



SPRING 2013

Chapter-a-Month Resource Publication Update

The first publication of this new resource was well-received and sparked a good question. The Board, at its April 30th meeting responded to the question raised in the first issue.

The publication was temporarily suspended pending having the question answered and in an effort to avoid sending anything to certificate holders during tax season. Please watch for the next issue to appear in early June and find the Board's response to the question on page 2.

As always, if you are aware of questions that could be addressed to benefit all practitioners, please contact Pam Ivey at Pam.ivey@wyo.gov.

This resource is intended to be of value to you. We can accomplish that goal, in part, if you take the time to share your questions.

CPE Random Audit Underway

Letters to certificate holders who have been selected for the random CPE audit were sent on May 1st. Instructions for how to respond to the audit appear on the Board's website. It is critically important that those selected for audit observe the response deadlines and provide acceptable evidence of completion of all CPE credits claimed.

The number of CPE credits reported at the time of certificate renewal must match the number of credits properly documented by certificates of completion.

The Board staff is responsible for ensuring that the holder has met the minimum CPE requirements for certificate renewal and that the number of CPE credits reported in renewal applications for the three-year period matches the documentation provided during the audit.

The process observed by the staff to select certificates for the CPE Audit ensures random selection. A random number generator computer application produces a list of numbers that are then matched up with certificate holders in the Board's database.

The total number of certificates is small which translates to some certificate holders being selected for audit last year and then again for this year. There is no provision in Board Rules to "excuse" a certificate holder whose CPE is selected for audit in successive years.

If a holder responded to the audit last year (for the period 2009-2011) the Board office has the documents submitted on file. Only documents for 2012 need to be delivered to the Board office in satisfaction of the current CPE audit requirement.

Please call Stephanie Jones at (307) 777-7551 with questions.

Board Seat Vacancy

Current Chairman Pat McGuire will be retiring from Board service on June 30th. Pat's retirement from service creates a vacancy on the Board. All Board members are appointed by Governor Mead.

The vacated seat requires one to be licensed in good standing in Wyoming. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please visit the Governor's website at <http://governor.wy.gov/Pages/default.aspx> and look under "Boards and Commissions" for the application form.

2013 Board Calendar

June 11, 2013 1:30 pm —Conference Call

July 16, 2013 10:00 am —Casper, Wyoming

August 20, 2013 1:30 pm —Conference Call

September 17, 2013 10 am —Casper, Wyoming

November 19, 2013 1:30 pm —Conference Call

December 17, 2013 1:30 pm —Conference Call

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All regular meetings are open to the public. For more information about how to access conference call meetings, please contact Pam Ivey at the Board office at (307)777-7551.

The location for all meetings in Casper, Wyoming is the conference room at the firm of Porter Muirhead Cornia & Howard. The firm located in downtown Casper at 123 West 1st Street—Suite 800.

Rulemaking Delayed

The Board annually reviews and revises its rules. The process this year has been delayed so that the Board can respond to a call by Governor Mead to all agencies to streamline rules by eliminating obsolete and redundant rules in addition to improving the rules for ease of use.

All rulemaking is subject to public comment. When rules have been adopted by the Board and approved by Governor Mead for the 45-day public comment period, there will be a mention in the Board's newsletter.

Question Asked/Question Answered

The first Chapter-a-Month publication raised a question with respect to when a firm permit is required. Feedback from certificate holders prompted the Board to consider the question. This shed light on some confusion which has been resolved.

After a legal analysis and opinion was provided to the Board by its advisory attorney from the Office of Attorney General, State of Wyoming, the Board reached a determination.

The question was:

“Do I need to register a firm if I am providing services (tax preparation) for my family members when I don’t receive any compensation?” Also, “I am asked to serve on Boards and provide services to non-profit organizations in my community. I don’t receive any compensation for my service. Do I need to register a firm if I serve my community in this capacity?”

At its meeting on April 30, 2013 the Board responded:

The key to the application of the law is whether or not a certificate holder receives compensation for services provided.

“So long as no compensation is received, any certificate holder may provide services to family members, serve on Boards and provide assistance to non-profit organizations without being required to register a firm.”

I apologize for the confusion with respect to this matter. I also appreciated that holders were willing to ask the question. This experience has provided an opportunity for Board staff, the Board’s attorneys and the Board itself to achieve clarity on this issue.

~ Pam Ivey

When am I due for the tri-annual 4-credit professional/regulatory ethics course?

Chapter 5 Section 1 (d)(iv) of Board Rules and Regulations sets forth the requirement that all active certificate holders must earn 4 credits of Board approved professional/regulatory ethics training.

Certificate holders may access their own due date for the 4-credit requirement by visiting the Board’s website at <http://cpaboard.state.wy.us>. Click on “Find a Wyoming CPA” and enter your last name. A list of all holders with that last name will appear. Find your listing and note the due date. Holders may also contact the Board office at (307) 777-7551 with questions.

All due dates are December 31st. The website provides the holder with the year the requirement must be met. Certificate holders are sent reminder letters toward the end of each year.

The Board’s website also provides a list of all Board approved courses with links.

The Board requires a 100% audit and tracking of this requirement.

Once the holder receives his/her certificate of completion for the 4-credit course issued by a Board approved provider, a copy of the certificate of completion must be sent to the Board office for tracking purposes. Copies may be scanned and emailed or mailed via the US Postal service.

Steve Laird is Board’s New Public Member



Steven R. Laird, Managing Partner of Laird Development Group, LLC, has over 30 years of experience in energy development, environmental and regulatory law and governmental affairs. His experience in the energy and environmental sectors ranges from coal, oil shale and coal bed methane development to uranium and phosphate mine management. Steve has worked to influence the drafting of energy and environmental policy at all levels of government, testifying before U.S. Congressional subcommittees, state legislatures and various regulatory agencies.

Before founding Laird Development Group, Steve worked for the Department of Defense, Exxon Minerals, and Alpha Natural Resources. A graduate of Wheatland High School, Steve went on to earn a B.S. degree in Earth Science from Chadron State College (Scholastic Honorary), a B.S. degree in Mining Engineering from South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (High Honors), and a J.D. degree in Law from the University of Wyoming. He is a member of the Wyoming State Bar Association, and a Trustee for the Wyoming Stockgrower’s Agricultural Land Trust. He has been a past member of Who’s Who of Professionals in the U.S. Steve lives in Buffalo, Wyoming, with his wife, Penny and he has two children.

In his role as the Board’s “public member”, Steve ensures representation of the public interest to facilitate the Board’s role in public protection.

Board Mission

The Board’s mission is to ensure that consumers of accounting services are protected by requiring CPAs and CPA firms to meet the highest level of professional competence.

CPA MATTERS

A PUBLICATION OF THE WYOMING BOARD OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**Need a Speaker and a Program?**

If you need a speaker and a program for your group or organization, please call Pam at (307) 777-7551. Pam has presented to a variety of different audiences about the Board's mission and activities and she would be delighted to create a presentation to meet your group's needs. Please provide a couple of weeks advance notice. Of course, there is no charge for this service and Pam's schedule is flexible.

The Board is on Facebook!

Please **"like"** the Board's page to be in on informational tidbits that will enhance your knowledge of the law related to your practice, remind you of Board meetings that are open to the public, and other information that you may find of interest.

Find the Board at www.facebook.com/WyomingBoardofCPAs.

Contact Us

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**Wyoming Board of Certified Public Accountants
Board Members**

Governor Matthew H. Mead

Patrick C. McGuire, CPA, Chairman

Dean W. McKee, CPA

T. Chris Muirhead, CPA

Raulie Weber, CPA

Steven R. Laird, Public Member

2013 Board Office Holiday Closure

As an agency of the State of Wyoming, the Board office is subject to the following holiday closure schedule for 2013:

- Thursday, July 4, 2013
- Monday, September 2, 2013
- Monday, November 11, 2013
- Thursday, November 28, 2013
- Wednesday, December 25, 2013

The Board Turned 100 Years Old in 2011 and We Missed It! Awww, We Could Have Had Cake.

Tucked in between session laws of 1911 relating to an appropriation for labor of prisoners on public highways and an act fixing the state senatorial and representative districts and determining the legislative representation thereof (re-districting—will it ever end?), is Chapter 45 (House Bill 45) that created a state board of accountancy to regulate public accountants.

At the time the Board was created, the Board had three members appointed by the Governor all of whom were required by law to be *"persons skilled in the knowledge and practice of accounting and actively engaged as professional accountants within the State of Wyoming."*

As one can expect, there have been a lot of changes in 100+ years! When the law was enacted in 1911 to create the Board anyone who met the following qualifications could become a CPA:

"Any citizen of the United States, or person who has duly declared his intention of becoming such citizen, over the age of twenty-one years, of good moral character, being a graduate of a high school or having had an equivalent education, who has had at least three years experience in the practice of accounting, and has passed a satisfactory examination as herein provided, shall be entitled to a certificate as public accountant, and shall be styled and known as a certified public accountant."

From the beginning, Wyoming law provided for reciprocal certification so long as the standards under which a certificate was granted under the authority of any state of the United States, or of the United States, or the District of Columbia, or any territory of the United States, or by or under the authority of a foreign nation, were considered to be substantially equivalent to those established by the act of 1911. In addition, the other state, the District of Columbia and any other foreign nation must have offered the same or similar privilege to Wyoming certificate holders.

According to Board records, nineteen certificate holders are listed as having been granted a certificate in 1911 when this law was enacted. The Governor at the time was Joseph M. Carey. Francis E. Warren and Clarence D. Walker were U.S. Senators and Frank W. Mondell was Wyoming's representative to Congress. A total of \$63,432.08 was appropriated to support the Eleventh Legislature of the State of Wyoming.

Someone needs to make a calendar reminder for the Board's 200th birthday. Who will be around to celebrate it with me?