

NASBA STATE BOARD REPORT

A Digest of Current Developments Affecting State Accountancy Regulation

Summer 2023



A Look Back at the 2023 Regional Meetings

52 State Board of Accountancy representatives convened at NASBA's 2023 Regional Meetings. Read about it on page 4.



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Nominating Committee Announces Slate

The 2022-2023 NASBA Nominating Committee has nominated the following officers and directors to be voted on by the member Boards of Accountancy at NASBA's Annual Business Meeting in October:

Vice Chair Maria E. Caldwell (FL – Associate)

Directors-at-Large (first year of three-year term)
 (first term) Alison Houck Andrew (DE – Associate)
 (first term) Barry Berkowitz (PA – Associate)
 (second term) Nicola Neilon (NV – Associate)

Regional Directors (one-year term), a Regional Director may serve three one-year terms

(third term) Central	Michael Schmitz (ND – Delegate)
(second term) Great Lakes	Gerald Weinstein (OH – Delegate)
(first term) Middle Atlantic	Laurie Warwick (VA – Delegate)
(first term) Mountain	Dan Vuckovich (MT – Delegate)
(first term) Northeast	Timothy Egan (CT – Delegate)
(third term) Pacific	Nancy J. Corrigan (CA – Delegate)
(second term) Southeast	Willie Sims (MS – Delegate)
(first term) Southwest	Robin Byford (OK – Delegate)



Maria Caldwell



Alison Houck Andrew



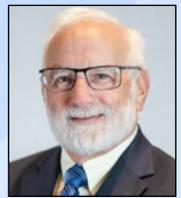
Barry Berkowitz



Nicola Neilon



Michael Schmitz



Gerald Weinstein



Laurie Warwick



Dan Vuckovich



Timothy Egan



Nancy Corrigan



Willie Sims



Robin Byford

The following NASBA Board members will continue to serve for the balance of their unexpired terms. At-large directors may serve two three-year terms. For purposes of Bylaws Section 4.5.7 compliance, an at-large director's status as a delegate or associate is based upon their status when elected.

Directors-at-Large (second year of three-year term)
 (first term) Stephen Langowski (NY – Delegate)
 (first term) Katrina Salazar (CA – Delegate)
 (first term) Kenya Watts (OH – Delegate)

Directors-at-Large (third year of three-year term)
 (unexpired term) J. Andy Bonner (TN – Board appointment to fill Jack Dailey's term)
 (unexpired term) Jason Peery (ID – Board appointment to fill Stephanie Saunders' term)
 (TBD) (the Board will appoint someone to fill Maria Caldwell's term)

Stephanie Saunders (VA – Associate), 2022-2023 Vice Chair, will accede to the office of chair.

Richard Reisig (MT – Associate) will accede to the office of past chair upon the installation of Ms. Saunders as chair.



Stephen Langowski



Katrina Salazar



Kenya Watts



Andy Bonner



Jason Peery



Stephanie Saunders



Richard Reisig

PRESIDENT'S MEMO

"You are not listening!"

As the president and CEO of NASBA, I have always felt comfortable in my ability to monitor and measure what I describe as the temperature of our stakeholders. While the State Boards of Accountancy are our primary stakeholders, we are certainly interested in the opinions and ideas of Board of Accountancy staff members, State CPA Societies and their staff members, and other national associations, all of whom we consider to be important stakeholders. I have recently written and spoken about some current disagreements between our various stakeholder groups (mostly pipeline related), and more importantly, the tension that it has created. In our discussions about those disagreements, I occasionally heard either "they are not listening," or "you are not listening." When "you" is NASBA, I take that criticism very seriously.

This is a relatively new phenomenon. While I try to never be defensive, I have always considered NASBA's efforts to communicate, including listening, to be effective. As I have stated many times, NASBA is you. Through our regional director led regional calls, state board relations staff, executive director monthly Zoom meetings, and open participation in conferences with breakout sessions, there are many opportunities for listening and dialogue. Similarly, through our State Society Relations Committee, inviting society staff to our conferences, and other visits, there should not be a dearth of communication. Despite these efforts, the "not listening" criticism is ever present.

I have spoken of the "distortion" of behavior after the tremendous disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. Folks are just behaving differently and that includes challenging institutionalized and historic ways of doing things. This is not necessarily a bad thing as change is often painful, but ultimately proves to be positive.

In trying to interpret or understand what is behind the "not listening" commentary, I have begun to have some empathy. If we appear to be listening, but not willing to seriously consider viewpoints and express the need for change, then are we really listening?

At the recent NASBA Western Regional meeting, I approached a longtime friend who is a senior staff member of a state society, which has proposed legislation that could disrupt substantial equivalency and mobility. I was surprised when he commented that he didn't know if I was speaking to him because of the society's legislative actions. While his remark may have been made somewhat facetiously, it sensitized me as to the importance of how we communicate and the tone of our conversations, particularly when we disagree.

In my last *President's Memo* titled *The 150 Legacy*, I wrote of the tremendous amount of work of generations of accounting leaders who for decades worked to get all states substantially equivalent, allowing a system of practice mobility that no other profession has been able to accomplish anywhere in the world. There is no doubt that I, and others, are passionate about protecting their work and the resultant privilege U.S. CPAs and their clients have enjoyed. I am starting to recognize that passion may be seen by others as a proverbial 'stake in the ground' and an unwillingness to consider changes to address the shrinking number of new CPAs...in other words, not listening.

At the most recent NASBA Board of Directors meeting, there were serious discussions about legislative challenges and the resultant perceived distrust, with a focus on the best ways to move forward. We have already reached out to key stakeholders to establish communication channels and opportunities. While there are disparities in opinions as to how we should address the pipeline issue, there seems to be consensus that no party wants to disrupt substantial equivalency or mobility. That provides an avenue for negotiation and middle ground opportunities.

This coming year (NASBA's new fiscal year begins August 1), we are going to face unprecedented challenges, but also significant opportunities. After years of development and investment, we will soon be launching the new CPA Evolution examination with changes that will bring currency and flexibility into the entry examination for the accounting profession. We are already seeing signs of renewed interest in joining this great profession with increasing numbers of students enrolling in accounting programs at colleges and universities across the country. If we can muster the where-with-all to work together, I am confident that we can reach consensus as to changes in the process that should be considered.

I am personally committed to being open to new and innovative ideas, and most importantly, to listening!

Semper ad meliora (Always toward better things).



— Ken L. Bishop, President & CEO



NASBA Members Convene for Regional Meetings

NASBA leaders recently welcomed 342 individuals representing 52 Boards of Accountancy during NASBA's 2023 Regional Meetings. The meetings were held May 31-June 2, in Savannah, GA, (Eastern) and June 27-29, in Kansas City, MO (Western).

Topping this year's agenda were informative discussions on CPA Pipeline initiatives, peer review compliance, changes to CPE compliance, licensure pathways, and the latest developments regarding the CPA Evolution initiative.

During the report from leadership, NASBA President and CEO Ken Bishop and NASBA Chair Richard Reisig shared their pleasure in the uptick of this year's attendance numbers and agreed that CPA Evolution and the CPA Pipeline are the two most important endeavors for NASBA and its Board of Directors at this time. "CPA Evolution marks the biggest Examination change since the launch of the computerized Exam," said Bishop. They also reported that NASBA is on track, on budget and prepared to go live with the new CPA Exam in early 2024.

In addition to the daily general session presentations, meeting attendees also benefitted from participation in regional breakout sessions led by NASBA's eight regional directors. Reports from the NASBA Center for the Public Trust, UAA Committee, Diversity Committee, Relations with Member Boards Committee, and NASBA CPA Pipeline Task Force were also presented during the respective meetings.

A new board member orientation was also offered prior to each Regional Meeting to introduce new Board of Accountancy members to the NASBA mission, products and services, role of board members and the benefits of volunteer service.

To view additional highlights from the meetings, [CLICK HERE](#) to view the 2023 Regional Meeting highlight reel. ♦



Willie Sims (center), Southeast Regional Director, leads discussion during the Regional Breakout Sessions.



Elizabeth Gantnier, NASBA Peer Review Compliance Committee member, provides an overview of the peer review process and the responsibilities of the state boards.



During the New Board Member Orientation, attendees enact different scenarios that may occur during a board meeting.



Colleen Conrad (left) and Michael Decker (right) share their insights on what is on the horizon for the new CPA Examination.



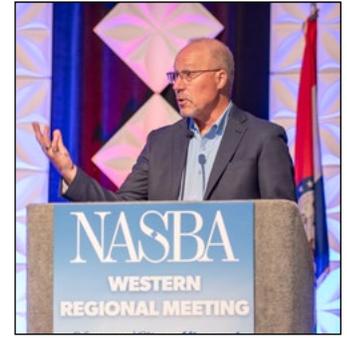
Eastern Regional Meeting attendees staying engaged during the daily plenary sessions.



Alfonzo Alexander (left) and Steven Platau (right) attend the Call to Leadership reception at the Eastern Regional Meeting.



Ken Bishop (left) and Rick Reisig (right) greet each other before starting their leadership report at the Western Regional Meeting.



Michael Schmitz leads discussions at the Western Regional Meeting..



Eastern Regional Meeting attendees learn about the emerging issues impacting the accounting profession.



Tonia Campbell (left) and Tony Lin (right) participate in the New Board Member Orientation at the Western Regional Meeting.



From left to right: Vikki Nunn, Lynn Hutchinson and Nancy Corrigan provide an update from the Regional Breakout Sessions at the Western Regional Meeting.



From left to right: Gerald Weinstein, Richard Silverman, Willie Sims and Arthur Winstead share highlights from the Regional Breakout Sessions held during the Eastern Regional Meeting.



Held in conjunction with the Western Regional Meeting, the NASBA Center for the Public Trust (CPT) welcomes 43 StudentCPT Leadership Conference attendees representing 26 colleges and universities across the U.S.



Meet Jimmy Chilimigras

The 15-year-old, CPA Exam Candidate Prodigy

Jimmy Chilimigras, age 15, became one of the youngest people on record to pass the Uniform CPA Exam this June. After graduating from high school at age 12 and completing both his bachelor's and master's degrees at age 14, the CPA Exam became the Mississippi native's next challenge.

Accounting was a field Chilimigras chose to study when he realized he had two options entering his college career; study something less challenging and coast through or take on something that would require him to apply himself in new ways. With law school in mind, he chose the latter, decided to study accounting and came to love the profession through his studies.

His passion for accounting inspired him to take on his greatest feat yet – the CPA Exam. With the support of his friends, family, mentors and professors, Chilimigras conquered the Exam, only having to retake a section once. As he begins law school at Loyola University in the fall, Chilimigras hopes to one day become a tax accountant and apply his skills as a CPA in a way that suits his other interests and aspirations.

Chilimigras recently stopped by NASBA's Nashville headquarters during his summer travels. Learn more about his background and journey to CPA by watching the [following video](#). ♦



AICPA Issues Letter to Dept of Homeland Security on STEM

The profession continues to pursue accounting as part of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs in schools through federal legislation ([H.R. 3541](#) & [S 1705](#) – Accounting STEM Pursuit Act of 2023). NASBA, the AICPA, more than 45 State CPA Societies, and other stakeholders recently signed onto a letter to request that several Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes be added to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) STEM Designated Degree Program List.

As mentioned in the letter, accounting has long been termed “the language of business.” Just like accounting itself, technology has been ever evolving and has helped CPAs remain competitive and businesses succeed. While many accounting programs have modified their curricula to reflect the changing environment of accounting and its technological base, these changes have not yet been reflected in the recognition of accounting as a DHS STEM subject.

Programs use different CIP codes, and this submission is requesting

DHS to consider six of these codes to be included on the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program list. The venting codes include 52.0301 – Accounting, 30.1601 – Accounting and Computer Science, 52.0304 – Accounting and Finance, 52.0303 – Auditing, 43.0405 – Financial Forensics and Fraud Investigation and 52.1601 – Taxation.



Technology plays a large role in the duties of accountants. They not only use existing technology, but research and innovate new technologies and contribute to their development. For this reason and many others, it is understandable that organizations of all sizes would like to see accounting designated as a STEM field, specifically under the “T” for Technology.

To view the letter in its entirety, [CLICK HERE](#). ♦

2023 Accounting Education Research Grant Recipients

NASBA announced the recipients of its 2023 Accounting Education Research Grants. This year's grant recipients include the team of Dr. Dennis Blin and Dr. Xiaochuan Zheng, of Bryant University (Smithfield, RI) and the team of Dr. Charles Thomas, Jr., PhD, CMA, CGMA, CPA, Judd Leach, J.D., and Laura Gordey, J.D., of Tarleton State University (Stephenville, TX).

The team of Dr. Dennis Blin and Dr. Xiaochuan Zheng will study, "How does the slow wage growth in the accounting profession impact the CPA pipeline?" to examine the relationship between wage growth in the accounting profession and the key measurement of the CPA pipeline: the number of first-time CPA Exam takers. The team was awarded a grant in the amount of \$6,600.



Dr. Charles Thomas, Jr., PhD, CMA, CGMA, CPA, Judd Leach, J.D., and Laura Gordey, J.D. received a grant in the amount of \$13,800. Their proposal, titled "How industry and academic trends have affected candidates graduating from small accounting programs and how those effects have impacted the CPA pipeline," aims to focus on Texas CPA candidates over

an 18-year span (2004 - 2022), while describing trends and other variations over time in candidate counts and Exam section pass rates, with an emphasis on how those trends impact candidates from small programs.



NASBA's grant program was established in 2011 and is spearheaded by members of NASBA's Education Committee, under the leadership of Chair Nancy J. Corrigan, CPA. The program seeks to advance research on educational issues impacting certified public accountants (CPAs), the public accounting profession and state boards' charge to protect the public. Since the program's inception, over \$200,000 has been awarded in support of academic research nationwide.

The 2024 Call for Proposals is currently open through March 8, 2024. Post-doctoral researchers and professors seeking funding are encouraged to submit grant proposals for consideration prior to the deadline.

For more information on the program, visit <https://nasba.org/education/researchgrants> or email grantproposal@nasba.org. ♦

Alfonzo Alexander Named Chair of PhD Project and Nashville Public Education Foundation

Alfonzo Alexander, NASBA Chief Ethics and Diversity Officer and NASBA Center for the Public Trust President, was recently appointed as chairman of The PhD Project and Nashville Public Education Foundation boards of directors.



The PhD Project (The Project) accomplishes its mission of increasing diversity in the business world by providing opportunities for Black/African American, Latinx/Hispanic American and Native American members to pursue business PhDs with

the intent of becoming business school faculty. Since its launch in 1994, The Project has been responsible for more than quintupling the number of underrepresented professors, administrators and academic leaders at an extensive list of academic institutions. Through its unique model, which includes close to 250 students currently enrolled in business PhD programs, more than 1,400 former business professionals and undergraduate students have successfully attained their doctoral degree.

NASBA is a longtime corporate partner of The Project, and has demonstrated its support through monetary funding, participation at annual conferences, and by identifying key staff to serve on various PhD Project committees. Under Alexander's leadership, the 17-member board will help advance The Project's mission.

"We are so excited that Alfonzo will be serving as PhD Project board chair. He will be a terrific asset to our team," said PhD Project President

Blane Ruschak. "Alfonzo is a strategic leader with a proven track record of success that includes working with corporations, nonprofits including colleges and universities and entrepreneurial ventures. We are grateful that he's a part of The PhD Project family, and we're confident that he will make our organization better as we strive to build a stronger, more diverse workforce."



Alfonzo Alexander



Established in 2002, the Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works to improve

public schools and remove barriers to educational experiences through fundraising, supporting teachers and leaders, celebrating success and advocating for change. The organization also serves as a strategic partner to Metro Nashville Public Schools. The Foundation's efforts have fostered data-driven solutions, which have led to tangible improvements in professional learning for educators, teacher pay, principal quality, college access and success, and more. As chair, Alexander will lead the 22-member board in improving Nashville's schools for all students.

Learn more about these two organizations by visiting their respective websites: [The PhD Project](#) and [Nashville Public Education Foundation](#). ♦

Coming Soon: The Experience, Earn and Learn Program (ELE)

To address the hurdles students face in earning 150 hours and licensure, the AICPA and NASBA have developed the Experience, Earn and Learn Program (ELE). The goal is to provide a route for students without the means or plan to earn their 150 through a program combining meaningful online study integrated with early work experience.

There are several obstacles students may have when it comes to earning 150 hours. Some lack the resources to complete the requirement because of the cost of education and opportunity. There is also a lack of awareness of options available to secure the 150 and a lack of attraction to the profession. The ELE program model aims to address all these hurdles with a palpable route.

Providing flexibility in scheduling, increasing accessibility to earn 150 hours, and producing qualifying academic credits are important goals the program intends to achieve. The program

model will have students join a firm after the completion of their undergraduate studies and work flexible hours while taking online courses to accomplish those goals.

The structured experience following a bachelor's degree will offer an alternative route to 150 hours through meaningful academic opportunities with early paid work. Students will graduate, join the program, earn 30 credit hours online while working a flexible schedule, and then continue their journey to becoming a CPA.

The ELE program pilot will kick off with one university partner. Tulane University was recently announced as the pilot partner for the program and will assist NASBA and the AICPA in engaging students in the alternative route to 150 hours. After working with Tulane to establish the program, NASBA and the AICPA will progressively involve other universities and expand ELE's reach as it continues to grow and evolve. ♦



CPAES System Migration

In preparation for CPA Evolution, NASBA's CPA Examination Services division is currently engaged in a system migration. To complete the migration, the Gateway System will undergo restructuring from August 25 to August 28, 2023.

During this time, CPA Exam candidates will not have access to their NASBA CPA Portal account. However, they have been notified and encouraged in advance to print or download their Notice to Schedule (NTS) form prior to the scheduled outage. It is important to note that access for candidates to view their Exam scores will not be disrupted during the outage. The Gateway System will resume regular operations on August 29, 2023.

As a reminder, the goals of the CPA Evolution initiative are to ensure that newly licensed CPAs have the necessary knowledge and skills best suited to serve the clients, businesses and the public at large in a rapidly changing world, that the CPA Exam remains relevant and addresses the emerging skills and competencies necessary in today's marketplace, and that education is aligned to aid CPA candidates through the licensure process.

The advancement of technologies to support the administration of the CPA Exam is another critical step to ensuring a successful transition to the new Exam. ♦



2023 National Registry Summit

September 19-20 Clearwater Beach, Florida
Currents, Trends and a Splash of Inspiration

Registration is now open for the 2023 National Registry Summit, taking place on September 19-20, 2023, at the Wyndham Grand in Clearwater Beach, Florida. We have listened to the sponsor's feedback and have curated a selection of thought leaders, industry experts and like-minded colleagues from across the nation with expertise on topics that are current and relevant.



ALFONZO ALEXANDER
Chief Ethics & Diversity Officer, NASBA



ERICA BIALEK
Director, Audit & Assurance, Eisner Advisory Group LLC



CRAIG GORDON
Professor, Director of Course Development, Co-Founder of TD Publishing



BETH HOPKINS
Director, Ethics & Compliance, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP



NICK JONES
EY



JOHN PYTEL
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Conferences i/o



RITA SEHGAL
Learning and CPE Compliance Leader | Risk Management Americas, Ernst & Young



SHERRI SUTTON
Chief Unlearning Officer, Positive Impact Force, Keynote Speaker



HELOISA VILA
Learning Effectiveness & Product Manager, Brain Aware Training, Keynote Speaker

Students Explore Uncommon Leadership for Uncommon Times

The 2023 StudentCPT Leadership Conference (SLC) was held in Kansas, MO, June 26-28, in collaboration with NASBA's Western Regional Meeting. The conference theme, "Uncommon Leadership for Uncommon Times," reiterated the importance of ethical leadership throughout changes in society.

The conference was attended by 43 students representing 26 colleges and universities, and a range of ages, areas of study and academic classifications. Through a series of teambuilding exercises, networking activities (including with NASBA members), case study reviews and informative workshops, students learned how to identify, navigate and overcome ethical dilemmas they may encounter on campus, in their personal lives and throughout their professional careers.

Featured speakers included NASBA CPT Board Member, Jason Brooks, Founder & CEO of Thrive, who discussed the Heart

of Leadership; Sedrik Newbern, CPT Consultant and Western Kentucky University Professor, who presented on Small Talk and how to maximize networking; CPT President Alfonzo Alexander who focused on strengths-based leadership and what that looks like in today's professional settings as an ethical leader; and CPT Student Programs Manager Jasmine Jenkins who led students in a team building exercise and discussion on how to successfully maintain a Golden Star StudentCPT chapter.

NASBA CPT board members Donny Burkett, David Costello and Jason Brooks served as judges for the students' competitions and gave words of encouragement throughout the conference. NASBA CEO Ken Bishop closed the conference by sharing insight on his favorite reads and ethical dilemmas he faced early-on in his career.

The CPT looks forward to hosting its 2024 StudentCPT Leadership Conference in June 2024. ♦



NASBA

116th Annual Meeting

October 29 - November 1, 2023 | New York, New York

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**

For more information, visit
<https://nasba.org/meetings-events/>.



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Today!*