

**Illinois Board of Examiners (ILBOE) Meeting  
Board Minutes- February 5, 2021  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Meeting ID 94018431139**

**Members Present:** Larry Wojcik, Chair, CPA, JD; Brian Whitlock, Vice-Chair, CPA, JD; Rose Ann Abraham, CPA; Martrice Caldwell, CPA; Amanda Gavin, CPA; Thomas Homer, JD, CFP; Annette O'Connor, CPA; Luis Plascencia, CPA; Maria de J. Prado, CPA

**Staff:** Russ Friedewald, Executive Director  
Lianne Mace, Assistant Director of Certification  
Carlarta Ratchford, Assistant Director of Evaluation Services

**Guests:** Colleen Conrad, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, NASBA  
Daniel Duston, Vice President, State Board Relations, NASBA  
Marty Green, Vice President for Government Relations, Illinois CPA Society  
Todd Shapiro, ILCPAS

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Wojcik called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

**ACTION** Ms. Prado motioned to accept the September 25, 2020 board meeting minutes. Mr. Homer seconded the motion. Motion passed on unanimous voice and show of hands vote.

**ACTION** Ms. Gavin motioned to accept the December 18, 2020 special meeting minutes. Ms. Abraham seconded the motion, which was passed on unanimous voice and show of hands vote.

**2. Presentation by Ms. Colleen Conrad**

Ms. Conrad presented background information about the CPA Evolution in addition to its current status. The Evolution aims to transform the CPA licensure model to recognize the rapidly changing skills and competencies required by the practice of accounting. The new model is based on demanding core knowledge in accounting, auditing, tax and technology along with a specialized discipline in business analysis and reporting, information systems and controls, or tax compliance and planning. Exam changes have been publicized and will be tested in July of 2021. These will be finalized by January of 2023 and the new CPA exam implemented in January 2024.

### **3. Presentation by Mr. Daniel Dustin**

Mr. Dustin presented information about amendments to the Uniform Accounting Act and Model Rules resulting from changes in federal education regulations. Specifically, changes to university and college accreditation bodies could impact the Administrative Codes at a local level. As a result, the ILBOE will need to revisit section 1400.90 to ensure the Educational Requirement adequately addresses acceptable accreditation.

### **4. Guest and Board Discussion**

Ms. Conrad explained that a plan to implement remote testing during an emergency has arisen because of the pandemic crisis. All stakeholders have been working with Prometric to ensure the security and integrity of the exam. They now want to do a pilot of remote testing and are asking state boards to accept the exam scores of candidates who volunteer for the pilot. Mr. Wojcik and Mr. Friedewald will be getting a letter with details.

### **5. Presentation by Mr. Marty Green**

Mr. Green indicated he has a sponsor in the Senate for the legislation pertaining to the change in education requirements to sit for the CPA exam from 150 semester hours to 120 semester hours. If passed, the 120-hour requirement would begin January, 2023 and consideration must be given to informing colleges and universities of potential changes to their programs.

### **Report of the Chair- Mr. Lawrence Wojcik**

Chairperson Wojcik reported on the NOCLAR discussions within the Ethics Committee. An effort is being made to change the U.S. standard that a predecessor auditor cannot disclose fraud to a successor auditor without the client's permission. The AICPA would like this rule to mirror the international standard, which does not require the client's permission.

### **6. Report of the Executive Director-Mr. Russ Friedewald**

- a.** Mr. Friedewald presented the results of the 20Q4 score report. He will be sending the score letter via DocuSign and would appreciate everyone's signature.
- b.** The rules change reflecting the new 3% fee has been sent to the Secretary of State for approval. Upon receiving approval, the software developer will implement the change and candidates will be notified.
- c.** The Board newsletter is in production.
- d.** The Auditor General report contains two findings, which are repeat findings. In one case, Ms. Mary Fitzgerald has developed stronger internal controls. The second case has been discussed with the attorney.

- e. Mr. Friedewald encouraged Board members to participate in NASBA committees.

## **ILBOE COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

### **7. Administrative Committee- Mr. Bradley Danton**

No report

### **8. Candidacy Committee- Ms. Annette O'Connor**

No report

### **9. Education Advisory Task Force- Ms. Martrice Caldwell**

After a discussion about the change from 150 hours to 120 hours, the committee reached consensus that students be allowed to begin testing at 120 hours with 24 hours of accounting and 12 hours of business. Provisional approval will remain. Revisions to the Administrative rules will be made after the Accounting Act is amended.

### **10. Executive Committee- Mr. Lawrence Wojcik**

Mr. Wojcik requested a list of security measures being taken for remote testing. With those measures in mind, he asked Mr. Friedewald to consider accepting the scores for volunteer candidates under the pilot test program.

### **11. Finance Committee- Mr. Brian Whitlock**

Mr. Whitlock reported on the Board's cash balance based on information received from Northern Illinois University. This information was incomplete due to the vacancy created by the retirement of Mary Fitzgerald. A complete financial report will be provided at the next Board meeting as Ms. Fitzgerald's position is filled. Ms. Fitzgerald's position will be filled on a part time basis, which was approved by the Executive Committee.,

### **12. Strategic Planning- Mr. Tom Homer/ Mr. Russ Friedewald**

Mr. Homer reviewed the strategic plan documents with an emphasis on establishing additional contacts at the post-secondary level to promote the CPA in general and to encourage more diversity in the profession.

## **AICPA/NASBA COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **13. Bylaws Committee-Mr. Thomas Homer**

The committee will meet in March to discuss modifications to the requirements for becoming a member of the nominating committee.

**14. CBT Administration Committee-Mr. Russ Friedewald**

No report.

**15. PEEC- Mr. Larry Wojcik**

The ethics committee will give their recommendations to the regulatory response committee.

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. O'Connor made the motion and Mr. Homer seconded. The motion passed by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.