



NCACPA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes August 14, 2019 - Conference call Austin Wachter, CPA, Chair, presiding

Members participating (on conference call)

George Beckwith	Mike Gillis	Jonathan Kraftchick	Rob Rowan
Walter Davenport	Shawana Hudson	Alex Lehmann	Michelle Tracz
Tim Fleischman	Kelli Knoble	Beth Monaghan	Austin Wachter
Whitney Gann	Jared Korver		

Staff Participating

Sharon Bryson, Mark Sotichack, Nikki Vann, Amelia Hodges, Lorrie Leonhardt, Teka Miller, Jackie Asekhauno, Rebecca Doel, Holly Bazemore, and Lisa Seaton.

Guests

NC State Board of CPA Examiners Executive Director, Bob Brooks; and Deputy Director, David Nance; NCACPA Legislative Counsel/Lobbyist Dave Horne.

Administrative Matters

Call to Order

Austin Wachter called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the NCACPA board, staff of the NC State Board of CPA Examiners, members of the NCACPA team, and other invited guests, after which the CPAs in attendance recited the "Oath of a NC CPA."

Consent Agenda

Austin inquired if there were any comments concerning the minutes of the June 20, 2019 BOD meeting. There being none, a motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the minutes.

Ratification of NC CPA Foundation's new Board member

Mark Sotichack shared that the Foundation Board respectively submitted and unanimously approved Dr. Lisa Owens-Jackson for ratification of her seat on the Foundation Board of Directors. She is filling the vacant position following Dr. Kevin James' resignation effective August 6, 2019. A motion to ratify Dr. Lisa Owens-Jackson was made by Walter Davenport, seconded by Alex Lehmann and unanimously approved.

Strategic Discussions

Enhanced Engagement

Austin Wachter started the discussion regarding the previously submitted Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) committee initiatives. Following dialogue on this topic, there was agreement that additional guidance be provided to our committees directing them to pursue a heightened level of D&I initiatives as part of their

“evergreen” Action Plans. There was also concurrence that related education be provided to our committees – and our BOD – regarding this strategic area as we continue to increase our focus on D&I.

Sharon Bryson noted that several NCACPA team members, in addition to both Shawana Hudson and Malcomb Coley, recently attended an excellent DE&I Conference sponsored by the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.

Sharon added she will be signing the D&I CEO Action Pledge in the next few weeks, (will take place on 9/18/19) and that the entire NCACPA team will be given the opportunity to review and sign the *I Act On Pledge*, an additional commitment that stems from the CEO Action Pledge. The September issue of the *Interim Report* will include a D&I focus on digital accessibility.

Action Items(s):

- Specific education and discussion on D&I will be included in the October BOD meeting.
- Ken Bouyer, EY Americas Director of Inclusiveness Recruiting, will be invited to the October board meeting.
- Consideration will be given to providing D&I training opportunities to NCACPA committee leadership.

Increased Advocacy & Awareness

Succession Planning Task Force

Task Force Chair Mike Gillis discussed the timeline for the 6-month roll-out of information being compiled by the Succession Planning Task Force. Austin noted there is a great need for enhanced education in this area to help CPAs obtain the necessary framework for succession planning earlier in their respective careers. Key components of the roll-out plan are:

- The NCACPA Communications team is creating a marketing plan in order to share this information monthly (Connect, social media, etc.), along with the creation of a micro-site where the information “will live.”
- Launch of a monthly communication written by a task force member (paired with a PCPS – or other – resource. The AICPA will notify NCACPA once PCPS materials are updated, with a hopeful target launch of mid/late August.
- Sponsorship will be offered to a few sole practitioners for one year of PCPS membership.
- Mike Gillis will potentially share information on the succession planning topic during this year’s Symposium.
- Future consideration will be given to a video component of this topic.

Action Items(s):

- Per discussion at the March 2019 NCACPA BOD meeting, discussion will continue regarding establishment of an NCACPA/NC State Board joint task force that would specifically address the topic of succession planning.
- The BOD was asked to provide additional ideas for communicating to the membership about the materials and training that will be available.

NCACPA Advocacy, Legislative, & NC CPA PAC Activities

Sharon Bryson noted that in light of the ongoing state budget stalemate, with the assistance of the NCACPA Advocacy Advisory Council, we will be evaluating our upcoming legislative agenda in further detail over the next several weeks. Sharon added that in a recent conversation, House Speaker Tim Moore conveyed very positive comments regarding his participation on the legislative panel during the 2019 Leadership Summit, and how pleased he is our membership is actively involved with the legislative process. It was also noted that State Senator Andy Wells is a frequent reader of our Connect platform, and recently contacted the Association as to possible assistance the General Assembly might be able to provide regarding a member post on an Employment Security Commission matter.

Lastly, Sharon mentioned the NC CPA Political Action Committee fundraising goal of \$25K by the end of the calendar year and thanked the BOD in advance for their support in this area.

Austin referenced House Bill 924 (Teacher Contract Changes) and commented on the great opportunity for NCACPA to be involved in assistance with writing the curriculum for this high school course (effective for students entering ninth grade in the 2020/2021 school year.)

Dave Horne shared updates on the following issues:

1. Dave will keep the Association advised of any changes to the budget and relevant resolutions. The noted there is no indication as to when the General Assembly might adjourn.
2. While there are no funds earmarked in the budget to assist the Department of Revenue with implement the Power of Attorney issue, as a result of NCACPA's efforts in this area, the legislature has mandated that DoR must provide the General Assembly with an update as to their progress with this initiative no later than 1/31/20.

Action Item(s):

- Sharon noted she and Dave Horne will pursue next steps regarding our potential involvement in drafting curriculum as a result of HB924 becoming law.

Highly Valued Professional Development

Amelia Hodges, Director of Professional Development, invited and encouraged the BOD to attend upcoming NCACPA-sponsored PD programs, including the MIBI Fall Conference in September, the Professional Women's Conference in November, and the Annual Symposium also in November.

Amelia then asked the BOD to interact (via an online web form) in order to submit their ideas for future CPE topics. The 2020-21 curriculum process begins in September, so Amelia emphasized the timely value of the feedback being offered.

Jackie Asekhauno, Learning Manager, provided an update on the new Leadership Skills program being developed, which is geared towards CPAs in years 1-3 since licensure. Topics to be featured as part of this program include critical thinking, emotional intelligence, decision-making, and complex problem solving.

Amelia shared that due to declining attendance over the past several years, the Healthcare Conference has been modified to a one-day general session workshop format. The Healthcare Committee is supportive of this change and will continue to assist with our delivery methods/content development directed at this specialized audience.

There was discussion related to partnering with other states that have a core educational competency not available to us in North Carolina. It was suggested we investigate such topics of interest with the possibility of incorporating them into our curriculum.

Action Item(s):

- NCACPA will incorporate a D&I topic into our new Leadership Skills certificate program.
- Amelia will send out a follow-up communication to the BOD summarizing their professional development topic suggestions.
- PD to engage in ongoing investigation of partnering with other states that have core educational competencies we may not have.

Governance & Operational Effectiveness

Audit & June Financials

Treasurer Shawana Hudson provided a brief update on the annual audit, specifically noting the process is

underway and running smoothly, and that the final Audit Report will be provided for review during the October board meeting.

Shawana shared a brief overview of the June financials. One important note is the change in the allocation of assets. The Association has entered into a sweep account to optimize interest earnings on excess operating cash. From a budget to actual standpoint we are on target, however it was noted that there is a deficit as of June 30, typical with how the NCACPA operates. Shawana referenced we budgeted for a larger deficit at this point in the fiscal year, however we are seeing several positive indicators in terms of our investment performances.

Shawana then noted two key items to watch going forward:

1. NCACPE experienced a credit card processor outage during July, and the NCACPA staff is monitoring the situation to determine if there is any noticeable impact on the July financials.
2. Professional Development revenue is below budget for the fiscal year-to-date, however we are experiencing greater than expected revenue for our web-based courses.

Other Business

Austin noted he and Sharon will be reaching out to board members to further discuss support of the PAC and Foundation. Austin emphasized the importance of 100% participation from the board, as we continue to solicit support of these important entities from our entire membership.

Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for October 2-3, 2019, at the Grand Bohemian Hotel in Asheville, NC.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon H. Bryson, M.Ed., CEO
Secretary to the Board