



# BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY 2005 ANNUAL LETTER



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE



DIRECTOR,  
DAN SWEETWOOD

Greeting's and Happy Holidays:

This last year has been a busy one for your State Board. First of all, I have been the Board's executive director for almost three years and am appreciative of those of you I have talked with on the telephone and met at various accounting functions. Your opinion on issues facing your chosen profession is very important to me and to your Board. In my role of a regulator of your profession, at times I might be the bearer of bad news; however, my goal is to keep the conduit of information open at all times. Never hesitate to contact the Board office or attend the next State Board meeting to express your thoughts and opinion.

Next time you see one of the below listed State Board members, please thank them. I witness the hard work and time they devote to issues facing today's evolving accounting profession. This is a working Board that requires our members to actively participate within their assigned committees and to make tough decisions as a Board.

Please take the time to review our Annual Letter and if you have any questions, please contact our office. And again, if in Lincoln, please stop by our office and say "hello" to myself, Jo, Kelly, and Nicole! Have a great new year!



### Board Members

- H. Dean Graf, CPA - Chair – Grand Island, NE
- Jim Titus – Vice Chair– Lincoln, NE
- William Nuckolls - Secretary – Lincoln, NE
- Richard Zacharia, CPA – Omaha, NE
- Doug Skiles, CPA – McCook, NE
- Anne Fuhrman, CPA – Omaha, NE
- Tom Obrist, CPA – Lincoln, NE
- Kate King Wu, CPA– Omaha, NE

## ENFORCEMENT

The Enforcement Committee of the Board dealt with a very complicated case this year. After a thorough review of information provided by a cooperative practitioner, the Committee concluded there was not enough evidence to go forward with a formal hearing in the matter. The Committee's goal is to protect the public and enforce provisions in the Public Accountancy Act and the Board regulations within Title 288. However, complaints are reviewed to determine if probable cause exists to go forward with a formal complaint. As indicated above, just because a complaint is filed against you does not mean it will automatically go to formal hearing before the Board. The Committee will attempt to screen complaints by gathering information to determine if the complaint should go forward.

If you have any questions regarding the Board's enforcement/ complaint process, please contact Dan Sweetwood, Executive Director at [nbpa01@nol.org](mailto:nbpa01@nol.org).

To review the current Public Accountancy Act and Title 288 Rules please go to [www.nbpa.ne.gov](http://www.nbpa.ne.gov)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION (CPE)

### A few things to remember:

- When completing the CPE reporting form for 2005, please make sure you submit by January 31, 2006.
- A confirmation of CPE hours will not be mailed out unless you are selected for audit.
- 4 hours of ethics is required in every renewal period (2 years).
- Our office recommends you get pre-approval for CPE courses. Please complete the Program Qualification Form.
- You can earn CPE hours, by being a QEP Reviewer. Enclosed is an application for details. For more information please contact Kelly at the office.

Questions contact Kelly Ebert [nbpa04@nol.org](mailto:nbpa04@nol.org)

## LICENSING

The Licensing Committee has had several challenges this year, including a Title 288 Rules and Regulations Form of Practice Rule change. With the changes in the accounting profession, there are many more services offered by CPA firms. Should firms be able to advertise all of these services if they are not conducted by CPAs? The Licensing Committee is in the process of developing Guidelines to help firms with naming, advertising, and ownership questions. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Due to recent changes in the profession, firms are requiring CPAs to be licensed in their original state. To eliminate problems in the future, be sure to keep your certificate/permit up to date in your original state.

### For the two year period beginning July 1, 2005:

- **959 active CPA permits were issued totaling 1,943 for both licensing periods;**
- **803 inactive registrations were issued totaling 1,591 for both licensing periods;**
- **583 firms were licensed.**

Questions contact Jo Lowe [nbpa02@nol.org](mailto:nbpa02@nol.org)

**The Board has begun the process of revoking certificates of permit holders who have not contacted the Board for more than three years per Public Accountancy Act 1-137.**

**The Annual Register listing 2005 licensed CPAs and CPA Firms in Nebraska will be available early in February. Please contact the Board office for your complimentary copy.**



## EDUCATION AND EXAM

The Education and Exam Committee has been working on CPA examination issues and educational requirements for reciprocal applicants. Concerns have been raised regarding the number of applicants taking the CPA exam, exam fee increases, and late score reporting. The Education Advisory Committee met on October 7, 2005 for an Information Exchange with Pat Hartman, CPA Exam Services Director of Operations. Colleges and universities with questions regarding exam or education requirements are invited to contact the Board office.

Questions contact Jo Lowe [nbpa02@nol.org](mailto:nbpa02@nol.org)

## QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (QEP)

**The Committee determined the following six issues were the most common problems on 2005 reports:**

1. Components of income tax not disclosed;
2. Titles of Financial Statements- OCBOA titles not used;
3. Not following format for financial statements under GASBS 34;
4. Trade receivable footnote disclosures - not adequate with regard to delinquent accounts, and method of doubtful accounts;
5. Related party transactions and relationships not adequately disclosed.
6. Other comprehensive income not properly recorded.

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

In 2006, we will need QEP reviewers. You can **earn up to 8 CPE hours** a day and your firm will receive \$100 per day to help defray expenses. It's a great educational tool to take back to your firm. Enclosed is an application if you wish to participate. **Thank you to QEP reviewers for making our program a success.**



Questions contact Kelly Ebert [nbpa04@nol.org](mailto:nbpa04@nol.org)

## NEW BOARD INTERN

The Board has hired **Nicole Rowedder**, a UN-L junior accounting major from Denison, IA for the 2005-2006 school year. Duties include general office functions and exposes students to the accounting profession. If other institutions are interested in participating in the NBPA Internship program, please contact the Board office.

### Staff

Dan Sweetwood, Executive Director  
Jo Lowe, Administrator  
Kelly Ebert, Administrative Assistant  
Nicole Rowedder, Intern

### Contact Information

P.O. Box 94725, Lincoln, NE 68509  
140 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 290, Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 471-3595 or (800) 564-6111  
Fax (402) 471-4484  
Website: [www.nbpa.ne.gov](http://www.nbpa.ne.gov)