

Ohio | ACCOUNTANCY BOARD

CHAIR MESSAGE

I am honored to be the Chair of the Accountancy Board for 2014. As a sole practitioner from Canton, I have been an active volunteer for the Ohio Society of CPAs, the AICPA, as well as NASBA for many years. This has given me exposure to the various issues and concerns facing CPAs whether in public practice or private company employment.

The Accountancy Board of Ohio has been a national leader in the CPA world for many years. Ohio is the 5th largest state for CPAs licensed in America. This leadership position has been built by many Board members over many years. With the current Board members and our very able Executive Director, we will continue this leadership role in 2014.

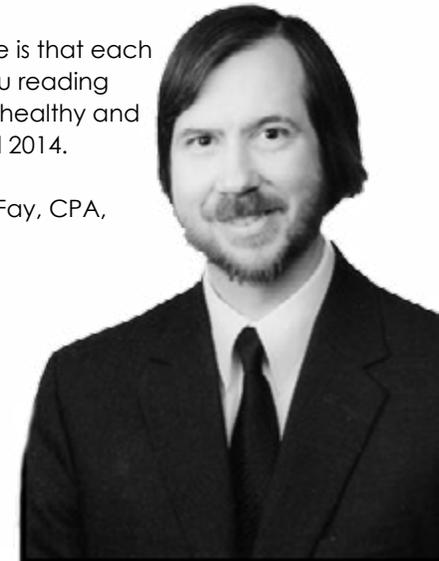
As you will read in Mr. Patterson's column, we have an active agenda before us in the coming year. The entire Board takes our duty and responsibilities very seriously and understands the important work before us.

I also add my personal thank you to Mike Fritz, Chair for 2013, for his leadership of the Board for 2013. Mike made a great commitment to the Board, as well as the citizens of Ohio, in his leadership role and he did an outstanding job. With Mike's election as NASBA Regional Director and NASBA Board member, he continues this commitment not only to Ohio but to the Great Lakes Region. We are fortunate and thankful for his leadership.

There is a wealth of important information in this newsletter and we plan on continuing to expand our communication outreach with you as we go thru 2014.

My hope is that each one of you reading this has a healthy and successful 2014.

Robert F. Fay, CPA,
Chair



CLOSING THOUGHTS FROM OUR PAST CHAIR



As John Patterson highlights in his Executive Director's corner, 2013 was a year of transition, laying the foundation for a strong board staff to serve the public interest. In addition to managing staff turnover, the Board took action on several rules, and saw an increase in the number of educational institutions whose students participated in our scholarship program. The Board honored Greta Russell for completing her seven year term and welcomed our newest member, Michael Guingundo.

The members of your Board are very active in serving the profession. I was fortunate

in 2013 to be elected as the Great Lakes Regional Director to NASBA. Additionally, five of our board members serve on committees to NASBA. This service allows our Board to have insight to the various issues impacting the public interest and our profession.

I appreciate the honor of having served as Board Chair and look forward to serving my final two years on the Board.

W. Michael Fritz, CPA, Past Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

It is a great honor to be the Executive Director of the Accountancy Board of Ohio. I served as legal counsel for the Board for over twelve years prior to accepting the position. I began my tenure as Executive Director on January 14, 2013.

Looking back on my first year, I am grateful for the contributions of the Board staff and Board members. The CPA community was very supportive of a new Executive Director who had a lot to learn.

I am hoping for an early spring. Green grass, new leaves, flowers popping and birds singing. Spring is a time of change and renewal.

This past year, because of the support of the board, staff and CPA community, we were able to transition to a new management staff and we are beginning to see new grass and new leaves. Below are a few highlights of the past year and plans for the new year;

On December 31, 2012, both, Executive Director, Ron Rotaru and Assistant Executive Director, Bob Joseph retired. We wish them well in their retirement years. The retirement of both Ron and Bob left a large experience gap in the Board management. I began as Executive Director in mid-January. During the gap, daily operations were assigned

to Tracey Fithen. Tracey is now our Assistant Executive Director. The duties of Enforcement Officer have been ably executed by Jesse Dixon, a long time Board investigator prior to taking over his management role. Jesse's promotion resulted in an investigator opening.

We are pleased to have Jenny Kochensparger as our newest Investigator and Beatrice Johnson, as our new Administrative Professional.

The Board has begun the process of revising its rules. The process incorporates the goal of conforming to the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA), where the act works for Ohio and encourages participation and a strong working relationship with NASBA, the OSCPA and all other stakeholders.

We are in the process of revising our Educational Assistance Program, spearheaded by staff member Elisabeth Newell, working with board member Maggie Houston.

I am working on the semi-annual publication of a newsletter with Assistant Executive Director, Tracey Fithen and staff member Elisabeth Newell.

The February meeting of the Accountancy Board will begin a review of the peer review process and will include a presentation by the OSCPA

and approval.

Through the efforts of Jenny Kochensparger, Investigator and Jesse Dixon, Investigations Officer, we are revising the rules regarding continuing education.

The Board is also planning to meet sometime this year with NASBA to discuss the development and security of the CPA examination.

The Accountancy Board of Ohio is charged with enforcing the statutes and rules governing the CPA designation but our goals also include providing you with the best service possible. While we are here to regulate the profession of accounting, we are also here to assist you, the licensee through the process of obtaining your Ohio permit and firm registration. Your questions about the process of licensure and adhering to the statutes and rules of the State of Ohio are important to us.

I am excited about being the Executive Director for the Accountancy Board of Ohio and look forward to Spring weather and working with the Ohio CPA community. ○



John E. Patterson
Executive Director

ATTENTION

NEW LICENSE APPLICANTS – DID YOU KNOW?

Effective January of 2012 the Department of Veterans Affairs has approved The Uniform CPA Examination as a certification test, that veterans in any state, can take and have the expense eligible for reimbursement of up to \$2,000. In addition, military spouses of active duty service members are covered under the Department of Defense's Military Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) program for up to \$4,000 in financial assistance toward their education and testing.

To find out more information about the reimbursement program, go to www.gibill.va.gov. ○



PLEASE BE AWARE

Before you put your reputation on the line by attesting that you have completed 120 hours of CPE including three hours of professional standards and responsibilities, check your records to confirm that you have the documentation that confirms your completion of the necessary CPE.

A licensee may be selected multiple times for verification. This is most likely luck of the draw. A prior disciplinary action may also result in multiple verification requests. If you receive a verification letter, you must provide documentation to the Board office that shows you have completed the required CPE.

An Ohio permit holder may complete a continuing education program from an unregistered sponsor. The permit holder subject to verification will be required to submit documentation showing proof of attendance for all courses attended.

The Board may, but is not required, to grant an extension of time of up to one year to complete CPE. The extension will normally be less than one year. The permit holder must submit a written request for an extension prior to the renewal date. The Board requires

documentation of the reason for the request and verification of the CPE completed as of the renewal date. Late fees will be assessed and the extension does not extend the next renewal period. "I was really busy" does not qualify as an appropriate reason for an extension.

Documents that do not verify attendance, or completion of a course, will not be accepted. The Board will not accept CPE previously used for a prior reporting period. Registration confirmation does not verify attendance or completion of a course. The cover page of a course handout and copies of course material do not confirm attendance or completion. Documents that do not contain the necessary information will not be accepted.

Compliance with the CPE audit is a requirement of licensing. Protect your right to use the professional designation, CPA, by completing the necessary CPE and diligently maintaining the necessary documentation.

If you have any questions, please call the Board office and we will do our best to assist you. ○

Officers

Robert Fay, CPA, Chair

Michael S. Comer, CPA, Vice-Chair

James J. Carroll, CPA, Secretary

Members

W. Michael Fritz, CPA

M. A. (Maggie) Houston, CPA

Adriana Sfalcin, Public Member

James P. Gero, CPA

James D. Gottfried, CPA

Michael M. Guinigundo, CPA

ACCOUNTANCY BOARD OF OHIO STAFF

Executive Director:

John E. Patterson

Assistant Executive Director:

Tracey F. Fithen

Investigations Officer:

Jesse D. Dixon

Investigators:

Jenny Kochensparger

Faith Ottavi

Administrative Staff:

Beatrice Johnson, Information/Verification updates

Kelly A. Kelly, Firm Registration

Elisabeth Newell, Education Assistance Program

Luann Rager, Revenue and Deposits

Karen Salyer, CPA certification and Licensing

NEED TO UPDATE CONTACT INFO?

Visit <http://acc.ohio.gov> and complete the Address Change Form.



WHY DO CPAs APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD?

The Accountancy Board of Ohio, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, is charged with adopting and enforcing rules which establish and maintain a higher standard of integrity and dignity in Ohio License holders. The Board conducts disciplinary hearings concerning alleged violations of Ohio's accountancy laws. The most common reasons licensees appear before the Board are featured below.

I FORGOT TO RENEW...NOW WHAT?

If you were due to renew your permit on December 31, 2013 and failed to do so, you now have an expired permit and are no longer licensed to perform public accounting work in Ohio. You should immediately go to the Accountancy Board web page and:

- Print the Ohio late renewal application form. <http://acc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/PDF/OPrenew.pdf>
- Attach the Certificate of Completion for all 120 hours of CPE. <http://acc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/PDF/cpeform.pdf>

- Attach a check, or money order, for the total license fee including late charges.

You must have an active permit to use the designation CPA in the state of Ohio.

Registration Status – If you were due to renew your registration on December 31, 2013 and failed to do so, you now have an expired registration and are not considered in good standing in Ohio. An Ohio Registration keeps your license in

compliance with Ohio, even though you are not holding out as a CPA by doing any compilations, reviews and/or attest work. You will need to:

- Print of the Late Fee Chart from the home page of our web site. <http://acc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/PDF/ORrenew.pdf>
- Attach a check or money order for the total license fee including late charges.

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETE MY PEER REVIEW

If you fail to complete your peer review, you will not be able to renew your attest firm renewal registration. If you continue to refer to your firm as a CPA firm on a webpage, sign, business card, letterhead, or in any other way, you are engaged in the unauthorized practice of public accounting. You cannot return to active practice until you have a final acceptance peer review letter and complete your board disciplinary hearing.

Your firm may continue to practice public accounting only if you submit proof of having completed an acceptable peer review prior to November 1, 2013, not previously used to register your firm.

If you are a non-attest firm and you failed to renew on time:

- Print the Ohio late non-attest renewal application form. <http://acc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/PDF/TClate13.pdf>

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- Print the Peer Review Exemption Form. <http://acc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/PDF/prexempt.pdf>
- Attach a check or money order for the total license fee including late charges.

If you are an attest firm and you failed to renew on time:

- Print the Ohio late firm renewal application form. <http://acc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/PDF/PRLate.pdf>
- Attach a copy of your final peer review acceptance letter.
- Attach a check or money order for the total license fee including late charges.

Late renewal applications will be accepted until January 31st. On February 1st, the Board will begin to issue Notice of Opportunity Letters.

If you have a problem,

contact the Board office even if it results in a disciplinary hearing before the Board.

If you resolve your problem, you greatly increase the probability that you will be able to return to the active LEGAL practice of public accounting. ○

