENSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (Continued from page 3.)

To activate your online account, please follow the steps below:

1. Visit the board’s website: https://www.dcopla.com/accountancy/
2. Under “Licensing Services," click on the link to the online portal
3. Under Login, enter your e-mail address we used to contact you for this correspondence
4. Click “Forgot your password?”
5. Check your e-mail inbox for a link to reset your password
6. Follow the prompts to create a new password
7. Log in to the system using your e-mail and new password
8. Once logged in, follow the prompts to view your account or make changes to your email address or phone number.

If you encounter any issues with this process or have additional questions, please contact a customer service representative at 1-866-270-9817.

Source: DC Board of Accountancy

DC BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY MEMBERS AND STAFF

Seated: Left to Right - Antonia Browning Smiley, Kayla Futch, and Grace Yeboah Ofori-Staff
Standing: Left to Right - Robert Todero, Leon Lewis-Staff, and Joseph Drew

Source: DC Board of Accountancy