



# Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy

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

## 2010 ANNUAL LETTER

### MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR, *Mr. Doug Skiles, CPA*

**E**arly in my accounting career, my boss took me to my first Jaycee meeting. I remember there must have been 75 people at that first meeting. I was excited to be part of a thriving organization! The next meeting, 8 people showed up, and I was elected treasurer and handed the checkbook. You know the feeling.... we have all been there. It's like being asked to play a pickup basketball game because you have the best basketball. But, I stuck it out, became involved in the community of McCook, and soon became the Jaycees Southwest District Director, and finally on the state board as the Nebraska Jaycees Cystic Fibrosis Project Manager. It was hard work, staying in touch quarterly with 110 chapters throughout the state, from Benkelman to Pender, Scottsbluff to Auburn. But it was one of the most rewarding times, meeting people from all over the state with a common motto, "service to humanity is the best work of life."



And it is because of that belief, I have been motivated to serve on local and state boards for my church, schools and college, service organizations, foundations, CASA, Teammates, and to coach youth sports. And it is with that same enthusiasm for our profession, that I have served the NBPA since 2003. Having chaired the Education and Exam Committee for 4 years, Vice Chair for 3 years and serving on NASBA's Education Committee for 3 years, I want to continue the best practices of my predecessors and be responsive to the needs of my peers while carrying out the Board's charge of protecting the public. I have been blessed with a staff and board of dedicated individuals with similar convictions towards making our profession the best that it can be.

#### The Board was very busy in 2010 including the following activities:

- The development of a major rule package by the Board's Legislative Committee including input and review by Board Members & staff, the Mobility Work Group, the Nebraska Society of CPAs and the Nebraska Independent Accountants Association.
- Completion of the Continuing Professional Education Audit by the Board's CPE Committee & staff. CPE compliance remains high in Nebraska based on the importance of submission including our new online reporting systems.
- The Board's Licensing Committee continues to wrestle with license and firm name requests that require research and study.
- Education issues continue to arise before the Education & Examination Committee.
- Another successful year in scheduling volunteers and final reviews by the Board's Quality Enhancement Program Committee to complete the program and commencing a critical review of the program itself this year.

## INSIDE

### Table of Contents:

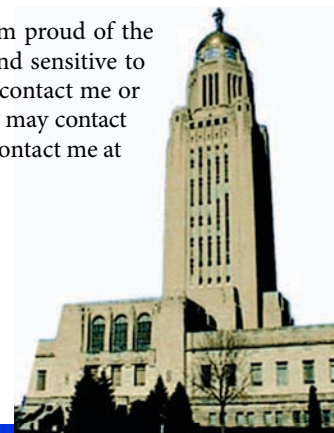
|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Letter from Board Chair.....        | 1 |
| Letter from Executive Director..... | 2 |
| Committee Reports:                  |   |
| CPE.....                            | 4 |
| Exam & Education.....               | 4 |
| Licensing.....                      | 5 |
| QEP.....                            | 5 |
| Enforcement.....                    | 6 |
| Board 2010 FY Budget Analysis....   | 7 |
| CPA's by the Numbers.....           | 8 |

The Board continues to operate in a fiscally conservative manner and must respond to the Governor and the Legislature in its attempt to deal with the tight state budget. The Board's budget has also been reduced by over 7% over the last two years. It is our goal to continue to provide our current high level of service to the public and our registrants, but we will find it difficult in this current economic environment. We have created several efficiencies over the last several years including one-day Board meetings instead of two and enhanced online reporting to cut down on paper and mailings, and audit time.

I take the responsibility of being a member of the State Board very seriously and am proud of the Board accomplishments. The Board's current members are engaged, professional, and sensitive to the public and your concerns when making important decisions. Do not hesitate to contact me or the Board office with any of your thoughts regarding our accounting profession. You may contact the board at (402) 471-3595 or 1-800-564-6111 or at [Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov) or contact me at (308) 345-5100 or at [dsbiles@mnl-cpa.com](mailto:dsbiles@mnl-cpa.com).

Sincerely,

Doug Skiles, CPA



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *Dan Sweetwood:*

I hope the 2011 accounting season has started off well for you! I have always been impressed with the hard work, dedication, and service the vast majority of Nebraska CPAs provide to their clients. I have the task of bringing State Board Members together for meetings and at times am privy to their work schedules. One member's executive assistant provided his schedule for the next three months and I was amazed at the number of scheduled visits with clients. This included traveling to those clients throughout parts of Nebraska to gather information for preparation of tax filings. He indicated he was getting a little tired of the travel after many years, but still really enjoyed meeting with long time clients and "catching up on the family news" along with getting the work completed. I am sure many of you can relate!

### A few items to note as we look back to 2010 and into 2011:

- The Board completed review and changes to NAC Title 288/ Board Rules and Regulations. Several Chapters were approved for changes in 2010 by the State Attorney General and the Governor. Please go to [www.nbpa.ne.gov](http://www.nbpa.ne.gov) to review these important changes or contact the Board office for details.
- The Board's Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) Committee has begun a detailed review of the program. A Task Force was appointed and began work to review and make recommendations regarding the future of the program. Early recommendations include major changes that would require a Peer Review for CPA firm licensure and implementing a Board oversight program of the Peer Review process. It is anticipated the current program would include "grandfather" provisions if any changes are approved (See related article for further details).
- The Board recently received a request to review the experience requirement within the Public Accountancy Act in 1-136.02 by financial executives from a large Nebraska corporation to allow other forms of experience to count towards becoming a CPA in Nebraska. The Board appointed members to the Experience Work Group to review the request and make recommendations to those interested (See related article for further information.)
- Some licensing fees were returned to 2007 levels after a transfer of Board cash funds to the State General Fund (LB 1, 2009 Special Session of the Legislature) and large expenditures to support the Board's enforcement program in 2010. The Board's goal is to stabilize the cash fund in 2011. The Board also has submitted the 2012/2013 Budget request to the Governors Office (See related article).

Never hesitate to pick up the telephone or email the office with any questions, concerns, or other matters. I promise you if we do not pick up the phone, we will return your call and/or answer your emails promptly. Jo, Kelly, Nicole, and I hope you have a great year in 2011!

Take care,

  
Dan Sweetwood



Board Chair Skiles and Executive Director Sweetwood welcome new Board member Gutschewski.



2010-2011 Board Members: Richard Zacharia, Bernie Gutschewski, Tom Obrist, Kate King Wu, Anne Fuhrman, Jim Rieker, Doug Skiles, Michael Wassinger.



State Board Staff Members, Ms. Kelly Ebert, Ms. Jo Lowe, and Mr. Dan Sweetwood at the NET Studios for the Firm Administrator Workshop

## Governor Appoints State Board Members!



In September, Governor Dave Heineman re-appointed Member **Mr. Michael Wassinger**, CPA, to the Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy. Member Wassinger will serve his second four-year term on the State Board. Wassinger is with the CPA firm McDermott and Miller, P.C., with his office located in Hastings. Wassinger is a member of the Board's Education & Examination Committee and was elected Board Vice Chair. He also serves on the QEP Committee.

Governor Heineman also appointed new Board member **Mr. Bernie Gutschewski**, Omaha, Nebraska, to serve a four-year term as a public member on the State Board. Mr. Gutschewski recently retired from the Union Pacific Corporation as Vice President of Tax. He holds a business/accounting and law degree from Creighton University. He also is a certificate holder and current inactive registrant with the Board.

## NEBRASKA CPA STATUS

**N**ebbraska 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 our 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, a Certificate Holder can 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 within Nebraska. A license number is issued with their Active Permit to Practice. This 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 their CPE education they can 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)”

## UPDATE ON ONLINE PROGRAMS

**T**he Board is proud to provide CPAs, Inactive Registrants, and CPA firms the ability to renew their permits and registrations online by going to [www.nbpa.ne.gov](http://www.nbpa.ne.gov) and clicking on the applicable application during May and June. CPAs can also submit their required continuing education submissions online throughout the entire year. The online submissions have provided Board staff with less paperwork to process and decreases storage requirements. Since these programs are fairly new, your feedback is essential as we continue to review and enhance the online processes. Please contact staff members Jo Lowe (renewals) or Kelly Ebert (CPE) with your thoughts at [Jo.Lowe@nebraska.gov](mailto:Jo.Lowe@nebraska.gov) or [Kelly.Ebert@nebraska.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ebert@nebraska.gov) or call 1-800-564-6111 in Nebraska.

## BOARD LICENSING FEE CHANGES FOR 2011\* AND BOARD BUDGET

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Annual CPA Firm Registration..... | from \$50 to \$100  |
| CPA Office Fee Registration.....  | from \$25 to \$50   |
| Reciprocity Registration Fee..... | from \$200 to \$400 |

*\*See comments within the executive directors section*

The Board has submitted a 2012/2013 Budget to the Governor's Office for consideration. The budget can be reviewed by going to [www.budget.ne.gov](http://www.budget.ne.gov). Any questions pertaining to the proposed budget should be directed to Executive Director Dan Sweetwood at (402) 471-3595 or at [Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov).

## MOBILITY ARRIVED IN 2010!

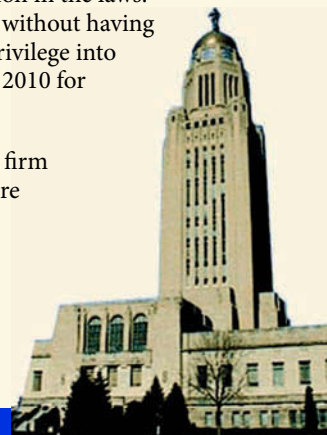
**N**ebbraska joined the vast majority of the 55 jurisdictions of State Board's of Public Accountancy by instituting Mobility provisions within Nebraska law via the Public Accountancy Act on September 1, 2010. Most of Nebraska's surrounding states currently have Mobility provisions. For current information on each state's Mobility status go to [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org) “Mobility” to access each jurisdictions status.

As a Nebraska CPA, if you want to practice in another state, check that state's Mobility provisions as there is some variation in the laws. If that state has Mobility, a current licensed CPA domiciled in Nebraska may practice public accounting in another state without having to procure a license, pay a fee, or register with that state's Board of Public Accountancy. The CPA is allowed a practice privilege into the state, however, can still be disciplined by the state if warranted. The same practice privilege took effect September 1, 2010 for out of state CPAs practicing in Nebraska with the exception described below.

Most state's Mobility provisions require a CPA firm that is conducting an audit engagement in the other state to obtain a firm license within the state if the client's home office is located within that jurisdiction. Some states, such as Nebraska, require licensure for a review engagement.

If you have questions regarding Mobility go to [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org) “Mobility” and click on that 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.

In Nebraska a firm partner will also require licensure.





## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE) COMMITTEE:

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

### Board CPE Rules and Guidelines Updated!

**P**lease see **Title 288 Rules, Chapter 8 and the CPE Guidelines** for the following updates:

- Half-hour increments shall count towards participation after the first credit hour has been earned.
- Permit Holders shall maintain evidence of satisfactory completion of continuing education courses for six years.
- See updated CPE Guidelines for Audit process and more

This was an ANOTHER BIG YEAR for CPE by submitting CPE hours online. Nearly 90% of CPAs submitted online. **The ability to submit courses online can be used throughout the year. Please use this tool to track your CPE hours on an ongoing basis.** Your password to submit CPE will remain the same when you renew your permit to practice. It is very important to keep that password.

It is very important to make sure you are tracking your CPE hours to confirm you have enough hours in your two-year licensing period. It is important that you complete your CPE hours within the two year period. If not, you must request a formal extension that will require you to return to your regular two year period. This creates more work for you and makes it harder for you to get back on track! The Board discourages formal extensions if at all possible.

**If your Firm/Company holds in-house training courses, please make sure there is a sign-in sheet present at the course or certificates of completions.** The sign-in sheet/certificate of completion needs to be on letterhead of the firm/company with all of the details of the course. For example, please include the title of the course, date of course, firm/company name, start and end times, and recommended number of hours. When you do 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.

**If you are selected to go through an audit for your CPE hours,** you will need to provide proof of attendance for each course submitted to our office during that 2-year reporting period. Thus, the need for completed sign-in sheets and certificates of completion. Please refer to the CPE Guidelines for further information regarding the audit process.

The Committee reviewed and pre-approved 644 courses. In addition, to reviewing the courses submitted through **Program Qualification Forms** the Committee allows National Association of State Boards (NASBA) approved courses. All courses and sponsors are reviewed annually.

## EDUCATION & EXAM COMMITTEE (E & E):

**I**n 2009, Nebraska tied the nation's third highest first-time Exam pass rate percentage at 56.25%! That means 56% of Nebraska candidates passed the exam the first time as compared to paper and pencil first time pass rates of 23%. Congratulations to candidates and the educators who prepared them so well! Overall, the computer based CPA exam has been very successful and well accepted by candidates. The Committee wants to remind candidates sitting for the exam to be sure to review the CPA exam tutorial available on [www.CPA-Exam.org](http://www.CPA-Exam.org) for mechanical processes involved in the online exam.

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

Committee Chair Kate King Wu continues to serve the CPA profession by serving on a Board of Examiners (BOE) sub-committee. She is directly involved in preparing and reviewing questions for the Uniform CPA Examination. Way to go Kate!

The Education Advisory Committee (EAC), made up of educational institution representatives and CPAs, met at Mammel Hall, UN-Omaha, October 15, 2010 to review the CBT-e CPA Exam changes effective January 2011. Dr. John Mattar, Director of Psychometrics and Research, AICPA Examinations Team, and Mr. James Suh, NASBA Senior Project Manager, were present to give 50 educators and students a first hand demonstration of the CBT-e Exam processes. The Board appreciates the service of the appointed educators and CPAs on the EAC.



EAC Committee members deliberate.



E & E Committee Chair Kate King Wu, Dr. John Mattar, and James Suh

### BOARD EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT UNDER REVIEW

At the Board's November 2010 meeting, members of ConAgra's financial team presented information requesting the Board's assistance in amending the current requirement within the Public Accountancy Act (PAA) that two years of experience be gained under a CPA within a CPA firm. The team pointed out that most states allow other forms of experience to count including within a private company and/or academia. They asked for the Board's future support in amending Section 1-136.02 of the PAA before the Nebraska Legislature. The Board created the Experience Work Group (EWG) to research, review, and provide recommendations to those interested on this issue. Board Chair Douglas Skiles, CPA, was given authority to appoint the EWG. His goal is to appoint a "well-rounded" group from several areas of the profession. It is anticipated the EWG will begin work in the spring of 2011. If you would like to comment on this issue, please call the Board office at (402) 471-3595 or email [Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov).

## LICENSING COMMITTEE:

**O**nline renewal applications were made available for 2010 with nearly a 60% adoption rate. Paying by credit card saved the Board staff many hours of opening mail and preparing check deposits.

**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 efforts have 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.

**Certificates of Registration/Organization** are annually confusing to firms. Certificates are for 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**.

**CPAs 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 form. 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 complaint 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.

## QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

### The Most Common Problems on 2010 Reports (audits, reviews, and compilations)

The committee determined the following five issues were the most common problems:

1. ASC 740-10 (formerly FIN 48) – Disclosures required for all entities
2. ASC 850-10 (formerly SFAS 165) – Subsequent events disclosures
3. ASC 820 (formerly SFAS 157) – Fair Value reporting; Disclosures missing or incomplete
4. ASC 350 – Goodwill should be tested for impairment not amortized
5. Incorrect reporting and/or statement headings for OCBOA statements

### Reminders from the Committee:

- Review your internal quality control procedures as related to reports being issued; the licensed owner of the firm is ultimately responsible for all reports issued by the firm.
- When providing services to specialized industries, applicable CPE courses and reference libraries are important.
- A copy of the actual financial statements and accountant's report issued to the client should be maintained in your files as part of the engagement documentation. The file copy should be either a hard copy or a PDF copy, rather than an Excel or Word file could inadvertently be altered.

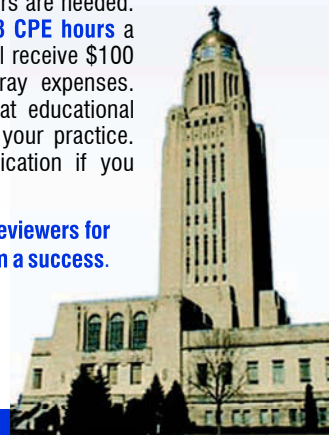
## QEP Under Review

**T**he Board's Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) is under review by a Task Force assigned by the QEP Committee. Several factors have contributed to the review according to QEP Chair Ms. Anne Fuhrman, CPA, including the complexity of audit standards, mobility provisions for out of state CPAs, and the overall higher requirements of Peer Review. Most longtime Nebraska State Board QEP Committee members agree the program has served a need over the years but believe it is time to revise and/or end the program. Early recommendations include requiring a Peer Review every three years for CPA firm licensure and the creation of a Board oversight program. Any changes to the program will require amending Board regulations including the Board's approval after a public hearing. Members of the Task Force include Ms. Fuhrman, Chair, Mr. Michael Wassinger, CPA, Ms. Lyndee Black, CPA, Mr. Mark Manning, CPA, and Ms. Michelle Thornburg, CPA. All are QEP Committee members. If you would like to provide a comment on this project, do not hesitate to contact the Board office at (402) 471-3595 or at [Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov).

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In 2011, QEP reviewers are needed. You can **earn up to 8 CPE hours** a day and your firm will receive \$100 per day to help defray expenses. QEP review is a great educational tool to take back to your practice. Enclosed is an application if you wish to participate.

**Thank you to QEP reviewers for making our program a success.**



## FAQ's / TIDBITS:

- 1.) **Check for the current NBPA application form:** Be sure to check the NBPA website for the most current application forms. In the past two years, fees have 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.
- 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. 2010 Title 288 Rule changes will cover mobility, CPE, and important enforcement procedural changes.
- 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.ne.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 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.**

## ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS:

**W**hile reading many updates and information from our neighbors I wanted to share with you an article prepared by Pamela Griebel, Iowa Assistant Attorney General. She feels that most recurring complaint issues may be preventable with advance planning and a little common sense. From her article, Jan. 2009 Iowa Professional Licensure & Regulation Bureau (reprinted from the 2008 letter):

**Cut Rate Friends:** Beware of the friend who asks you to work at cut rate. Be prepared to perform at the same high standard of care generally applicable to the project at hand or decline the offer. Professionals who adjust the standards to the level of pay often lose far more in the long run through risk exposure, client complaints, and loss of good will. I've lost count of the number of times a licensee proclaims, "I was just trying to help out a friend."

**Sphere of competency:** Be realistic about your sphere of competence. Few licensees are qualified to perform the full scope of services technically authorized by licensure. If you are over your head, associate with a qualified professional or find a way to transfer your client to a qualified professional.

**Denial:** Do not hide and go into denial if you discover a mistake. Many errors can be successfully resolved before anyone is harmed if you act quickly and honestly. Often, a professional's true character merges stronger while correcting errors than when relishing victory.

**Client communications:** Be accessible to and communicate with clients. Ignoring client communications is the fastest way to trigger a client complaint.

**Goofy clients:** Treat goofy or obnoxious clients with the same respect you afford to favored clients. While you may find a small measure of sympathy from Board members, you are not likely to get very far with a "my client is goofy" defense.

**Substance Abuse:** File a documented complaint when you become aware of a licensee performing consistently and flagrantly below standards. If the licensee is a substance abuser and is not yet the subject of disciplinary action, try to convince the licensee to seek treatment and self-report. The licensee may qualify for confidential handling through an impaired practitioner review committee. If you stand idly by, you could be sanctioned for failure to take action to protect the public.

**Think big picture:** Not every ethical or professional dilemma will be covered by your professional laws, rules or nationally accepted professional standards. When faced with such a challenge, stand back and think "big picture." Imagine yourself as the subject of a front page story in your local newspaper. For posterity, how would you like the public or fellow professionals to view your response?

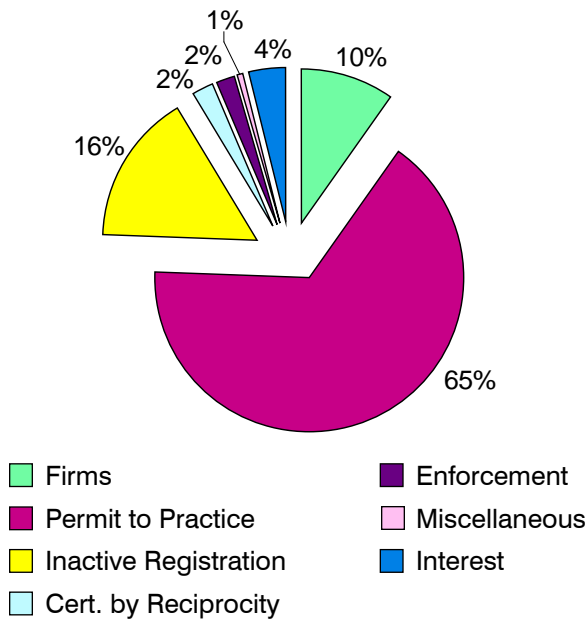
Your Enforcement Committee continues to review complaints submitted to the Board by the public, CPAs, and other agencies.

Further information regarding enforcement actions by the Board can be viewed on the Board's website at [www.nbpa.ne.gov/](http://www.nbpa.ne.gov/) left banner "Disciplinary Search" or by going to "Board News" and reviewing "archives" under Enforcement Actions for official announcements. Any questions and/or concerns pertaining to enforcement matters before the Board can be addressed to Dan Sweetwood, Executive Director by sending email to [Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov) or call (402) 471-3595.

# Board Revenue for Fiscal Year 2010

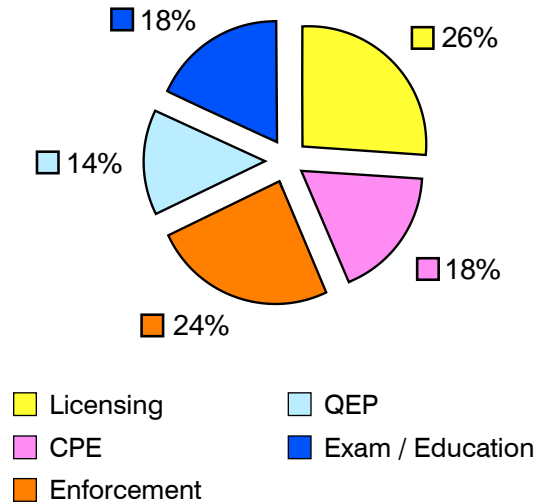
The Board is a Non-Code Agency within State Government. Board funds are derived from licensing fees as determined by the Board by February 1st of each year\*. After creation of a recommended budget by the Board, funds are appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature as recommended by the Governor.

**Revenue FY10**



The Board currently has five programs as outlined below. The Chart shows generally where Board funds were utilized by program in FY2010.

**Fiscal Year 10**



\* No State General Funds are used to support the Board

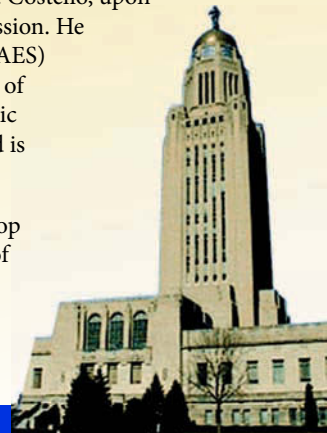
## Major Change Announced at NASBA

The Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy (Board) is a member of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). There are currently 55 members of NASBA including all 50 State Boards and other U.S. territories. NASBA assists State Boards on national regulatory issues including accounting standard setting, the Uniform CPA Examination, continuing professional education standards, and other matters. NASBA appears and represents State Boards interests before Congress, the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the AIPCA, and others. Ms. Kathy Smith, a former Nebraska Board member, is a current Director at Large of NASBA and is a member of the Board of Directors. Current and former Nebraska Board members sit on several NASBA Committees including: Mr. Skiles on the Education Committee; Mr. Zacharia, CPE Committee; Ms King-Wu, AICPA BOE Content Committee; former Board members Mr. Jim Titus, Enforcement Committee; and Ms. Nina Kavich, CPA Examination Committee. Executive Director Dan Sweetwood sits on the Executive Directors Committee and is Chair of the Accountancy Licensing Database (ALD) Task Force.

Mr. David Costello, CPA, the President/CEO of NASBA has announced his retirement from NASBA at the end of 2011. Mr. Costello, upon taking this position 18 years ago, turned NASBA into a national voice and an important player within the accounting profession. He established a strong financial platform for NASBA including the continued development of CPA Examination Services (CPAES) and other programs for use by State Boards depending on their needs. Nebraska has utilized CPAES since 2003 for review of candidate applications for the CPA Examination. He also is a strong advocate in the development of the Center for the Public Trust which is a sounding board for the good news and ethical decision making of the CPA profession. The Nebraska Board is proud of its affiliation with NASBA and Mr. Costello's accomplishments. Good luck in retirement David!

Mr. Ken Bishop, current Executive Vice President of NASBA, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Costello in 2012. Mr. Bishop is a former executive director of the Missouri State Board of Public Accountancy and was a key player in the development of Mobility initiatives for State Boards and was active in development of the Computerized Based Test (CBT) for the Uniform CPA Examination.

The Board looks forward to continue working with Mr. Bishop in the future.







Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy  
P.O. Box 94725  
Lincoln, NE 68509

**Certificates/Permits/ Status Changes from -  
July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Certificates Issued .....  | 100 |
| Reciprocal Certificates Issued .....                                   | 37  |
| Initial Permits Issued .....   | 146 |
| Certificate Revocation for<br>Permit Non- Renewal per PAA 1-137: ..... | 3   |
| Inactive – Retired Status: .....                                       | 41  |
| Voluntary Surrender of Certificate: .....                              | 19  |
| Reinstatement to Active Permit: .....                                  | 18  |

**Enforcement Cases**

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| New Cases opened in 2010 .....     | 7  |
| Discipline Issued in 2010 .....    | 3  |
| Open Cases Dismissed in 2010 ..... | 13 |



**Board Intern Nicole Enstrom**, UN-L Accounting Major, reports for work. The Board has had great success utilizing honors accounting students to assist with paperwork, filing, and other assigned duties while they are exposed to State regulation of the accounting profession.

The 2010 Annual Register of licensed CPA and CPA Firms in Nebraska is available on the Boards Home page: [www.nbpa.ne.gov](http://www.nbpa.ne.gov)

**EMAIL BLASTS COMING FROM THE STATE BOARD:**

Please keep the Board up to date regarding your email addresses as email reminders and notifications have begun including this Annual Letter! Other information traditionally sent via regular mail may also in the future be sent via email to help the Board save printing and postage expense. If you do not have an email address, please notify the Board office. It is also important to keep the Board current with address and employer information by going to the Board’s website at [www.nbpa.ne.gov/](http://www.nbpa.ne.gov/) front page to notify of any changes.

**Board Members**

- Doug Skiles, CPA– Chair – McCook, NE
- Michael Wassinger, CPA – Vice Chair – Hastings, NE
- Anne Fuhrman, CPA – Secretary – Gretna, NE
- Richard Zacharia, CPA – Omaha, NE
- Tom Obrist, CPA – Lincoln, NE
- Kate King Wu, CPA – Omaha, NE
- Jim Rieker – Omaha, NE
- Bernie Gutschewski – Omaha, NE

**Staff**

- Dan Sweetwood, Executive Director
- Jo Lowe, Administrator
- Kelly Ebert, Administrative Assistant

**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)