Oklahoma Accountancy Board BULLETIN

Summer 2019

What's New?

What a legislative session it was! We made quite a few changes to our Act and Rules to clean-up outdated language and adopted provisions that benefit our constituents.

First, the legislature approved our request for a fee increase. Beginning August 1st, all application, registration, and permit fees will increase by $25. No one likes an increase in fees, however, the last time we raised the fees was in 2004! The good news is that we don't plan on raising fees again anytime soon. Second, we adopted new legislation to eliminate the five-year time limit for registrants whose certificate has been administratively revoked or canceled, to reinstate at any time and pay applicable fees in lieu of retaking the CPA exam. Third, we introduced a new continuing professional education (CPE) exemption for OAB registrants who reside in, and are registered as CPA/PA in another state, do not serve Oklahoma clients, and can demonstrate their compliance with the registrant's home states CPE requirements. Keeping up with multiple states' CPE requirements can be quite cumbersome, so this should provide some relief. Finally, we are managing the effects of House Bill 1373, which requires all licensing agencies to list all crimes that would prevent an individual from holding a CPA certificate. The OAB has sought guidance from the Attorney General's office and we will update our registrants with the particulars as they emerge.

I've touched on some of our most significant revisions above, however, you can find the amended Oklahoma Accountancy Act and Oklahoma Administrative Code online at www.ok.gov/oab. The Board will head back next session for review of our Sunset bill, requesting approval to continue operations for another six years. But, for now, we are marching forward! As always, please contact the OAB should you have any questions or concerns.

Randall A. Ross, CPA
Executive Director

Let's Stay Connected!

Social media sites are a great option for keeping our constituents up-to-date. Please make sure to stay connected with us so you do not miss important announcements.

Follow us @okaccybd

Visit us at www.ok.gov/oab

Like us on Facebook!

In This Issue

What's New? 1
The OAB Welcomes New Board Member 2
Former Board Members Receive Honors 2
Summary of Rule and Statute Changes 3
Check out our new Retired Certificate Status 3
Keep Us Updated! 3
Fewer IRS Audits in FY 2018 3
Spring 2019 New CPA Recognition Ceremony 4
Accounting Facts 4
Enforcement Actions 5
JP Morgan Alert - Payroll Direct Deposit Scheme 5
Candidate's Corner 6

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Randa Vernon, CPA, Chair

James Taylor, CPA, Vice Chair

Mike Sanner, CPA, Secretary

Robin Byford, CPA

David Greenwell, CPA

Jody Manning, Member

Douglas Tippens, Member

BOARD STAFF

Randy Ross, CPA, Executive Director

Colin Autin, Deputy Director & Peer Review

Jason Doss, Licensing Coordinator

Heather Grable, CPE Coordinator

LaLisa Semrad, Enforcement Coordinator

Matthew Sinclair, Administrative Programs Officer

Chloe Nettey, CPA, Accountant II

Rebekah Flanagan, Examination Coordinator

Patricia Martindale, Administrative Assistant II

Amy Freeman, Administrative Assistant II

Kelsie LeBlanc, Administrative Assistant II

CONTACT INFORMATION

Oklahoma Accountancy Board

201 N.W. 63rd Street, Suite 210

Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Local: (405) 521-2397

Fax: (405) 521-3118

Website: *http://www.ok.gov/oab*

The *Oklahoma Accountancy Board Bulletin* is the official publication of the Oklahoma Accountancy Board.

A MEMBER OF NASBA

The OAB Welcomes New Board Member, Robin L. Byford, CPA

The Board is pleased to announce that Robin L. Byford, CPA, was appointed by Governor J. Kevin Stitt to serve as its newest member beginning July 1, 2019. Byford replaced outgoing member Marc A. Delametter, CPA, who served on the Board for five years.

Robin L. Byford, a senior vice president of Wealth Management at Merrill Lynch, grew up in Oklahoma City and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from Oklahoma State University. After she graduated from OSU, Byford joined Ernst and Whinney, where she was assigned to the audit staff. She then owned and operated her own CPA practice for ten years. Her clients often asked her about investment matters, which motivated her to become licensed in the securities business. She soon joined Mass Mutual, followed by Stillwater National Bank and about six years ago, she joined Merrill Lynch.

Robin became the 60th inductee into the Oklahoma Accounting Hall of Fame last year. She has been a member of the Oklahoma Society of CPAs for 36 years, has chaired the Personal Financial Planning Committee and has served as board liaison for the Government Relations, Governmental Accounting and Auditing, Insurance, Planning and Personal Financial Planning Committees. Byford was also chairman of the OSCPA board during fiscal year 2015-2016.

Robin is the mother of two adult children and grandmother to one 2 year old! ★

Former Board Members Receive Honors

The Board would like to recognize Janice Gray, CPA; Carlos Johnson, CPA; and Vicky Petete, CPA; recipients of the Oklahoma Society of CPAs (OSCPA) Path Finders award. The OSCPA Path Finders are an elite group of Oklahoma CPAs who are successful and well-respected for their business prowess, community involvement, and mentoring new CPAs. The OSCPA select candidates based on professional dedication, community involvement, and commitment to inspire the future of the CPA profession in Oklahoma. Your contributions are immeasurable and we congratulate you on this outstanding achievement! ★

Summary of Rule and Statute Changes

The following amendments to the Oklahoma Accountancy Act become effective July 1, 2019:

- 15.1A Definition of designated manager
- 15.10A Exam application fees are non-refundable
- 15.14 (E)(3) Reinstatement available to registrants revoked for more than five years

The following amendments to the Oklahoma Accountancy Code become effective August 1, 2019:

- 10:15-23-1 Creates a retired certificate status
- 10:15-27-10 Adopts fees for new reinstatement application process
- 10:15-27-15 Adds a one year waiver of fees for low-income registrants
- 10:15-30-8 Adopts a reciprocal CPE reporting exemption for out of state registrants

The following state law becomes effective November 1, 2019:

- No longer shall a professional license be denied on the basis of moral character ★

Check out our new Retired Certificate Status

Beginning August 1, 2019, the Board will offer a new status for the CPA/PA certificate. Registrants who are retired from all forms of employment may apply to place their certificate in a full "retired" status. This status provides for a waiver of yearly registration fees, in addition to the continuing professional education (CPE) exemption, and identifies your overall status with the Board as retired. If at any time your status changes and you would like to re-active your certificate, this can be done by completing an annual registration, paying applicable fees and complying with CPE Return to Active Status requirements. You can apply for this status by submitting the Retired Status Application Form (R020-A) located on our website at, www.ok.gov, under the Forms section or you may contact the Board at (405) 521-2397 for assistance.

(Note: Retired registrants can choose to keep their certificate in "active" status and claim a retired continuing professional education (CPE) exemption only. Annual registration renewals and fees will still apply.) ★

Keep Us Updated!

Have you changed jobs? Have a new email or address? The Board utilizes many methods when contacting registrants and it is vital your correct information is on file to receive these notifications. Please remember that any changes to your employer or mailing address must be reported to the Board within 30 calendar days of the change. Changes to your name, phone number or email address should also be reported to the Board in a timely manner. To make a change, please complete the corresponding form located on our website under the Forms section, or contact the Board at (405) 521-2397 or via email at okaccybd@oab.ok.gov. ★

Fewer IRS Audits in FY 2018

Although the IRS audited more than 892,000 individual income tax returns during fiscal year 2018, that was slightly down from the prior year, the 2018 IRS Data Book reports. Their processing of estate tax returns was also slightly down compared to the prior year; however, the IRS processed more of every other major type of form compared to the prior year, including partnerships filed up almost 5 percent, and S-corporation filings up almost 6 percent.

The IRS collected nearly $3.5 trillion during fiscal year 2018 and processed more than 250,000,000 tax returns and other forms. Income tax refunds totaling almost $395 billion were issued to over 120,000,000 individuals.) ★

Reprinted with permission from the NASBA State Board Report, June 2019, Volume XLVIII, Number 6.

Spring 2019 New CPA Recognition Ceremony

On May 18, 2019, OAB staff and several Board members convened at the Oklahoma State Capitol to recognize Oklahoma's newest CPAs. Board Chair, Marc Delametter, CPA, addressed attendees, emphasizing the important nature of the accounting profession and Board Member, Jim Taylor, CPA, led the new CPAs in reciting the Oklahoma Accountants' Pledge. As family and friends looked on, 54 recipients were presented with their Oklahoma CPA certificates.

OSCPA 2019-2020 Chairman, Henry Bickerstaff, CPA, recognized the following individuals for achieving the highest exam scores in their respective windows:

Silver Medal

Asher Morgan Brown; Norman
Lucas Bayne Goodspeed; Edmond

Congratulations to our newest CPAs and the OSCPA award winners, and thank you to the many friends and families who helped make the day memorable! ★

Jim Taylor, CPA, leads new CPAs in the Accountants' Pledge.

Board Chair, Marc Delametter, CPA, presents CPA certificate to Gabriel Njoku, CPA.

Henry Bickerstaff, CPA, Presents a Silver Medal Award to Lucas Goodspeed.

Accounting Facts

- The CPA Exam was first offered in 1917 with three states using it: New Hampshire, Oregon and Kansas.
- It wasn't until 1952 that all states and territories were using the CPA Exam. There were 20,000 candidates.
- Kansas was the first state board to notify NASBA that it had approved the mutual recognition agreement that included the United States, Canada and Mexico.
- The first computer-based CPA Exam was administered in April 2004 at Prometric Testing Centers throughout the United States.
- In 2004, NASBA opened a computer testing center in Guam. The Guam Center has become the largest CPA testing center in the nation. Many candidates from Asian countries travel to the Guam site to sit for the CPA Exam.
- The CPA Exam was first offered in international locations in August 2011 and is currently offered in 10 countries outside the United States. ★

JP Morgan Alert - Payroll Direct Deposit Scheme

JP Morgan has posted an alert regarding a new version of an ACH fraud scheme criminals are using to change employee payroll direct deposit information and ultimately divert funds. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint Center, cybercriminals are deploying this scheme, targeting human resources or payroll employees who have access to online payroll accounts. In 2018, the IC3 received approximately 100 complaints of payroll diversion, with a combined reported loss of $100 million.

The phishing emails appear to be sent from a company employee or the company's chief executive officer, chief financial officer or payroll director requesting a change in the bank account information listed. Experts say these emails are well written without the usual misspellings or grammar mistakes seen in typical phishing schemes. Law enforcement says criminals are using a "high number, low value" approach. For example, the criminals will direct payroll records to be updated to allow the deduction of a nominal amount, $10-$20, per paycheck from hundreds, if not thousands, of employees. These fraud attempts are often missed by the existing controls and best practices that companies have in place for validation of wire transfers or other payment instruction change requests. Remember, a company executive or other payroll employee should not email another employee to request a change in bank account information, or ask for credentials to access a company's payroll system. Always call the requestor using a known telephone number to verify the request. According to the IC3, here are some additional recommendations to help

mitigate the threat of payroll diversion:

- Reinforce education and awareness about cyberschemes among all employees.
- Hover over the sender's name in emails to display the real email address or website URL to confirm the actual sender or website.
- Never share login credentials.
- Never share personal information in emails.
- Implement two-factor authentication for access to sensitive systems and information, such as bank account info, that is initiated by employees who want to update or change direct deposit information.
- Monitor employee logins that occur outside normal business hours.
- Submit suspicious emails or criminal activity to your local FBI office and file a complaint with the IC3 at www.ic3.gov.

(Reprinted from the Oklahoma Central Accounting and Reporting Newsletter – Volume 30, Number 1 - July 10, 2019)

Are You Moving?

Whether you move next door or across the country, Board rules require you to notify us within 30 days!

Visit https://lic.ok.gov/PublicPortal/OAB/index.jsp

Phone: 405-521-2397 ★

Enforcement Actions

A complete list of OAB Enforcement Actions finalized between December 2018 - June 2019 is published on the OAB's website. The document can be found by clicking here:

December 2018 -June 2019 Enforcement Actions ★

Candidate's Corner

OKLAHOMA ACCOUNTANCY BOARD

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WINDOW 1/2019 (01/01/2019 THROUGH 02/28/2019)

GHALIA RANA AL-REFAI
EVAN JAMES ALDERSON
TRAVIS RYNE ALLISON
JOHN TREVOR ANGELL
JONATHAN ARRINGTON BAILEY
DANIELLE NICOLE BELLER
ALEX JAMES BOGDANOFF
MELISSA SUE BRAMBLETT
SHANNON REBECCA DAVIDSON
AUSTIN WILLIAM DAVIS
CRYSTAL LEE DELANEY
KATHERINE HALL DICKINSON
BRETT BEARDEN DIXON
BAYLEE A DURRILL
ASHLEY FLORES
CAROLINE GRACE GOODIN
LUCAS BAYNE GOODSPEED
CORISSA IRENE JENNINGS
CLIFFORD ALAN JONAS
HWAMOK JUNG
KYLE THOMAS KERSTEN
JANET CAROL LEHENBAUER
MICHAEL GREGORY LEWIS
HOLDEN MICHAEL LYONS
SAMUEL THOMAS MARTIN
EMILY HELEN MORROW
RYAN MICHAEL RIPPERTON
JESSE PAUL RUHL
SARAH NOELLE RYAN
NATHAN DAVID SOSA
AMY ELISABETH STEGALL
SONDRA RENE WHITE
SAMUEL JOHN WOLLMANN

OKLAHOMA ACCOUNTANCY BOARD

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WINDOW 2/2019 (04/01/2019 THROUGH 05/31/2019)

AMY LYNN BANU
JENNIFER LAUREN BIGGER
ALEXANDRA CENEE' CAIN
STEPHEN L CARR
PHILLIP JOEL CHANDLER
NILAMBA B. CHUDASAMA
NEVIN BLATTE COX
LAHCEN DAROUICH
WILLIAM BRIAN DOUGLASS
MITCHELL THEODORE DRAELOS
MIRANDA INEZ DRAKE
ETHAN RICHARD FRANCIS ELBERT
TOSHA ANN FLETCHER
ARA GRIGORIAN
DAVID ANTHONY HARDGRAVE
COURTNEY JUNE HARTOG
JEREMY PAUL HILL
CARTER MARKHAM HOOD
AUSTIN WILLIAM HOPFER
ADRIENNE BURDEN HUBBARD
CLYDE WILLIAM JASPER
BAILEY MEGHAN JORDAN
JOSHUA PERRY KLOSSNER
LI LAI
YANG LI
AARON KENT MCDOUGAL
ANDRES NUNEZ SOZA
DARRELL BLAKE OVERLAND
BALEIGH NICOLE OWENS
TRICIA PINPIN PAMINTUAN
COURTNEY BRIANA PICKING
CASEY LEE PIERCE
LINDSAY BETH RIDDEL
ALEXANDRA MCKEAN RIGGS
CHRISTOPHER M. SANFORD
CAITLYN ALYSA SHELL
ASHLYN RACHELLE STALLINGS
HEATHER DAWN STEPHENS
KONG CHIU TSANG
HELLEN CHAU HUYNH VO
PAUL JOHN WATSON
ALLYSON MICHELLE WEIMER
JULIE MARIE ZIMMERMAN

Total Successful Candidates

Window 1/2019 = 33 *Window 2/2019 = 43*

BOLD = Each section passed on first sitting