

2020 - 2021

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

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2020 - 2021 Annual Letter

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR, DR. TOM PURCELL, CPA

When I agreed to serve as Chair of our State Board of Accountancy, I did not contemplate becoming a “virtual” leader. However, we can’t always see the future and our plans and aspirations, as they are most times, are subject to challenges and changes from outside forces.

Dan Sweetwood details in his letter some of the major accomplishments and initiatives your Board has undertaken this 2020-2021 year. As you might suspect, the pandemic has caused us to re-consider how we can meet our responsibilities to the public and to our licensees while adhering to the advice of public health experts and the requirements of state law. While we did cancel several public meetings of the full Board, our various committees continued to meet (first by conference call and then by Webex) to fulfill their specific charges.



Dr. Tom Purcell, CPA

Just as our various stakeholders have done, by necessity we have learned about this new way of doing business. We have migrated from in person to virtual meetings and in doing so, in many ways, we have become more efficient. Conducting committee business using Webex will be, I suspect, our normal process in the future. While we certainly hope to meet in person again as a full Board, we know that if future conditions warrant, we can be effective if we again need to be virtual.

It has been my very good fortune to have served in a variety of leadership roles for our professional organizations. As a result of saying yes to the opportunity to take on those roles, I have the opportunity to work closely with excellent staff professionals who have dedicated their careers to advancing the accounting profession. I hope all our licensees, and the public at large, appreciates the competence and concern that Dan, Kristen and Heather bring every day to protecting the public, assisting our licensees, and facilitating entry into the profession by students seeking to become CPAs. I am grateful for their patience with me in explaining the intricacies of our processes and the subtleties of negotiating the regulatory perspective.

I also have a deeper appreciation for the valuable partnership we have with the Nebraska Society of CPAs. First Dan Vodvarka, and now Joni Sundquist, are regular participants in our public meetings. A major focus of the Society, and a major responsibility we have as a Board, deals with CPE, and Kelly Ebert does an excellent job in representing the interests of Nebraska CPAs in this capacity. We also find numerous opportunities to partner in various initiatives, with each of us, Board and Society, respecting our unique perspectives and responsibilities. My position as Chair has been made easier by their wisdom and willingness to meet us more than halfway.

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My fellow Board members have been wonderful partners in this shared responsibility of governance and oversight. The unique perspectives each brings is a testament to the wisdom of our Nebraska process – a combination of public accountants and private citizens, representation from each of our three Congressional districts, and appointment by the governor. I thank all the Board members with whom I have served, and especially appreciate the example provided by the three Chairs during my time – Bernie Gutschewski, Lori Druse, and Shelly Stropm.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Board of Accountancy, and thank those who helped make it happen. I encourage my students regularly to get involved and to make a difference, and I encourage each of you to do so as well. We all are busy people, but if we step up and take on even a small part of what needs to be done, we will make a difference.

Dr. Tom Purcell, CPA
Chair, Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy



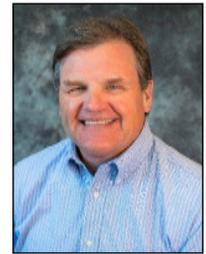
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: STATE BOARD UPDATES

COVID 19-Pandemic: It seems unreal but we reached the one-year anniversary of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. As I indicated in last year’s letter, I am extremely proud of your State Board’s response to the pandemic including minimal disruption to operations. Although the Board cancelled meetings with the goal to protect members, staff, and the public, it later was able to meet virtually after Governor Ricketts issued executive orders allowing for the meetings. The Board continues to hold virtual meetings, including in January and March of this year.

Uniform CPA Examination: The pandemic has disrupted the examination; however, our Nebraska test sites responded well and mostly remained open and operational (it should be noted as of late March, the Omaha site has closed temporarily). Additionally, those candidates impacted were given the opportunity to extend the 18-month window to complete the examination through December 31st of last year. The Board at their March meeting extended those impacted further until September 31, 2021. On the national front, the Board of Examiners (BOE) has launched a pilot project to allow for remote testing within a candidate’s home and/or other approved locations in response to emergencies, such as the pandemic, in the future.

Two Task Forces addressing issues: The State Board launched a Task Force to review Board regulations within Chapter 5/ Rules of Professional Conduct. Several State Boards have adopted the AICPA Uniform Code of Conduct to address regulatory issues and removed their specific state codes, as we have in Nebraska. Other charges of the Chapter 5/ Rules of Professional Conduct Task Force is to ensure the current Chapter 5 rules are relevant, modernized, and in line with the needs to protect the public. Recommendations from this Task Force will be made to the Board. This important project includes members

Dr. Thomas Purcell, CPA-Chair; Mr. Dan Davis, CPA-Vice Chair; Ms. Melissa Ruff, CPA; Mr. Rand Hansen, CPA; Ms. Michele Stromp, CPA; and Ms. Joni Sundquist, President-Nebraska Society.



Dan Sweetwood

Additionally, the Nebraska Society of CPAs launched a Task Force with the assistance of the State Board to address succession issues of small CPA firms in Nebraska after a firm questioned current requirements. It is anticipated recommendations will include changes to the current Public Accountancy Act and Board regulations regarding non-CPA ownership in Nebraska. Dr. Purcell and Board Vice Chair Ms. Marcy Luth, CPA are members of the Task Force. Stay tuned!

New Members! It is always exciting to have new members join our Board, although we will miss those that have joined us for the last eight years. Ms. Christi Olsen, CPA, and Mr. Mark Manning, CPA, have made the commitment to join your State Board and volunteer their valuable time to address the needs of the public and the profession as State Board members. Please join me in thanking them for their service! Additionally, the Board is looking for new members this year, including a CPA from the second congressional district and a CPA from the third congressional district. If interested, go to the Governor’s website at <https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-req>.

Take care and never hesitate to contact us within any questions and/or concerns!

Dan Sweetwood
Executive Director, Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy



Jim Titus

THE NEBRASKA STATE BOARD WELCOMES NEW BOARD ATTORNEY

Jim Titus is the new Board Attorney. He is an University of Nebraska grad with an accounting undergrad major and a law degree. Jim has a general practice since 1979 in estate planning, probate, business and contract law, real estate, some litigation and hearing officer for several state agencies and an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association and American Health Lawyers Association, as well as private arbitration. Jim passed the CPA exam and has a certificate, but went the law firm route rather than accounting so he is not a CPA. He served 8 years on the Board, including 3 years as its chair.

Executive Director Sweetwood commented, “Jim is a great addition as our Board Attorney. We recruited him after his service on the Board as a potential future Board Attorney based on his knowledge of accounting, providing legal services to other State Agencies, and his overall knowledge of the law. We are fortunate to be able to engage his services as our Board Attorney.”

The Board Attorney is a Special Assistant Attorney General generally engaged by the Board to support the Enforcement Committee of the Board. His appointment requires approval of the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office.



2020 – A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER!

This has been a year of unprecedented disruption and change! The NE State Board of Public Accountancy has had to adapt quickly just like everyone else. To continue with Board business, we were able to utilize Webex, an online virtual meeting platform – very much like Zoom, to conduct Board meetings.

ONLINE RENEWALS COMING MAY 3RD!

The Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy will open its online licensing portals May 3, 2021 and will close June 30th 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.

The permit and registration renewal process is 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 especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 or heather.myers@nebraska.gov.



COVID-19 IMPACT

If you believe that you have been impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, please call the Board office 402-471-3595 to discuss a waiver. The Board will determine each situation on a case by case basis.



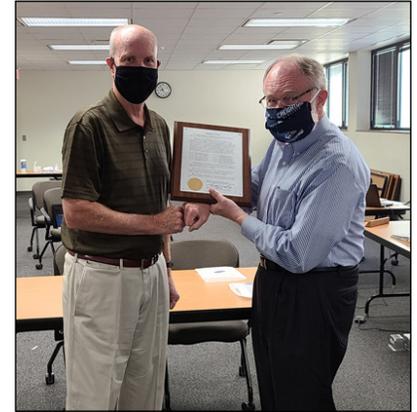
THANK YOU SHELLY STROMP AND MIKE MCCLURE!



Pictured: Ms. Shelly Stromp, CPA and Dr. Tom Purcell, CPA – Chair



Pictured: Executive Director Dan Sweetwood, Ms. Shelly Stromp, CPA, Mr. Mike McClure, CPA and Dr. Tom Purcell, CPA



Pictured: Mr. Mike McClure, CPA and Dr. Tom Purcell, CPA – Chair

Ms. Shelly Stromp attended her last meeting in September as a member of the Board and received her membership award from the Board. During her term as Member of the Board, Shelly led the Board's most important duty for six years as the Enforcement Committee Chair providing protection to the public and the CPA profession. She became the Board Chair and led the Board through unprecedented times during the COVID-19 pandemic steering many important decisions, including discussions regarding the proposed CPA Evolution Model and Practice Analysis, and updating CPA Exam policies to ease the burden caused by the pandemic. As an Audit Partner with KPMG, she provided invaluable insight to the CPA profession and offered a different perspective from experience in a large CPA firm. This experience came into play many times when advising on education matters as a member of the Education & Examination Committee. She was also active in NASBA as a member of the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Mike McClure also attended his last Board meeting in September and received his membership award from the Board. During his term as Member of the Board, Mike led the Board through its transition from the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) to the Peer Review Program. He chaired the aforementioned committees for seven years and secured the successful transition by providing his expertise and insight into the Peer Review process. As a member of the Continuing Professional Education Committee (CPE), he provided recommendations on professional coursework submitted by CPAs and overall rule & policy changes. He was Chair of the Enforcement Committee for one year where he provided a sincere, straightforward outlook while never being afraid to raise questions about the issue at hand. He was active in NASBA as a member of the Compliance Assurance Committee (CAC) and provided oversight on the national Peer Review Program.

LICENSING STATISTICS 2020

Reports on permits/registrations issued from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020:
Prior years' statistics are given for comparison purposes.

Cumulative Totals:								
Individuals	12-14	13-15	14-16	15-17	16-18	17-19	18-20	19-21
CPA Permits	1245	1202	1355	1180	1243	1313	1290	1274
CPA Inactive Registrations	695	732	721	790	653	595	657	529
Total Individuals	1940	1934	2076	1970	1896	1908	1947	1803
Firms	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-19	18-20	19-21
Partnerships	14	17	14	11	9	9	8	10
Professional Corporations	215	232	250	217	216	211	200	186
Limited Liability Companies	77	88	93	97	103	108	107	109
Limited Liability Partnerships	45	57	61	49	56	57	53	60
Sole Proprietorships	282	315	292	228	224	193	186	183
Total Firms	633	709	710	602	608	578	554	548



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS CHRISTI OLSEN AND MARK MANNING!



Christi Olsen

Ms. Olsen was recently appointed to a four-year term by Governor Pete Ricketts to the Board as an active permit holder from the 2nd Congressional District. Ms. Olsen is an owner of Circle CPA, LLC, and has practiced public accounting over 30 years. She is a Member and past Board Member of the NE Society of CPAs and a Member of Omaha chapter of Accounting and Financial Women's Alliance. She replaces Ms. Shelly Stromp, CPA, who has served her two four-year terms on the Board.



Mark Manning

Mr. Manning was recently appointed to a four-year term by Governor Pete Ricketts to the Board as an active permit holder from the 1st Congressional District. Mr. Manning is an owner of Manning & Associates, PC in Crete, NE and has practiced public accounting for 40 years. Mark is a Member and past Member of the NE Society's Board of Directors. He has served numerous years as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Society of CPA'S Foundation, holding offices of Secretary and Vice President in the past, and currently residing as president. He has also served several years as a Member of the NE State Board's QEP Committee and Peer Review Committee. Mr. Manning replaces Mr. Mike McClure, CPA, who has served his two four-year terms on the Board.



Chair Purcell swears in Members Olsen and Manning at the Board's January 2021 Webex meeting.

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.ne.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)"



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.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)

The Board has voted to allow CPE for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant program, which is an IRS initiative, designed to support free tax preparation service for the underserved through various partner organizations. This service helps low- to moderate-income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speakers file their taxes each year.

The CPE Guidelines now state:

IRS VITA Volunteer Program (Code "F" on report.) A permit holder can claim 4 hours of CPE for completing the basic required courses to become qualified as a volunteer in the "IRS VITA Volunteer Program". A permit holder can claim a maximum of 8 hours for any advanced specialty courses (courses beyond the basic certification, such as advanced, military, HSA, etc.). Instead of a certificate of completion, participants must submit a signed (by both the CPA and the site coordinator of the VITA site) Form 13615 as proof of completion. No volunteer hours will be allowed to be claimed for CPE.

BOARD FEES

Active Permit to Practice	\$ 175
Inactive Registration	\$ 70
Reciprocal Certificate	\$ 200
Firm Permit: P.C.'s, LLC's, LLP's, Part.	\$ 50
Certificate of Registration: P.C.'s, LLC's	\$ 25
Office Fee: All firms and S.P.s	\$ 25
CBT Examination Initial Admin. Fee	\$ 15

KEEP US UPDATED

Have you changed jobs? Have a new email or phone number? Please make sure to update your contact information with the Board. This can be completed by contacting the Board office 402-471-3595 or going to our website www.nbpa.nebraska.gov and click on the Change of Address Form on the home page. The Board utilizes many methods when contacting registrants and it is vital you correct information that is on file to receive important notifications.



IN-HOUSE CPE

If your Firm holds in-house training courses, please make sure there is a sign-in sheet present at the course or provide certificates of completion.

The sign-in sheet or certificate of completion requirements:

- Sign in sheet must be on firm **letterhead**
- Certificates of completion must have:
 - » title of the course
 - » date of course
 - » firm name and address
 - » start and end times
 - » recommended number of hours

When you provide in-house training, it is highly recommended that you go through the pre-approval process using the Program Qualification Form. The pre-approval process is completing the Program Qualification Form which is located on our website.



CPE AUDIT: ARE YOU READY?

What is a CPE audit?

The CPE audit ensures that CPAs are complying with continuing professional education rules. This, in turn, protects both the profession and the public it serves.

How are CPAs chosen for the CPE audit?

A percentage of our active CPAs are selected at random. CPAs selected for a CPE audit receive a letter from the Board via regular mail. They have until June 1st to submit the required material.

What do I need to submit to the Board?

Certificates of completion for each CPE course taken during the audit period.

What are some common errors to avoid?

The most efficient way to comply with a CPE audit is by providing the correct documentation in a timely manner. But, mistakes happen. Here are some common errors to watch for:

- Reporting undocumented learning activities
- Reporting CPE credits in the wrong year
- Failing to retain appropriate documentation
- Submitting documentation that does not meet our CPE requirements (i.e., certificates of completion, sign-in sheets, agendas)

What happens if I cannot provide appropriate documentation?

Failure to respond or provide appropriate CPE documentation will be dealt with by the enforcement committee.

Questions?

If you have questions regarding the CPE audit process or CPE reporting overall, please contact our CPE Coordinator, Heather Myers, at (402) 471-3595 or via email at heather.myers@nebraska.gov, or refer to the CPE Guidelines.

TAKING ATTENDANCE IN A ZOOM MEETING



- 1 Click Reports and then choose Usage. Zoom: Reports.
- 2 Check that the date range at the top includes the session for which you want to take attendance. Then click on the Participants link for the session.
- 3 Review the report.
- 4 Click Export.
- 5 An Excel file will download to your computer.



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.

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 "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 "Members" for additional information.

CPA EXAM PROVISIONAL WINDOW EXTENDED

With the successful passage of LB 808 by the Nebraska Legislature and approval by Governor Pete Ricketts, the provisional window to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination has been extended. Previously, candidates could sit 90 days before their anticipated completion of the 150-hour education requirement. Changes within LB 808 will now allow a candidate to sit 120 days before completion of the education requirements. Candidates targeted for the change include those completing their education requirements (whether in a Master's Degree or undergraduate program in accounting). The changes allow these students the opportunity to sit for the examination during their last semester of studies. The Board of Public Accountancy remains committed to reviewing and easing requirements within the

Nebraska Public Accountancy Act whenever possible.

The changes to the Nebraska Public Accountancy Act within LB 808 were made possible with the assistance of the Board's Education Advisory Committee (EAC) in collaboration with the Nebraska Society of CPAs and sponsored by State Senator John Stinner, a retired CPA. The EAC is led by Board Vice Chair Ms. Marcy J. Luth, CPA. The EAC is made up of accounting educators and CPAs from throughout the State. Other EAC members from the State Board include Board Chair Dr. Thomas Purcell, CPA, Past Chair Ms. Michele Stromp, CPA and Mr. Ken Brauer.

Additional questions regarding the new law can be sent to Board Administrator Ms. Kristen VanWinkle at (402) 471-3595 or at Kristen.VanWinkle@Nebraska.gov.

Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy

NOW ACCEPTING AMERICAN EXPRESS AND DISCOVER CARDS!



*For online applications only.





EDUCATION & EXAM COMMITTEE (E&E)

Congratulations to all the candidates who passed the exam this year and state educators who prepared them so well! The COVID-19 pandemic certainly made for a challenging year but you all showed up and performed very well on the CPA Exam.

Throughout the year, the committee discussed the many challenges and uncertainties that students and exam candidates faced. Beginning with school closures and finishing courses online/virtually to how to handle open NTSs and exam credit extensions due to Prometric exam sites being closed for more than a month, it seemed like the issues were endless! However, the committee kept their focus on doing what was in the best interest of students and exam candidates, which included flexibility with completing coursework and extending NTSs and exam credit.

While the committee focused on that, Board staff concentrated on keeping students and exam candidates informed of all decisions made by the Board. A special COVID-19 News page was created on the Board website where all press releases regarding the pandemic can be found - <https://nbpa.nebraska.gov/public-info/covid-19-news>.

Although several would say there weren't many good things that happened in 2020, one good thing that started July 1, 2020 was the implementation of Continuous Testing. This model allows candidates the ability to take the CPA Exam year-round, rather than during designated timeframes each quarter.

It also allows the candidate to re-take a failed section as soon as the score has been released instead of needing to wait for the following quarter.

Overall, the computer based CPA exam continues to be successful and well accepted by candidates. The exam and its functionality is continually reviewed with enhancements being made by the AICPA Board of Examiners (BOE), when possible. The Committee wants to remind candidates sitting for the exam to review the CPA exam tutorial available at www.aicpa.org/cpaexam.

There are four Nebraska CPA exam sites for candidates: Kearney, Lincoln, Omaha, and Scottsbluff.

The Education Advisory Committee (EAC), made up of educational institution representatives and CPAs, met via Webex on October 23, 2020. The agenda included: a presentation by Lori Kelly, CPA, from the AICPA regarding the Practice Analysis, Exam Blueprints and CPA Evolution, a presentation by Pat Hartman from NASBA regarding the impact of the pandemic and future changes to the CPA Exam.

EAC members include Chair Marcy Luth, Tom Purcell, Shelly Stromp, Ken Brauer, Cassandra Weitzenkamp, Courtney Baillie, Kate King Wu, Sharon Garvin, Sarah Borchers, Aaron Crabtree, Heidi Deden, Kristine Hull, Michelle Thornburg and James Koehn.

New Online Tools Coming Soon!

- Certificate Registration for Firms
- Online Certificate Application
- Online Initial Permit Application

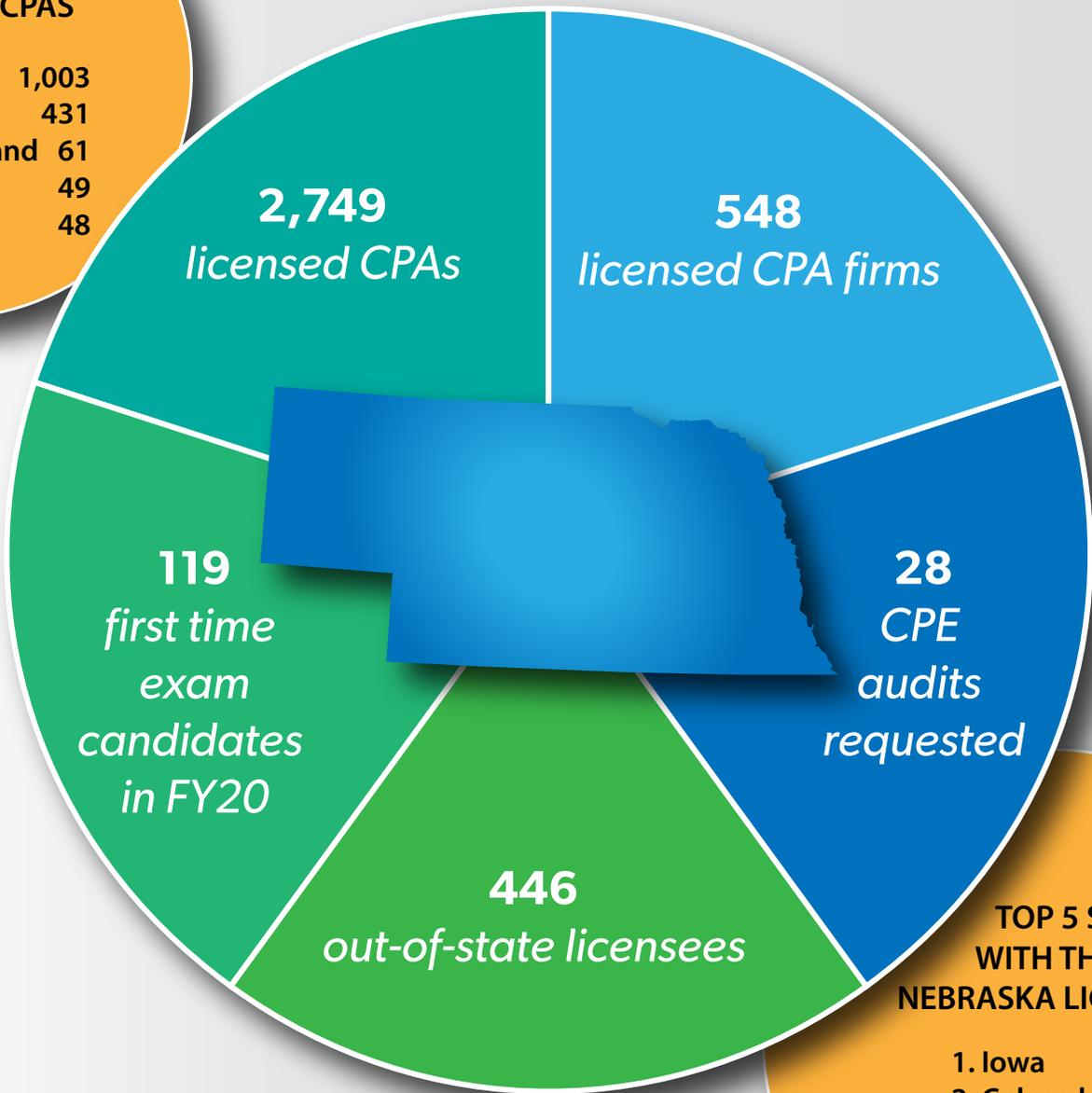
The Uniform CPA Examination®

NEBRASKA STATISTICS

AS OF MARCH 31, 2021

TOP 5 CITIES WITH THE MOST LICENSED CPAS

1. Omaha 1,003
2. Lincoln 431
3. Grand Island 61
4. Kearney 49
5. Norfolk 48



TOP 5 STATES WITH THE MOST NEBRASKA LICENSED CPAS

1. Iowa 91
2. Colorado 40
3. Minnesota 29
4. Kansas 28
5. Texas 27





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 that "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.**

2020 CPA EXAM CANDIDATE STATISTICS: NEBRASKA

AVERAGE AGE

27

TOTAL CANDIDATES

500

TOTAL SECTIONS

664

AVERAGE % PASS RATE

62.8%

MALE CANDIDATES*

223

FEMALE CANDIDATES*

220

NEW CANDIDATES

119

PASSED 4TH SECTION

109

**57 candidates did not report their gender*



2020 CPA EXAM PERFORMANCE SUMMARY: NEBRASKA

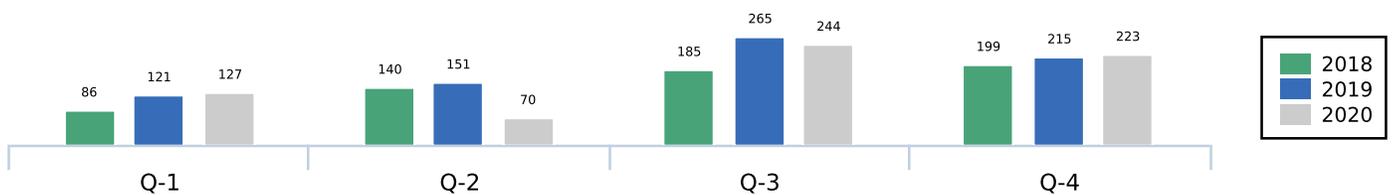
Section Performance: Q1			
	Sections	Score	% Pass
First Time	39	73.00	56.41%
Re-Exam	87	72.10	49.43%
AUD	36	73.47	50.00%
BEC	35	79.43	65.71%
FAR	32	61.75	25.00%
REG	24	75.29	70.83%

Section Performance: Q2			
	Sections	Score	% Pass
First Time	32	83.53	84.38%
Re-Exam	38	77.82	65.79%
AUD	19	79.68	68.42%
BEC	5	77.60	60.00%
FAR	26	83.00	84.62%
REG	20	78.50	70.00%

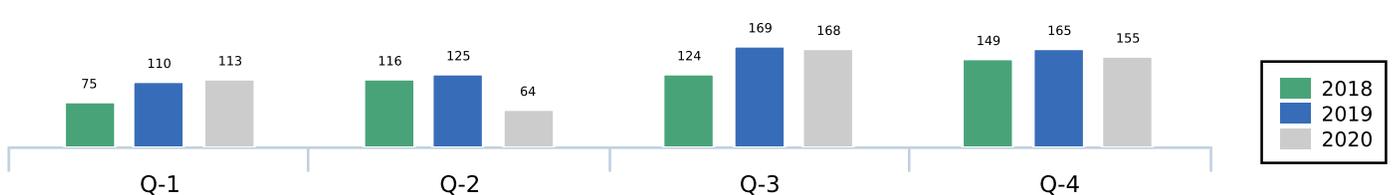
Section Performance: Q3			
	Sections	Score	% Pass
First Time	99	79.24	72.73%
Re-Exam	145	77.58	64.83%
AUD	62	76.31	62.90%
BEC	43	83.67	79.07%
FAR	77	75.65	57.14%
REG	62	79.68	79.03%

Section Performance: Q4			
	Sections	Score	% Pass
First Time	54	72.30	59.26%
Re-Exam	169	73.80	56.21%
AUD	62	73.18	51.61%
BEC	55	77.98	69.09%
FAR	59	69.03	47.46%
REG	47	74.00	61.70%

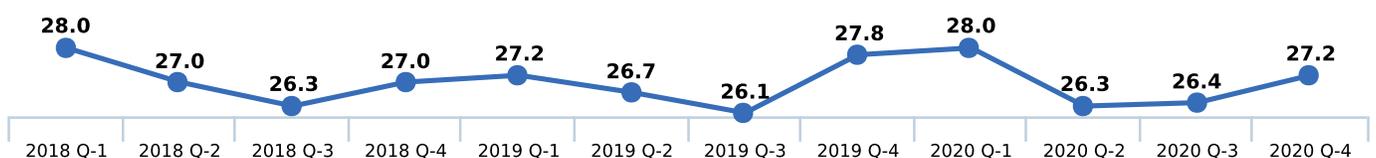
Sections



Candidates



Average Age





LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE PROFESSIONAL LICENSING (ARPL)

The Board through the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) participates with the newly formed Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) to stay tuned on any legislative initiatives that would impact the registration and licensure of CPAs and CPA firms in Nebraska.

While a legitimate debate in legislative houses throughout the country and here in Nebraska continue regarding the cost of licensing and over-regulation, many groups motivated to ease the burden of regulation and licensure attempt to lump the professions with all regulated occupations covering a vast array of jobs when developing legislative initiatives. ARPL, correctly points out that “One Size does Not Fit All” and that highly complex, technical professions like the CPA profession are responsible for the fiscal integrity of financial system including the accuracy of business, personal, and public financial records, audits, and tax filings among others. A CPA must master extensive, complicated auditing & accounting standards and laws they are authorized to conduct via licensure. This requires a high level of responsibility and liability including a demanding education curriculum, a high stakes uniform examination, experience and ongoing education to become a CPA. Thus, professional licensure might not fit in with other occupations when attempting to circumvent

current professional regulations and laws for the sake of overall uniformity of registration and licensure and could impact public safety and protection.

Another strong point ARPL makes in this debate is “*Professional Licensing Done Right Works*” ARPL points out that the CPA profession has led with responsible licensing models that ensure education, experience, and testing necessary to protect the public while providing CPA candidates with:

- Clear career paths
- Consistent and evenly applied licensure requirements across the profession whenever possible
- Mobility provisions that allow cross-border practice for CPAs without the need for burdensome multiple State licensure requirements

If interested in ARPL and its activities for the professions including CPAs, engineers, architects, and others, visit [info@responsiblelicensing.org](https://info.responsiblelicensing.org). If you have any questions regarding legislation in Nebraska you can reach out to Dan Sweetwood at Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov or Nebraska Society of CPAs President Ms. Joni Sundquist at joni@nescpa.org.

ACCOUNTING PROGRAM CURRICULUM GAP ANALYSIS

There are major gaps in college accounting education today, with fewer than half of all programs teaching emerging topics, such as IT governance and cybersecurity, according to a new report by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA).

[Accounting Program Curriculum Gap Analysis Report](#) found mixed results for coverage of emerging and technology topics. While more than 60 percent of collegiate accounting programs are teaching topics like data analytics and IT audit, fewer programs cover cybersecurity, predictive analytics or System and Organization Controls (SOC). Each of these topics could be covered more in-depth on the CPA Exam in 2024, pending the results of the current Exam Practice Analysis.

“The accounting profession is becoming increasingly reliant on the use of emerging technologies, information systems and data analytics. Businesses are increasingly seeking technology-related services and advice and it’s important for newly licensed CPAs to be adept in their knowledge, usage and skills,” said Sue Coffey, CPA, CGMA, CEO – Public Accounting, AICPA. “Accounting programs have a responsibility to assure

their curricula and course offerings are setting students up for success in the profession.”

The report, which includes responses from more than 300 collegiate accounting programs, was intended to gain a broad picture of how accounting programs have incorporated new technology and other critical skills within their current curricula, especially as the AICPA and NASBA CPA Evolution initiative advances. The AICPA Governing Council and NASBA Board of Directors voted to advance CPA Evolution, which is intended to transform the CPA licensure model to better recognize the rapidly changing skills, competencies and technology knowledge required of CPAs. These skills will be reflected in the new Uniform CPA Exam in 2024.

“The gap analysis also has implications for State Boards of Accountancy,” said Dan Dustin, CPA, Vice President, State Board Relations, at NASBA. “It’s an opportunity for boards to review their current education rules and update them to align with the future of the CPA profession and the types of skills and tools that new licensees will be using as they begin their careers.”



Certificates/ Permits/ Status Changes in July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020



Enforcement Cases (2020)



ACTIVE PERMIT HOLDER BIRTHDATE ANALYSIS 2021



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2021 BOARD MEETINGS

January 8 at 8:30am (via virtual Webex online)

March 12 at 8:30 am (via virtual Webex online)

May 21 at 8:30am

July 9 at 8:30 am

September 10 at 8:30 am

November 12 at 8:30 am

*Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held at 1526 K Street – 4th Floor – Hearing Room D – 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.