

2023 - 2024

# ANNUAL LETTER



## NEBRASKA BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

The Board is responsible for licensing and regulating Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) in Nebraska



# NEBRASKA

## State Board of Public Accountancy



### 2023 - 2024 Annual Letter

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR, MELISSA RUFF, CPA

As I enter my second year of being selected Chair of the Board, I can report several important items to you impacting the CPA profession in Nebraska including:

- The passage of LB 854 within the Nebraska Legislature this year that will allow a Candidate for the Uniform CPA Examination (exam) the ability to begin sitting after completion of 120 hours and a bachelor's degree beginning January 1, 2025. Currently, a Candidate must complete the required 150-hours of education before beginning to sit. This will align Nebraska with most other State Boards and especially our neighboring states that allow Candidates to sit for the exam at 120 hours. (see p. 6)
- The State Board moved forward with several rule changes within NAC Title 288 regulations mostly focused on the exam. The first would move the requirement to successfully complete all four-parts of the exam from current 18 months to 30 months as recommended by the NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act Committee. This was seen as a move to assist in CPA Pipeline efforts by allowing for additional time for Candidates to complete all four sections of the exam. Proposed regulations also focused on specifically noting when the 30-month window would begin for a Candidate and when a re-take of the exam can occur. The regulations are awaiting approval from the Governor's Policy Research Office.
- Other initiatives last year by the Board to assist in Pipeline efforts included allowing some Candidates additional time to complete all four sections of the exam based on a 30-month timeline as previously indicated and participating in the national program known as the Credit Relief Initiative (CRI).
- The Board recognized Mr. Ken Brauer for his eight years of service at our September meeting and recently welcomed our new public member Mr. Donald Neal Jr. to the Board (see p. 4).



**Melissa Ruff, CPA**

Never hesitate to contact our Board office at (402) 471-3595 or at [Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov) with any questions and/or would like to discuss these important activities of the State Board.

Melissa Ruff, CPA  
Board Chairman



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: BIG CHANGES AT NASBA

As many of you know, I have been very active in our national regulatory association known as the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, or NASBA. This includes stints as chairman of the Executive Directors Committee and the Accountancy Licensing Database (ALD) Task Force and serving on various committees over the years. I count this service as one of the highlights of my long career as your State Board Executive Director. As a result, I have been able to assist and provide direct input on many important regulatory functions that directly impact the CPA profession, both in Nebraska and nationally. I have also gained a long list of colleagues and associates whom I can consult before making decisions and/or recommendations to the State Board. Many of these folks are also my friends, and I have had the chance to develop strong relationships with individuals from all over the country. It has been a great experience!

I bring this up because "Big Changes" are soon coming to NASBA, including the retirement this year of CEO/President Ken Bishop. Ken and I share a common bond based on our previous careers in law enforcement before transitioning to the accounting regulatory world. Ken has positively navigated many significant issues during his 12-year tenure with NASBA, making him a well-known figure within the accounting profession. More information will be forthcoming regarding Ken's well-deserved retirement and his excellent work over the course of his career.

In any organization, a change in leadership provides the opportunity for reflection and reassessment. Since last year, the NASBA Board of Directors has been involved in the important search for the association's new leader. The NASBA Board of Directors announced in April that Daniel J. Dustin, CPA, has been selected to become NASBA's next president and chief executive officer. Dustin holds extensive expertise in the areas of accounting regulation and Board of Accountancy operations.



Of course, many other changes are happening today in Nebraska, including the rollout of the new CPA Examination, the State Board's decision regarding the Credit Relief Program for CPA candidates, a change to the Nebraska Public Accountancy Act that will allow candidates to sit for the CPA exam with 120 semester hours of qualifying college credit and a bachelor's degree, and a few other changes to the State Board's regulations. If you would like to discuss these changes or have other questions or concerns regarding the profession, never hesitate to reach out to me directly.



**Dan Sweetwood**

Dan Sweetwood  
Executive Director, Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy

*The Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy administers public accountancy law in Nebraska. Its mission is to protect the welfare of the citizens of the state of Nebraska by assuring the competency of persons licensed as Certified Public Accountants. more information, contact State Board Executive Director Dan Sweetwood at (402) 471-3595 or dan.sweetwood@nebraska.gov.*

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# ONLINE RENEWAL PORTAL WILL OPEN MAY 1

The Nebraska Board Of Public Accountancy Will Open Its Online Licensing Portals  
May 1, 2024, And Will Close June 30, 2024

For Biennial Inactive Registrants And Active Permit Holders  
Along With Annual Firm Permit Renewals.

Renewal reminders will be mailed out the first week in May. Our online renewal system can be accessed through our website at [www.nbpa.nebraska.gov](http://www.nbpa.nebraska.gov).

The permit and registration renewal process are very important to the State Board and allows for updating personal and firm information including addresses, employment, office locations, and other information. The goal of the online portals is to provide convenience and a relatively short timeframe to renew a registration or a permit to practice. It also streamlines the

ability of State Board staff to process the renewals with less paper and checks to process. Although paper applications can still be submitted, permit holders are encouraged to submit renewals online.

If you have any questions concerning submitting your renewal documents, please contact the State Board office at (402) 471-3595 or email [kristen.vanwinkle@nebraska.gov](mailto:kristen.vanwinkle@nebraska.gov) or [heather.myers@nebraska.gov](mailto:heather.myers@nebraska.gov).

## THANK YOU KEN BRAUER, FOR YOUR EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE STATE BOARD

During Ken Brauer's term as Member of the Board, he was a steady influence who always asked good questions and brought up good points. He came to the Board as a public member whereas he was already familiar with the Board due to attending many meetings over the years while representing the Nebraska Society of Independent Accountants. He was able to blend these interests and provide a keen interest in protecting the public. He served his two terms as a member of the Licensing Committee and Chaired the committee for four years. This required that he led the efforts on alternate forms of experience and approval of unique firm names, which was challenging at times but he rose to the occasion. He was also a member of the Education & Examination Committee. The Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy extend their sincere appreciation to Ken for his service as a Member of the Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy.



Pictured: Executive Director Dan Sweetwood, Ken Brauer, and Chair Melissa Ruff, CPA



## EVER INTERESTED IN BOARD SPENDING AND BUDGETING?

Go to the State Budgeting Website at <https://das.nebraska.gov/budget/> to access the Board budget and never hesitate to contact Executive Director Dan Sweetwood at [Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov) or (402) 471-3595 with any questions and/or concerns regarding Board spending.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER DONALD NEAL JR.



**Donald Neal, Jr.**

Donald is the Chief Financial Strategist for University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the Senior Tax Director for the University of Nebraska System (System) and Nebraska Medicine. As the Chief Financial Strategist, he oversees all Auxiliary Operations (childcare, bookstore, food services, parking, etc.) for UNO and act as a liaison with UNO Athletics, Housing, and Micro-Credentialing. He partners with the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance at UNO to provide strategic direction and leadership in developing budgets, business plans, and financial strategies to maximize the impact of UNO’s revenue-generating units. In the System role, he oversees all tax compliance (domestic and international) and consulting items across all campuses, related entities, and Nebraska Medicine. He provides advice to Executive leadership of the University and Nebraska Medicine on all significant strategic domestic and international business opportunities/initiatives and provide comprehensive tax planning, analysis, and advice to constituents regarding operational tax issues/resolutions.

Prior to joining the System, Donald was a Senior Tax Manager and the Nebraska business unit lead for KPMG’s Development and Exempt Organization tax practice. During his time at KPMG, he managed a diverse client list in Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Florida, Alaska, and Missouri and provided tax compliance, consulting, and advisory services to tax exempt, governmental, and non-governmental organizations. He provided strategic leadership and



**Chair Ms. Melissa Ruff swearing in the Board’s new public member, Mr. Donald Neal, at the March 15, 2024, board meeting.**

operational oversight of KPMG’s Development and Exempt Organizations tax practice for Nebraska and oversaw 40 clients in higher education, healthcare, corporate and family foundations, governmental, and non-governmental organizations. Donald has over 20 years of experience in tax compliance, auditing, internal controls, advisory, and financial accounting.

Donald holds an MBA from Bellevue University, BS from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and is licensed as an Enrolled Agent with the Internal Revenue Service. He is currently a board member of Children’s Scholarship Fund, DREAM, Inc., and Husker Football Letterman’s Association. Donald was a letter winner for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Men’s Track and Field team and former walk-on for the Football team.

Donald and his wife LaKisha have one daughter.



**The Nebraska Board staff participated in NASBA’s 2024 Executive Directors Conference in March 2024.**

**Pictured: Director Dan Sweetwood, Heather Myers, Business Manager, Kristen VanWinkle, Administrator and Joni Sundquist, President of the NESCAs.**



## STATE BOARD MEETS ON UNK CAMPUS

The Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy (Board) conducted their May 9th Board meeting on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). After conducting their regular business meeting during the morning, the Board welcomed over 40 UNK business & accounting students to an informal breakout discussion. Board members introduced themselves and provided an overview of their careers including positive aspects of choosing a career in accounting and completing the requirements to obtain their CPA credentials. From being part of the “Big Four” to opening up their own offices, members provided the students examples on how an accounting education and becoming a CPA can lead to various career choices.

Vice Chair and a public member of the Board, Mr. Jeff Kanger, President of First State Bank told the students the importance of CPAs within the banking industry and his personal experience on observing the opportunities a young CPA can experience in today’s business world.

The students also received an overview of how to prepare to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination and the application process

in Nebraska by Ms. Pat Hartman, the Director of Client Services/ NASBA- CPA Exam Services (CPAES) based in Nashville, TN. CPAES receives and processes exam applications for 36 State Boards of Accountancy including Nebraska. She also answered several questions from students interested in the exam.

Board Secretary Ms. Christi Olsen, CPA, of Circle CPA based in Omaha, commented “This was a great opportunity for the Board to visit a campus and interact with accounting educators and students. It is so important that students understand the benefits of becoming a CPA and the possibilities of the many career choices available as they learned of today...”

At the conclusion of the breakout, Board Executive Director Dan Sweetwood acknowledged and thanked Board member and Assistant Accounting Professor Ms. Sarah Borchers, DBA, CPA at UNK for hosting the Board and developing the student event. He pointed out to students how fortunate they were to hear directly from Board members, receive information from the Nebraska Society of CPAs, learn about the CPA Examination from CPAES, and the advantages of becoming a CPA.



Vice Chair Kanger addresses the students.



Board Member Manning explains his decision to start his own firm.



Nebraska Society President Joni Sundquist provides details regarding the Society’s student chapter.



## CPA CANDIDATES APPROVED TO SIT AT 120 HOURS STARTING 1/1/25

On March 11, 2024, Governor Jim Pillen signed LB 854 into law amending the Nebraska Public Accountancy Act after the bill passed in the Nebraska Legislature on a 44-0-5 vote. Commencing on Jan. 1, 2025, Nebraska CPA candidates will be able to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination after completing 120 semester hours (or 180 quarter hours) of qualifying college credit and a bachelor’s degree. Right now, Nebraska requires that a candidate be within 120 days of completing 150 hours of college education before being eligible to take the CPA exam.

The Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy (State Board) will commence its rulemaking authority within Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) Title 288, Chapter 9 to review and amend educational requirements for those candidates who wish to begin testing for the exam with 120 hours of college education. The State Board’s Education Advisory Committee (EAC) will meet soon to review and make recommendations to the Board for consideration. Changes made to Chapter 9 will require the Board to engage in the rulemaking process, which includes a public hearing followed by review and approval by the State Attorney General’s Office and the Governor’s Policy Research Office. The goal is to have the regulations in place before the law takes effect on Jan. 1, 2025.

The initiative to make this change to Nebraska law began during the review and subsequent recommendations of the 2023 CPA Exam Task Force led by State Board Chairman Melissa Ruff, CPA, who served as chairman of the task force, and Nebraska Society of CPAs 2023 Chairman Lorraine Egger, CPA, who served as the task force’s vice chairman. Other members of the task force included State Board Vice Chairman Jeff Kanger, State Board Education & Examination Chairman Sarah Borchers, CPA, Nebraska Society of CPAs 2024 Chairman Kelly Martinson, CPA, and Society Board member Dr. Thomas Purcell, CPA.

“Through the information presented to the task force, we learned that the vast majority of jurisdictions are already allowing candidates to sit for the exam at 120 hours. This includes our neighboring states, where several Nebraska candidates are sitting,” said State Board Chairman Ruff. “The change to 120 hours gives candidates the flexibility to decide when it’s best for them to complete the exam. Although some concern was expressed about candidates’ ability to successfully pass the exam without completing the required 150 hours of education, no strong evidence was found to support this assertion, so the task force decided to move forward with a bill.”

“The Nebraska Society of CPAs conducted a survey of our members in November 2023,” noted Society Chairman Martinson. “The survey results reflected a mix of concerns about the educational and experience requirements to become a CPA, with a call to reduce barriers to entry and to consider a new approach to education and the 150-hour requirement. LB 854 is a step in the right direction, allowing candidates to accelerate their goal of becoming a CPA. It also ensures that Nebraska remains competitive within the U.S. accounting landscape while maintaining the integrity and excellence of our profession.”

LB 854 was submitted before the 108th Legislature on behalf of the Nebraska Society of CPAs by Sen. Mike Jacobson, District 42, of North Platte. The State Board and Nebraska Society extend our gratitude to Sen. Jacobson, his office, the members of the Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee, and Banking Committee Legal Counsel Joshua Christolear, for their pivotal support in securing the passage of LB 854.

### RECENTLY RETIRED?

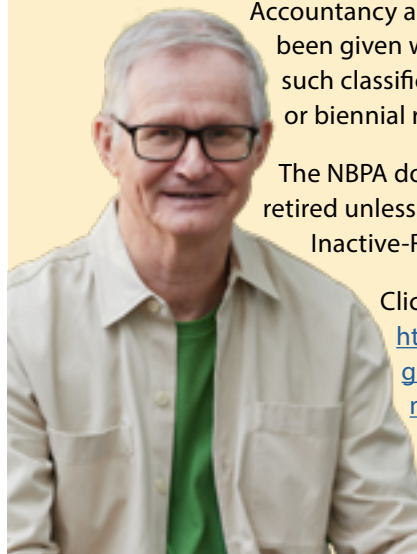
Are you a recently retired CPA or plan to retire in the next year and at least 60 years of age?

The classification of “Inactive-Retired” Nebraska CPA certificate means that you cannot hold yourself out to the Nebraska public as a CPA. If you plan to re-enter public accounting, you must meet all the requirements for a permit to practice, including active permit fees and Continuing Professional Education (CPE). This classification will not be valid until formally approved by the Nebraska Board of Public

Accountancy and until you have been given written notification of such classification. There is no fee or biennial registration.

The NBPA does not know you are retired unless you apply for the Inactive-Retired status.

Click here for the form: [https://nbpa.nebraska.gov/sites/nbpa.nebraska.gov/files/doc/individuals/inact\\_retired\\_e.pdf](https://nbpa.nebraska.gov/sites/nbpa.nebraska.gov/files/doc/individuals/inact_retired_e.pdf)





# NEVADA SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS: PEER REVIEW PROGRAM

## WHAT DO WE DO?

The Nevada Society of CPAs administers peer review for the state of Nebraska. We appreciate the opportunity to serve your state and are available to assist you at 775-826-6800 or [nvcpa@nevadacpa.org](mailto:nvcpa@nevadacpa.org).

A firm that provides attest services to a client is required to undergo peer review. It is important you are aware of the Nebraska requirements. Please visit <https://nbpa-nebraska.gov/firms/peer-review-enrollment-information> to confirm your enrollment requirements.

## SINGLE AUDITS

Remember that if a non-federal entity spends \$750,000 or more of federal awards in a fiscal year, a single audit is required. Many recipients of pandemic funding have never had a single audit before and may not know what is required. Please visit <https://www.aicpa-cima.com/topic/government> for more information.

## NEW QM STANDARDS

The AICPA is requiring firms to implement the new QM standards effective December 15, 2025. But do not wait to get started with your plan. Visit <https://www.aicpa-cima.com/resources/download/free-practice-aid-set-up-your-a-and-a-quality-management-system> for tools and resources to get started.

## HAVE A VOICE IN THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS!

The NVCPA is always looking for Review Acceptance Body (RAB) participants. The RAB meets via video meeting once per month for 60-90 minutes to complete the peer review process. CPE is issued for the meetings and a stipend is provided to attend the AICPA's annual peer review conference each year. This is a great opportunity to improve your own peer review program as you participate in the process.

Generally, RAB members are peer reviewers. If you are interested in joining our RAB, please contact us at the number or email listed above. Not a reviewer? Read the information on the following page for additional information.



**When reporting your CPE online, please remember to record Ethics courses under the "E" category to make sure that you have met the four-hour Ethics requirement.**



## Peer Review Program



*Are you ready to leverage your expertise and welcome a whole new source of revenue for your accounting and auditing practice?*

*The peer review landscape has changed over the last several years, and having a quality peer review is more important than ever. By becoming a peer reviewer, you'll be in high demand - and you can help grow your business and build your reputation as a firm that stands behind its commitment to providing high-quality services.*

### **Firms want value.**

As a provider of audit and accounting services, you understand clients' demand for high-quality services. The same goes for businesses looking for peer reviewers, who want a quality peer review to help them:

- Improve processes.
- Obtain education or recommendations to correct findings or deficiencies.
- Establish and maintain a system of quality control to comply with Statements on Quality Control Standards (SQCS) No. 8.
- Convey honesty, professionalism and trustworthiness to their clients.

### **You have a unique vantage point.**

With your experience in the profession, you can help firms achieve the results they want while bolstering your own practice. Here are some of the tangible benefits that you'll get as a peer reviewer:

- Greater confidence in your own practices and procedures
- Exposure to new best practices that boosts efficiencies
- Insight to perform more effective audit procedures
- Expertise in understanding common areas of professional standard noncompliance

## HERE'S WHAT OTHER CPAS THINK ABOUT PERFORMING PEER REVIEWS:

"I enjoy being a peer reviewer because I love working with my peers to help them improve the quality of their services, including insight from my own experience and other peer reviews, whether it's audit and accounting processes, or sharing of workpapers that we've developed."

"Being a peer reviewer is a great way to keep up with the standards - continuously going through checklists certainly has helped improve our own firm's quality. Several issues I encounter often require research, which continues to provide that challenge."

"I enjoy performing peer reviews because it gives me an opportunity to see how other CPA firms run their practice and have met a lot of nice people along the way."

"Peer reviews provide another source of revenue for our firm, in addition to the audit and accounting or tax-related services."

### **Become an expert in practice management.**

As a peer reviewer, you'll gain additional opportunities to network with your peers, which provides insight to tackle challenging practice management issues outside of regular services you provide to your clients, such as:

- Staffing and employee retention
- Partner or shareholder challenges
- Firm mergers and acquisitions
- Succession planning

### **Ready to get started?**

Visit [aicpa.org/BeAReviewer](https://aicpa.org/BeAReviewer) for requirements and training options.



# RETURNING CLIENT RECORDS

Be advised the article below appeared in the “Activity Review” of the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners/ No. #2, 2024. This is general information only and N.C. requirements might not be directly tied to Nebraska requirements.

Specific regulations regarding client records within Nebraska are promulgated within Title 288/ Chapter 5 located at [Nebraska Rules and Regulations](#). Contact the Board office at (402) 471-3595 or at [Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov) with any questions regarding Nebraska requirements.

**FAQs: Returning Client Records** The information in this article is general guidance about the return of client records. It is not legal advice and is not binding on the Board. CPAs are encouraged to review 21 NCAC 08N .0305, “Retention of Client Records,” and other applicable resources such as Treasury Circular 230 or the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct before returning client records. The Board receives numerous calls and emails about client records. As tax season is upon us, make sure you know the Board’s rule on the retention and return of client records. If there is a discrepancy between the Board’s regulations and the AICPA Code of Conduct, the Board’s rules take precedence. Below are the Board staff’s answers to several of the most frequently asked client record questions.

**Q. How do I know if I should give a person or company a copy of client records?** A. You are required only to provide the records to the client (current or former) or, in some instances, to a successor CPA or an entity (e.g., partner or shareholder) associated with the client. If the client is a business entity, you can provide the records to an individual designated or held out as the business entity’s representative. That designation should be in your engagement letter or other written document to avoid confusion. The Board’s specific rule states that a CPA who has provided records to an individual designated or held out as the client’s representative, such as the general partner



or majority shareholder, is not obligated to provide such records to other individuals associated with the client. If you receive a subpoena for client records, contact the Board, your attorney, or professional liability insurance provider.

**Q. A client asked me for a copy of their records, but are there some items I can exclude?** A. To answer that, we must discuss what you must return to a client. You should return client-provided records (any records provided by or on the client’s behalf). Unless you and the client have agreed to the contrary, you should provide the client with a copy of your CPA-prepared records and work products if they relate to a completed and issued work product. CPA-prepared records include those that you were not explicitly engaged to prepare and are not in the client’s records or are otherwise not available to the client. Examples include adjusting, closing, combining, or consolidating journal entries (including computations supporting such entries) and supporting schedules and documents you proposed or prepared as part of an engagement (for example, an audit). You can withhold those records if the client has not paid for that specific work product. You can withhold those records if the work product is incomplete, if the records are needed to comply with professional standards (for example, withholding an audit report due to outstanding audit issues), or if there is threatened or outstanding litigation concerning the engagement or your work. Q. If I provided a copy of a joint tax return to one spouse, must I also give a copy to the other spouse if requested? A. Yes, the Board updated this rule in September 2023 to state that in the case of joint individual tax returns, each named taxpayer on the returns is entitled to a copy of the tax returns and supporting schedules from the CPA. CPAs caught between differing parties in separation or divorce proceedings may use this rule to justify providing copies to each spouse.

**Remember...if you see this logo on a CPE course that you want to take, it is automatically approved by the NE State Board and does not need pre-approval.**



## LICENSING COMMITTEE

**Firm names** continue to be an issue for Committee review. Please refer to the Firm Guidelines, available on the Board’s website, if you intend to change your firm name. The Committee’s direction has been to protect the public by approving names that are not misleading as to services provided, number of CPAs employed, and other potentially confusing terminology. The Committee has been charged with reviewing the Firm Guidelines to determine if any changes should be made.

**Certificates of Registration/Organization for Professional Corporations and Limited Liability Companies** are annually confusing to firms. Certificates are a requirement of the Nebraska Secretary of State (SOS) office to validate your CPA **professional** business as permissible to do business in Nebraska. The Board provides two certificates to document your firm’s current licensed status with the Board. Certificates are a function of the SOS’s office, not the Board. However, you must ALSO renew your firm permit annually with the Board. Often the two processes are confused. The certificate of registration/organization is based on your original date of incorporation with the SOS. Sometimes they occur at the same time. **Yes, you must do BOTH.**

**CPA’s cannot just go away!** Licensure does not end when you no longer reside in the state, no longer have clients or a business, or retire. **You must complete the appropriate action.** The Committee annually recommends revocation of certificates of permit holders, who have not renewed their active permit for three years per PAA 1-137 (9), following petition and notice of hearing. Please check the website or contact the Board office for change of status options. Retired affidavits total 64 for 2015.

**Inactive Status** means you cannot hold out as a CPA per Title 288 Rules Chapter 3 001.09. Any representation that may mislead the public could come under scrutiny by the Board.

**Failure to Renew After Three Years.** The Board is in the process of revoking certificates of **Active** and **Inactive registrants** who have not renewed for three years.

**Mobility.** If you have questions regarding Mobility go to [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org) “Mobility” and click on the state for an update on their Mobility provisions. Also, you can telephone and/or access each states website by going to [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org) “Members” for additional information.

## LICENSING STATISTICS 2023

Reports on permits/registrations issued from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023:  
Prior years’ statistics are given for comparison purposes.

### Cumulative Totals:

Individuals	16-18	17-19	18-20	19-21	20-22	21-23	22-24
CPA Permits	1243	1313	1290	1274	1275	1271	1311
CPA Inactive Registrations	653	595	657	529	578	519	545
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>1896</b>	<b>1908</b>	<b>1947</b>	<b>1803</b>	<b>1853</b>	<b>1790</b>	<b>1856</b>
Firms	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-24
Partnerships	9	9	8	10	10	10	9
Professional Corporations	216	211	200	186	177	164	165
Limited Liability Companies	103	108	107	109	109	111	128
Limited Liability Partnerships	56	57	53	60	57	62	59
Sole Proprietorships	224	193	186	183	164	160	148
<b>Total Firms</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>509</b>



# 2023 BOARD MEMBERS



Back row: Mark Manning, Sarah Borchers, Drew Blossom, Vice-Chair Jeff Kanger, Amy Holzworth. Front row: Ken Brauer, Chair Melissa Ruff and Secretary Christi Olsen.

## NASBA WESTERN REGIONAL MEETINGS COMING TO OMAHA!

The Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy is pleased to host over 200 accounting regulators to Omaha this summer! The Western Regional Meetings bring members and staff from our Western states to meet and discuss the important issues that impact the CPA profession. NASBA's Regional Directors and leadership develop the agenda and lead the discussions on various topics including updates on CPA Evolution, the Uniform CPA Examination, the changing environment of ownership of CPA firms, consideration of new pathways to a CPA and other important topics for State Board members and staff.

The meetings are set for June 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 held in the Capitol District at the Downtown Marriott Hotel. Information regarding the meetings and NASBA can be found at [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org).

### About NASBA

Since 1908, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) has served as a forum for the nation's Boards of Accountancy, which administer the Uniform CPA Examination, license more than 672,000 certified public accountants and regulate the practice of public accountancy in the United States.

NASBA's mission is to enhance the effectiveness and advance the common interests of the Boards of Accountancy in meeting



their regulatory responsibilities. The Association promotes the exchange of information among accountancy boards, serving the needs of the 55 U.S. jurisdictions.

NASBA is headquartered in Nashville, TN, with an International Computer Testing and Call Center in Guam and operations in San Juan, PR. To learn more about NASBA, visit [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org).



## CPE RULES IN EFFECT

As an active CPA, it is your responsibility to remain compliant with CPE to maintain your competence to practice public accounting. All holders of an active permit to practice public accountancy are required to comply with the continuing education requirements.

- To renew your Active Permit to Practice, you must complete 80 hours of CPE (including 4 hours of ethics) within the two calendar years prior to renewal. CPE must be earned by December 31st of the year prior to renewal and must be reported by January 31st of your renewal year.
- The applicant for renewal of an active permit to practice shall, by January 31st of each year, provide a report of the continuing education in which he or she has participated in the preceding calendar year. If a permit holder has a valid reason they cannot report by January 31, they shall communicate the reason to the Board in writing before January 31.
- Sole responsibility for documenting the requirements rests with the permit holder and evidence to support fulfillment of those requirements must be retained for a period of six years after the completion of educational courses.

Evidence of course completion must include one of the following:

- Certificate of completion from the course sponsor
- Copy of the sign in sheet
- Grade report or a transcript from an educational institution
- A signed statement of hours of attendance from the instructor
- For instructors, you need to provide a copy of the agenda or syllabus
- For publishers, you need to provide a copy of the article, book, etc.

*\*\*Please note that Course Approval letters from the Nebraska State Board do NOT count as a certificate of completion or attendance. \*\**

- Inactive Registrants and "Inactive-Retired" registrants are not required to report continuing education.

## NEBRASKA CPA STATUS

Nebraska is a two-tiered state. In the first tier, a Certificate Number is issued permanently to the candidate after successful completion of the U.S. Uniform CPA Examination. This person is known as a Certificate Holder in Nebraska and must file an annual registration with the Board office. Although considered a Certificate Holder, they have no status as a CPA within Nebraska.

After completion of two years of public accounting experience within a CPA firm under the direction of a CPA (or three years in business, government, and academia) a Certificate Holder may file an application for issuance of an Active Permit to Practice that allows them to hold themselves out to the public as a CPA and practice public accountancy. A license number is issued with their Active Permit to Practice. The permit number is separate from their permanent Certificate number and changes every two years upon successful completion of 80 hours of required Continuing Professional Education.

If an Active Permit Holder decides to forgo the CPE requirement, they may elect to register with the Board as

an Inactive Registrant and are issued a registration number. An Inactive Registrant cannot practice public accountancy within Nebraska.

Active CPAs can be verified on the Board's website: <http://www.nbpa.nebraska.gov/search/>

Please keep the following status descriptions in mind:

Certificate Holder:

- "Passed the CPA Exam" for use on resumes only
- Cannot practice public accountancy
- Cannot hold out using the title CPA

Permit Holder:

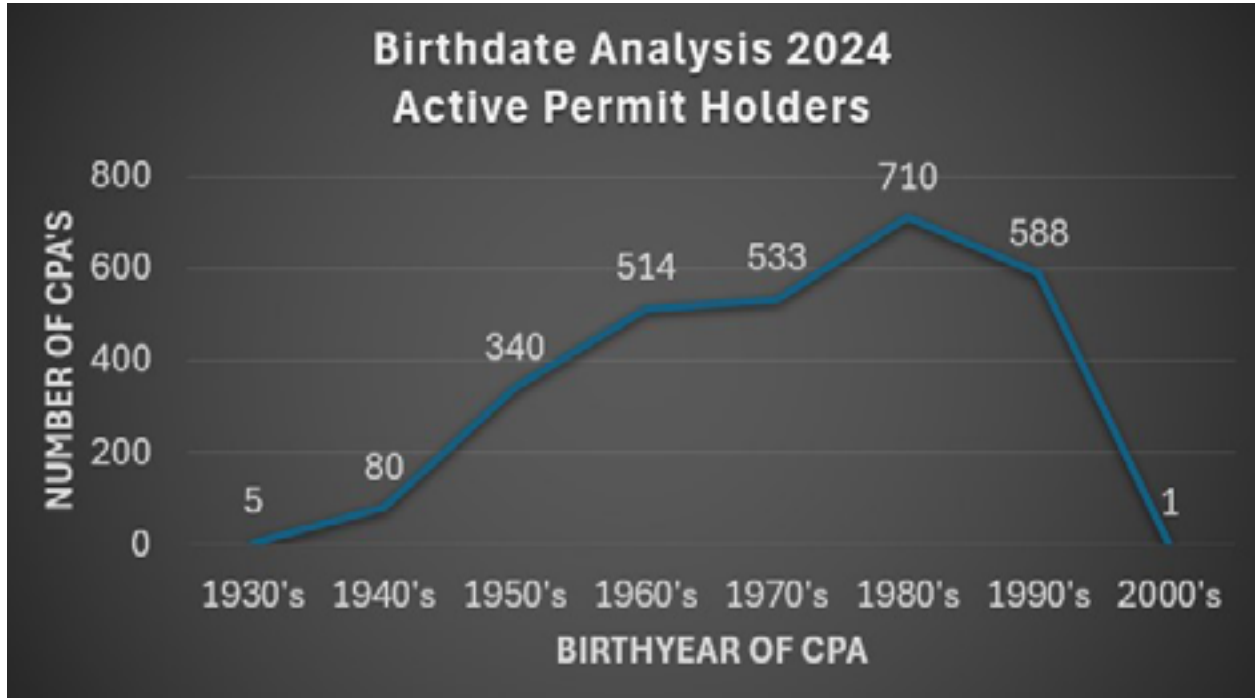
- Use the title "CPA" (hold out)
- Practice public accountancy

Inactive registrant:

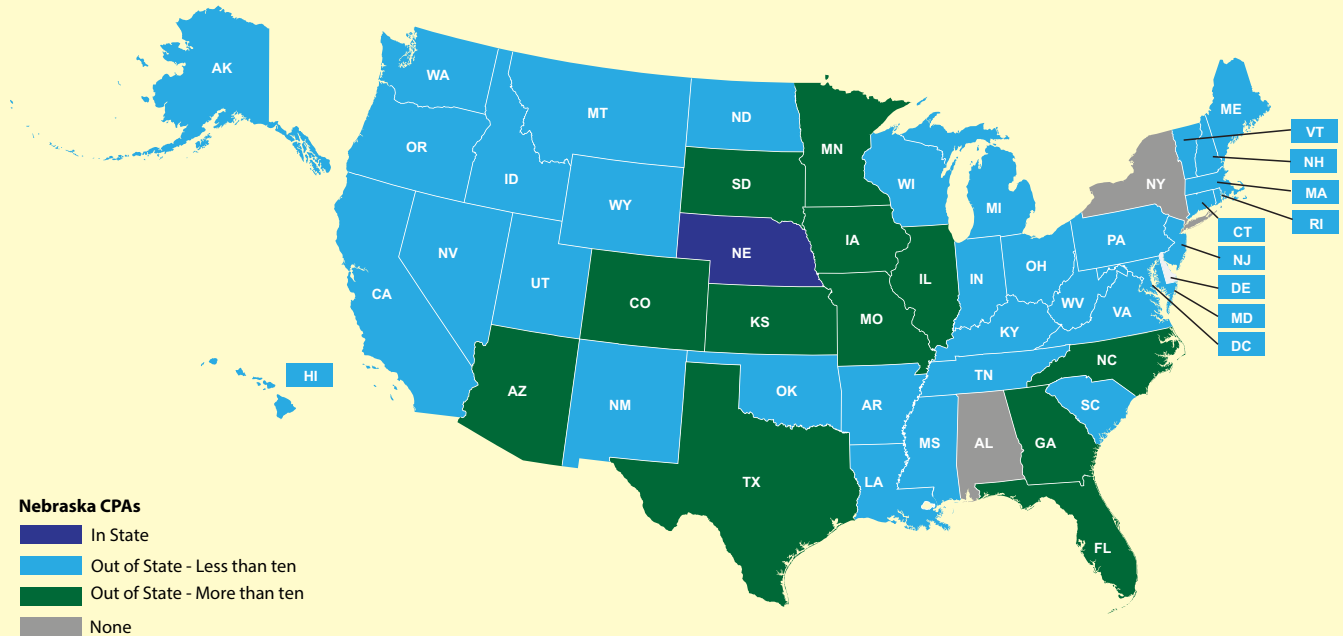
- Cannot practice public accountancy
- Cannot hold out as a CPA
- Must use the disclaimer: "CPA (Inactive Registrant)"



## FACTS ABOUT ACTIVE PERMIT HOLDERS



## ACTIVE NEBRASKA PERMIT HOLDERS



**417**  
OUT OF  
STATE

**2,354**  
NEBRASKA

**2,771**  
TOTAL CPAs



## FAQ'S/TIDBITS

- 1. Check for the current NBPA application form:** Be sure to check the NBPA website for the most current application forms as fees could have been changed for some applications. As a state agency, the Board cannot accept checks for the wrong amount. The application and incorrect fee check must be returned to the applicant, delaying the application process. Please be aware that CPA Certificate and Initial Permit applications can take 4-6 weeks for processing and mailing.
- 2. Changes to the Rules and Regulations!** During the year issues may arise that result in revisions to the Board's Title 288 Rules and Regulations. Please be aware that "things change." The Board office will attempt to inform you of changes through the annual letter, the Nebraska Society of CPAs newsletter, or other means.
- 3. How many hours do I need to renew my permit?** CPE hours required for renewal of your permit to practice equal 80 hours over TWO years, including 4 hours of ethics. Do not confuse the required 80 hours over two years with other derivatives such as 40 hours per year, or with 20 hours of self study. Ethics hours may be taken in small increments, not all in one four-hour block. CPE must be reported by January 31 each year. **CPE reporting is available throughout the year** by using the "CPE Online Reporting" on the home page of NBPA: <http://www.nbpa.nebraska.gov>. Please refer to the most recent edition of the CPE Guidelines on the Board's website for specific requirements.
- 4. How do I go from inactive registration status to active permit holder?** There is a reinstatement application for this process. The application should be submitted to our office when all required hours are completed. Reinstatement from inactive registrant to active permit holder requires communication with the Board office. Based on your birth year, your licensing period does NOT change, and effects the years for CPE reinstatement reporting. Reinstatement requires careful timing, and Board staff will be happy to assist you through the process. Please do not try to submit CPE hours online if you are "inactive." You must keep track of those hours to submit with your reinstatement application.
- 5. Reminder:** Title 288 Rules Chapter 5 007.06 state, "Each certificate holder shall notify the Board in writing (or via the Board's website) within 30 days of any **change of address or change of employment.**"
- 6. How do I report problems or issues experienced with CPA Exam Services (CPAES) in the CPA exam process?** Please contact the Board office if you have serious complaints during the exam process that have not been resolved through the Candidate Care service.
- 7. There is a difference:** The Nebraska **STATE BOARD of Public Accountancy** is a regulatory agency – think "permits." The **Nebraska SOCIETY** is a membership organization – think "CPE." Often people change their contact information. **Please be sure to change your information with BOTH entities! Not all individuals are connected to BOTH organizations.**



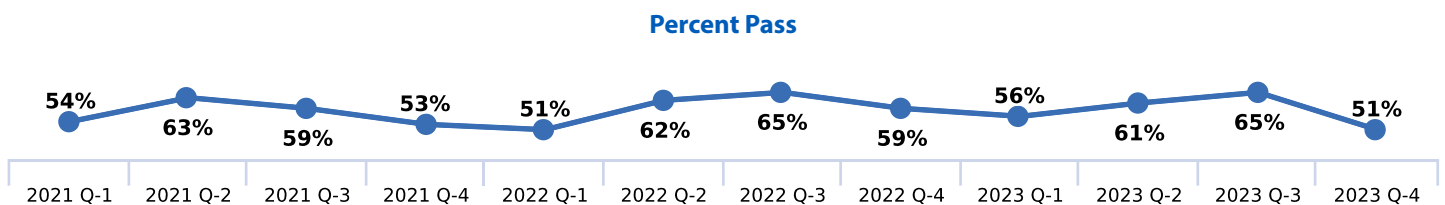
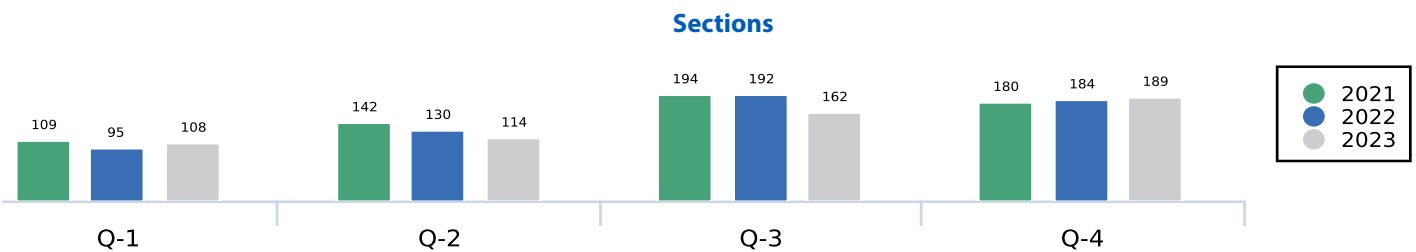
## 2023 CPA EXAM PERFORMANCE SUMMARY: NEBRASKA

Section Performance: Q1			
	Sections	Score	% Pass
First Time	30	76.87	66.67%
Re-Exam	77	72.77	50.65%
AUD	36	71.81	50.00%
BEC	22	80.64	72.73%
FAR	25	72.88	52.00%
REG	25	72.24	52.00%

Section Performance: Q2			
	Sections	Score	% Pass
First Time	28	79.89	71.43%
Re-Exam	86	77.17	56.98%
AUD	34	77.97	61.76%
BEC	35	77.54	60.00%
FAR	26	76.77	57.69%
REG	19	79.63	63.16%

Section Performance: Q3			
	Sections	Score	% Pass
First Time	46	81.28	76.09%
Re-Exam	116	76.64	60.34%
AUD	32	73.78	50.00%
BEC	57	80.60	77.19%
FAR	37	76.70	56.76%
REG	36	78.78	66.67%

Section Performance: Q4			
	Sections	Score	% Pass
First Time	31	71.42	54.84%
Re-Exam	158	72.65	50.00%
AUD	40	72.95	60.00%
BEC	87	71.63	42.53%
FAR	24	73.25	50.00%
REG	38	73.29	60.53%





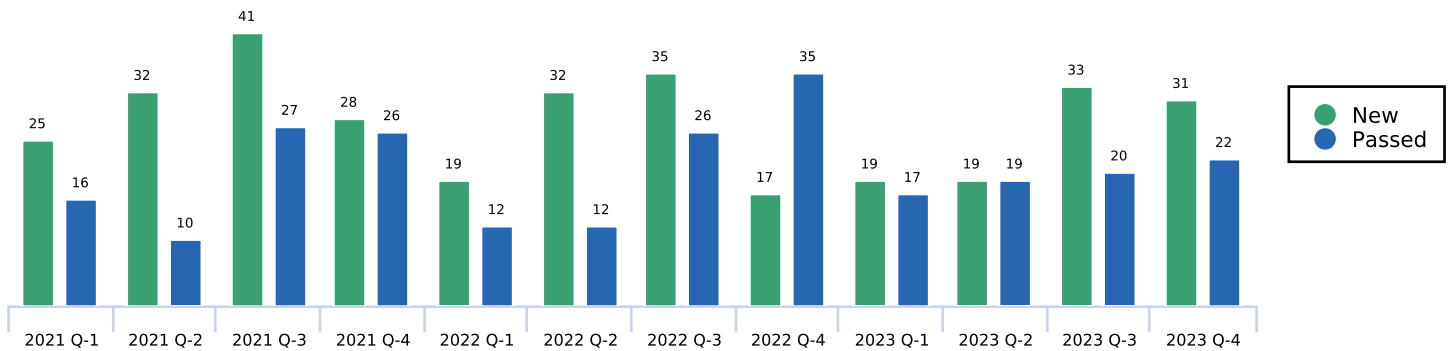


# 2023 CPA EXAM PERFORMANCE SUMMARY: NEBRASKA

## Jurisdiction Rankings

2023 Q1		2023 Q2		2023 Q3		2023 Q4	
Candidates	44	Candidates	47	Candidates	43	Candidates	46
Sections	43	Sections	44	Sections	43	Sections	47
Pass Rate	8	Pass Rate	6	Pass Rate	2	Pass Rate	3
Average Score	5	Average Score	1	Average Score	1	Average Score	4

## New Candidates vs. Candidates Passing 4th Section



## Candidate Demographics



**MALE CANDIDATES**  
2023 TOTAL: 174  
PERCENTAGE: 40.6%



**FEMALE CANDIDATES**  
2023 TOTAL: 166  
PERCENTAGE: 38.7%

**NOT REPORTED**  
2023 TOTAL: 89  
PERCENTAGE: 20.7%

**AVERAGE AGE**  
27.3

### 2023 Q1

DEGREE TYPE	Candidate Count	DEGREE TYPE	% of Candidates
Bachelor's Degree	62	Bachelor's Degree	73.8%
Advanced Degree	15	Advanced Degree	17.9%
Enrolled / Other	7	Enrolled / Other	8.3%

### 2023 Q2

DEGREE TYPE	Candidate Count	DEGREE TYPE	% of Candidates
Bachelor's Degree	63	Bachelor's Degree	72.4%
Advanced Degree	13	Advanced Degree	14.9%
Enrolled / Other	11	Enrolled / Other	12.6%

### 2023 Q3

DEGREE TYPE	Candidate Count	DEGREE TYPE	% of Candidates
Bachelor's Degree	74	Bachelor's Degree	63.2%
Advanced Degree	31	Advanced Degree	26.5%
Enrolled / Other	12	Enrolled / Other	10.3%

### 2023 Q4

DEGREE TYPE	Candidate Count	DEGREE TYPE	% of Candidates
Bachelor's Degree	94	Bachelor's Degree	66.7%
Advanced Degree	29	Advanced Degree	20.6%
Enrolled / Other	18	Enrolled / Other	12.8%



## Certificates/ Permits/ Status Changes in July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023



Certificates Issued



Reciprocal Certificates Issued



Initial Permits Issued



Certificate Revocation for Permit Non-Renewal per PAA 1-137



Certificate Revocation for Inactive Registrants Non-Renewal per PAA 1-137



Inactive - Retired Status



Voluntary Surrender of Certificate



Reinstatement to Active Permit

## Enforcement Cases



New Cases Opened



Discipline Issued



Open Cases Dismissed



## 2024 BOARD MEETINGS

January 12 at 8:30am  
(via virtual WebEx online)

March 15 at 8:30 am

May 9 at 9:30am - held at University of Nebraska – Kearney campus

July 12 at 8:30 am

September 20 at 8:30 am

November 15 at 8:30 am

*Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held at*

*1526 K Street – 4th Floor – Red Willow Room – Lincoln, NE. Board Meetings are open to the public. Do not hesitate to contact the Board office if you would like to participate in a future meeting.*

The Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy office is located across the street from the State Capitol. Our address is 1526 K Street, Suite 410.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Melissa Ruff, CPA - Chair - Lincoln, NE

Jeff Kanger, Vice-Chair, Public Member - Lincoln, NE

Christi Olsen, CPA - Secretary - Omaha, NE

Mark Manning, CPA - Crete, NE

Drew Blossom, CPA - Omaha, NE

Sarah Borchers, CPA - Kearney, NE

Amy Holzworth, CPA – Scottsbluff, NE

Donald Neal Jr., Public Member - Omaha, NE

## STAFF

Dan Sweetwood, Executive Director

Kristen VanWinkle, Administrator

Heather Myers, Business Manager

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Lincoln, NE 68508

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Fax (402) 471-4484

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# NASBA

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