

Activity Review

North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners

1101 Oberlin Rd., Ste. 104 • PO Box 12827 • Raleigh, NC 27605 • 919-733-4222 • nccpaboard.gov • No. 1-2022

Board Selects David R. Nance, CPA as New Executive Director

The Board is pleased to announce the selection of David R. Nance, CPA, as the Board's Executive Director, effective January 1, 2022.

The Executive Director is the Board's Chief Executive and Administrative Officer and is responsible for all aspects of the Board's operations.

> Nance has been with the Board since August 1, 2012, when he was hired as the Deputy Director.

> As Deputy Director, Nance's responsibilities included overseeing financial activities and

> > preparing monthly financial statements for

Board review; oversight of personnel activities; involvement with the CPA Exam and licensing processes; and technical involvement with the Board's Professional Standards section in reviewing disciplinary matters.

Nance replaces Robert N. Brooks who retired as Executive Director on December 31, 2021.

"I appreciate the mentorship that Bob has provided over the years and the introductions that he has provided to the multiple aspects of the CPA profession within the State of North Carolina and beyond," Nance stated.

Added Nance, "The North Carolina Board has always been a leader among licensing boards, and that is a direction we plan to continue."

If you have questions or concerns about the Board, please get in touch with Nance at **dnance@nccpaboard** .gov.

Q&A with David R. Nance, CPA

When did you become interested in a career as a CPA?

The seeds for an accounting career were planted in high school when I worked for my dad, James D. Nance, at his accounting firm in Laurinburg, NC. Who remembers the piano-sized IBM System/32 units and performing monthly bookkeeping work?

How long have you been a North Carolina CPA?

I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 1981 with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

I passed the "quiz" (CPA Exam) in November 1985 and was licensed as a North Carolina CPA on May 8, 1986.

Nance Q&A continued on page 4

CPA Firm Registration Renewal Deadline

January 31, 2022, is the final deadline for a CPA firm to renew its registration and provide peer review compliance information to the Board.

The firm registration renewal link is in the "How Do I" box on the homepage of the Board's website, **nccpaboard.gov**.

A CPA firm's failure to comply with 21 NCAC 08J, *Renewals and Registrations*, or 21 NCAC 08M, *Peer Review Program*, may result in disciplinary action against the CPA firm's members as specified in 21 NCAC 08J. 0111 and 08M .0106.

If you have questions about firm registration renewal or peer review compliance reporting, contact Cammie Emery at **cemery@nccpaboard.gov.**

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Disciplinary Actions

Pursuant to NCGS 93-12(9), civil penalties are remitted to the North Carolina Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund ("Fund") in accordance with NCGS 115C-457.2. NCGS 115C-457.1(b) states, "The Fund shall be administered by the Office of State Budget and Management. The Fund and all interest accruing to the Fund shall be faithfully used exclusively for maintaining free public schools."

KPMG, LLP | RALEIGH, NC

THIS CAUSE, coming before the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners ("Board") at its offices at 1101 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, with a quorum present. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §150B-41, the Board and the Respondent Firm stipulate to the following:

- KPMG LLP (hereinafter "KPMG" or "Respondent Firm") is a registered certified public accounting firm in North Carolina.
- On or about June 17, 2019, KPMG and the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") entered into an Order imposing disciplinary action against KPMG ("SEC Order").
- 3. The SEC Order was partially premised upon the following:

KPMG audit professionals – at all levels of seniority – engaged in misconduct in connection with examinations on internally-administered training courses that were intended to test whether they understood a variety of accounting principles and other topics of importance.

- 4. KPMG has identified twenty-nine (29) employees who engaged in the aforementioned conduct while licensed as CPAs in the State of North Carolina. The employees identified were the result of investigative procedures initiated by KPMG which relied upon a combination of survey responses and forensic procedures. The forensic procedures were administered on a percentage of the KPMG employee population, so it is not certain that all licensees who engaged in the aforementioned conduct have been identified.
- 5. Some of the KPMG employees who received and/or shared examination answers were KPMG partners.
- Most of the KPMG employees who received and/or shared examination answers were new CPAs or individuals who were in the process of going through the examination and licensure process to become CPAs.
- 7. KPMG reprimanded its employees for violations of its internal rules regarding internally-administered training courses. It also imposed other disciplinary

action against the employees and has implemented procedures to prevent further violations.

- 8. Notwithstanding the discipline imposed by the SEC and the internal sanctions imposed by KPMG, the KPMG employees have asserted that they were engaged in a collaborative effort in those training courses. They have asserted that often their collaboration took place in the presence of KPMG partners and instructors. Also, as set forth above, KPMG partners actually participated in that collaboration.
- 9. The KPMG employees have asserted that it was not made clear to them that they were not allowed to engage in the sharing of exam answers. The environment created by KPMG placed its employees in an ethically ambiguous and precarious situation.
- 10. The SEC Order contained additional findings and conclusions related to individuals and clients who are not located in the State of North Carolina and who are not licensees of this Board. This Board does not seek disciplinary action against KPMG for those activities and the disciplinary action taken in this Consent Order is premised solely upon the facts set forth in this Consent Order.
- 11. The Respondent Firm wishes to resolve this matter by consent and agrees that the Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board ex parte, whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written. The Respondent Firm understands and agrees that this Consent Order is subject to review and approval by the Board and is not effective until approved by the Board at a duly constituted Board Meeting.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, the Board makes the following Conclusions of Law:

 The Respondent Firm is subject to the provisions of Chapter 93 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 08 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, including the Rules of Professional Ethics and Conduct promulgated and adopted therein by the Board.

KPMG continued on page 3

KPMG continued from page 2

- 2. By virtue of the facts set forth above, the Respondent Firm, without admitting or denying, has violated Rule 21 NCAC 08N .0204.
- 3. Per N.C. Gen. Stat. §93-12(9), and also by virtue of the Respondent Firm's consent to this order, the Respondent Firm is subject to the discipline set forth below.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING and in lieu of further proceedings, the Board and the Respondent Firm agree to the following Order:

1. The Respondent Firm is censured and shall pay a twenty-nine thousand dollar (\$29,000) civil monetary penalty to be remitted with this signed Consent Order

Approved by the Board on November 22, 2021.

CHAD ALAN BARBA, #42610 | RALEIGH, NC

THIS CAUSE, coming before the North Carolina State 7. Later, in October 2018, the Respondent forwarded Board of CPA Examiners ("Board") at its offices at 1101 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, with a quorum present. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §150B-41, the Board and the Respondent stipulate to the following:

- 1. Chad Alan Barba, CPA (hereinafter "Respondent"), is the holder of North Carolina certificate number 42610 as a Certified Public Accountant.
- 2. At all times relevant to this Order, Respondent was a partner at KPMG LLP ("KPMG").
- 3. On or about June 17, 2019, KPMG and the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") entered into an Order imposing disciplinary action against KPMG ("SEC Order").
- 4. The SEC Order was partially premised upon the following:

KPMG audit professionals--at all levels of seniority--engaged in misconduct in connection with examinations on internally-administered training courses that were intended to test whether they understood a variety of accounting principles and other topics of importance.

- 5. KPMG has identified the Respondent as one of those individuals who received and sent exam answers in connection with internally-administered training requirements.
- 6. More specifically, the Respondent has confirmed that, in September 2018, while a partner at KPMG, he received an unsolicited email containing examination answers in connection with certain non-CPE eligible internal training requirements. The Respondent did not timely report his receipt of these examination answers.

- this email to another KPMG employee. In December 2018, the Respondent self-reported, to KPMG, his involvement in sharing exam answers.
- 8. The Respondent did not use the aforementioned training to satisfy his annual CPE requirement mandated by the Board.
- 9. The Respondent wishes to resolve this matter by consent and agrees that the Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board ex parte, whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written. The Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order is subject to review and approval by the Board and is not effective until approved by the Board at a duly constituted Board Meeting.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, the Board makes the following Conclusions of Law:

- 1. The Respondent is subject to the provisions of Chapter 93 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 08 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, including the Rules of Professional Ethics and Conduct promulgated and adopted therein by the Board.
- 2. By virtue of the facts set forth above, the Respondent violated 21 NCAC 08N .0203.
- 3. Per N.C. Gen. Stat. §93-12(9), and also by virtue of the Respondent's consent to this order, the Respondent is subject to the discipline set forth below.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING and in lieu of further proceedings, the Board and the Respondent agree to the following Order:

1. The Respondent, Chad Alan Barba, CPA, is hereby censured.

Approved by the Board on November 22, 2021.

CPA Certificate Reclassifications

At its December 13, 2021, meeting, the Board approved the applications for CPA certificate reinstatement submitted by the following individuals:

Jennifer Lynn Buller, #30171	Raleigh, NC
Kaitlyn Marie Byrd, #39672	Fuquay-Varina, NC
Ellen Frymier Chambers, #17636	Apex, NC
Natalie Nichols Corrigan, #18526	Charlotte, NC
Leigh McRae Cox, #27960	Goldsboro, NC
Walter Edmund Leamy, III, #21606	Vanceboro, NC
Ferdinand Raymond Stout, II, #10382	Greensboro, NC

Exam Score Release Dates

If you take your exam on or before:	Your target score release date is:
January 23, 2022	February 8, 2022
February 14, 2022	February 23, 2022
March 9, 2022	March 17, 2022
March 31, 2022	April 12, 2022
April 23, 2022	May 10, 2022
May 16, 2022	May 24, 2022
June 8, 2022	June 16, 2022
June 30, 2022	July 12, 2022
	Source: AICPA

Nance Q&A continued from page 1

Where did you work before joining the Board staff in 2012?

I started working for the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (OSA) after graduating from college. During my 30+ years with OSA, I worked on audits across the state government spectrum, including over 12 years overseeing OSA's non-profit audit efforts for the Smart Start programs. During my later years with OSA, my main responsibility was the oversight of the audit efforts for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and its numerous human services programs.

What do you like to do when you aren't working?

My wife, Susan, and I have a commingled family of five adult children. I love spending time at the beach and listening to beach music bands--basically, all good live music, especially the 70s bands. And if you're in the Cary area on the weekends, you might find me tooling around in my old car.



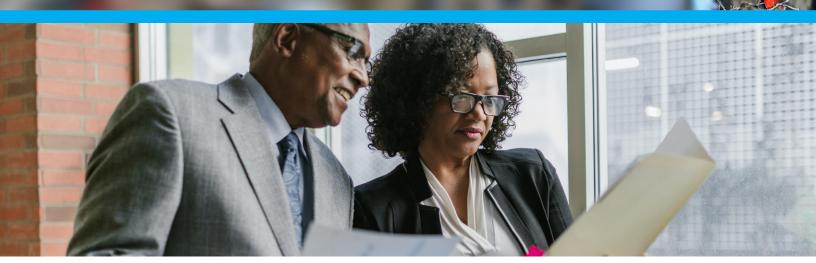
Nance with his old car, a 1960 Corvette.

CPA Exam Performance Summary: 2021 Q3 North Carolina

Overall Performance			Section Performance		
Unique Candidates	691		Sections	Score	%
New Candidates	156	First-Time	272	71.44	53
Total Sections	910	Re-Exam	637	74.86	58
Passing 4th Section	132	AUD	228	71.29	45
Sections / Candidates	1.32	BEC	169	77.09	65
Pass Rate	56.7%	FAR	269	70.64	49
Average Score	73.81	REG	244	77.39	70

Jurisdiction Ranking	Candidates	Sections	Pass Rate	Avg Score
	16	17	14	9
(out of 55)				

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CPA Firm Succession Planning: What Are Your Options?

The following article, written by Michael R. Gillis, CPA, PFS, CGMA, a member of the NCACPA's Succession Planning Resource Team, was published on the NCACPA blog on January 7, 2022. It is printed here at the request of the NCACPA.

As part of providing great service, CPAs help clients plan their exit and succession strategies. But all too often, CPAs don't look at their own shop to ensure they also properly plan for an inevitable succession event.

The NCACPA Succession Planning Task Force is working to provide resources and encouragement to CPAs in planning their own succession.

A CPA firm that properly plans for its succession is the best course of action for the firm, for the families involved, for the clients, and for our responsibility to the public.

Succession Planning Task Force members encourage you to review the succession resources, including access to a free On Demand program, at https://bit.ly/3HWHeDf.

In addition, the AICPA Private Company Practice Section (PCPS) has a Succession Resource Center detailed information on the following:

- Drivers of Change for the CPA
 Profession
- Positioning Your Firm
- Selling Your Firm
- Merging Your Firm
- Developing New Leaders
- Turning Out the Lights
- Transition Roles and Responsibilities

- What is the Value of Your Firm
- Due Diligence
- Key Elements to a Partnership
 Agreement

Succession planning is clearly needed, so what are the options to consider?

Merge Up

Merging your firm can be a good solution, but don't wait too long to plan and consider.

We often tell clients to "run your businesses like it is always for sale." This guidance certainly applies to CPA firms as well.

If you think a merger would be the best succession solution for your firm, make sure you take steps to keep the value of your firm high and to be attractive for larger firms to acquire. Examples of these steps include:

- Keep your technology up to date.
- Have adequate staff in place. With today's staffing shortages, not having adequate staff will greatly decrease the value of your firm. Leverage metrics to become an important measure of value.
- Monitor your average realization rate and keep it trending higher. Large firms will be look-

ing at firms that have clients paying higher average rates.

- Be prepared to work for the new firm a minimum of two years to transition relationships.
- Consider having a Practice Continuation Agreement in place in case of an emergency while you explore merger options.
- Culture, culture, and culture are the three most important things to consider in identifying a merger candidate.

Selling Your Firm

Much like a merger, selling can also be a good solution. Those important points to make your firm attractive for a merger also applies to a sale.

Also consider the following:

- All the things listed above in the merger option.
- Are you willing to accept contingent deferred payment terms based on client retention?
- Do you want to structure your sale to receive long-term capital gain tax treatment?

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 How do you identify the right potential buyer while protecting the confidentiality of your process?

Internal Succession

In my opinion, this is probably the most rewarding option, but this also is the option that requires the most work and most planning.

Consider the following:

- Identify the next generation of leaders of your firm early and talk to them often about the process.
- Invest in leadership development training.
- Set realistic value formulas so future owners can pay for the firm with as little risk as possible to their current income.
- Have your partnership/ownership agreements and lease agreements up to date.

- Consider a cap on the firm's annual retirement payments as a percentage or revenue or profit before owners' compensation.
- Transition client relationships early.
- Take some extended vacations while the Next Gen runs the place.
- Plan your personal life post career. This may be the most important part of the whole process.

Do Nothing. Turn Out the Lights

While this is an option, consider the few advantages and the many disadvantages:

- You stay in control until the end.
- What do you do in an emergency situation to protect your clients?

- How much value does your firm lose if you are unable to serve client even for a month or so? Who is your back up?
- Do you continue to invest in up-to-date technology?
- Please have a practice continuation agreement in place.

As the saying goes, nothing is more certain than death and taxes. A succession event for your firm is also as certain; please plan for it.

CPA Certificates Issued

On December 13, 2021, the Board approved the following individuals for licensure as North Carolina CPAs:

David Brian Ackerson Kate Rachel Adams Judith Christine Aiello Robert Mason Barrett, Jr. Vijaykumar Vallabhbhai Bhanderi Jeffery Brock Braddy Riley Koblegard Buchanan Ann Campbell Jie Chen Xinyue Chen **Daveion Travon Collins** Carlton Crowder Crenshaw, III Kevin Quang Anh Dao Mary Grace Elizabeth Doggett David Michael Edwards Timothy Patrick Egan Molly Katherine Foster Heather Rose Fullagar Dilip Govindaraju Katherine Rose Harbin

Nathan James Hayes Cameron Craig Hendrickson Alan Michael Henson Gerald Kenneth Holstein Li Huang Mackenzie Mastrangelo Huber Marcus Spencer Hulbert Donna Reid Johnson Ashley Taylor Kile Ankush Kumar Halev Nicole Lambert **Richard Alexander Laurie** Brittany Stanley Lee William David Lewis Craig David Little Michael Lawrence Lyons Kelley Matieriene Justin Edward Mundy Christian Bryce North Paige Beverly Russell Pace

Sarah Anne Parker Jacqueline Reed Petrone Grecia Picon **Travis Robert Powley** Anna Pendergrass Rankin Kathryn Ann Sabol Huihong Shen Emily Elizabeth Shrader Taylor Marie Stewart Jonathan Edwards Duncan Stover Michael Eric Swanson Michelle Elizabeth Talarczyk Vira Turchinyak Carey Andrew Van Ryan Mitchell Vaughan Bailey Jo Walsh Preston Christopher Walsh Alexander David Wetzel John William Wood, IV

CPA Certificate Reclassifications: Inactive Status

Between December 1, 2021, and January 5, 2022, the Board approved the individuals listed below for inactive status. 21 NCAC 08A .0301(b)(20) states: "Inactive," when used to refer to the status of a person, describes a person who has requested inactive status and been approved by the Board and who does not use the title "certified public accountant" nor does he or she allow anyone to refer to him or her as a "certified public accountant," and neither he nor she nor anyone else refers to him or her in any representation as described in Rule .0308(b) of this Section."

Mark Lawrence Foster, #32302 Sidney Clay Whiteheart, #1316 Michael Coleman Abernathy, #11941 Abra S. Cullen, #32449 Naoum Peter Tsaousis, #41822 Larissa Redden Broom, #33765 John Blount Farley, #15941 Susan Schappert Harper, #19045 George Ryan Place, #27160 Brenda Shell Yates, #16330 Mark Stephen Dennis, #26883 Emilee Somers Gazda, #40248 Susan Bishop McCracken, #16703 Stephen Harrold Schiller, #43552 Amy Elizabeth Shanes, #28015 Jeanne McCauley Betts, #21118 Teresa Ann Boissiere, #22270 Debra G. Clark, #16787 Jessica Diaz, #41249 Carolyn Grace Hobson, #34821 Stephanie Paige Lyons, #28862 Jennifer Moths-Fishkin, #37788 Claristeen Redfern, #12128 Bailey Kristen Straughn, #38519 Raymond Scott Bowen, Jr., #9281 Carmi Stevenson Brawley, #19819 Ralph Lindsay Leonard, #14449 Danny L. Metcalf, #18623 Steven Edward Burdett, #14794 Robert Curtis Adams. #32241 Peter Anthony Chepul, #19309 Teresa Bullard East, #18706 Daniel David Hattendorf, #24649 Robert McKenzie, #15871 James Maxwell Van Dorn, #38062 Jo Anna Knotts-Reynolds, #15887 Terrell Hadley Lamb, #14505 Janice Carol Opalinski, #20420 Jason Thomas Sandner, #31933 Anthony Joseph Forman, #14499 Kenneth Walter Hillman, Jr., #30179 Lawrence Walter Marley, #14320 Rhonda E. McNutt, #24922 David Reinken, #14016 Paul Larry Baker, #11655 Justin Grey Carroll, #28988 Douglas Wayne Johnson, #42359 William Sidney Lewis, III, #4177 Erica G. Gonzalez DeShong, #33731 Daniel James Keef, #40691 Richard Lee Rodgers, #37598 Susan Dare Veazey, #25939 Lon David Walters, #24504 John W. Galloway, #24648 David Philip Jones, #14953

Raleigh, NC Clemmons, NC Apex, NC Apex, NC Holly Springs, NC Mills River. NC Greenville, NC Cary, NC Nashville, NC Julian, NC Charlotte, NC Greensboro, NC Franklin, NC Blowing Rock, NC Albemarle, NC Raleigh, NC Hickory, NC Chandler, AZ Clayton, NC Nashville, TN Marvin, NC Wilmington, NC Raleigh, NC Charlotte, NC Winston-Salem, NC Fox Point, WI Winston-Salem, NC Fletcher, NC Raleigh, NC Matthews, NC Charlotte, NC Thomasville, NC Concord, NC Charlotte, NC Greensboro, NC Charlotte, NC Raleigh, NC Greensboro, NC Raleigh, NC Greensboro, NC Morehead City, NC Asheboro, NC Concord, NC Lake Wylie, SC Greenville, SC Raleigh, NC Mooresville, NC Matthews, NC Durham, NC Seattle, WA Atlanta, GA Cary, NC Statesville, NC Charlotte, NC Grants Pass, OR

Daniel H. Moore, #34467 Arthur Brickman, #30826 Edward Franklin Darnell, #20383 Margaret Olive McFarland, #26128 Olusola Abisuga Akintoye, #34372 Giles Kevin Almond, #14068 Joanne Durham Baker, #12598 Gary Michael Bost, #28510 Nancy Powell Bourne, #21558 Bonnie J. Bowers, #29039 Bonnie Jean Brown, #33121 Clayton McNeill Burns, #31371 Tammie Bland Cartledge, #26097 Chasity Lynn Chace, #30845 Michael Edward Collins, #17394 Matthew William Deas, #43840 Carol Kelsey Fornes, #13712 Brenda Jones Fox, #3122 Daniel Robert Gardner, #34509 Theresa Roberts Gebhardt, #16027 Julie Larson Hall, #31254 Hugo H. Hanson, II, #32222 Lee Ellis Haynes, #31416 Barbara Gail Hein, #18413 Frank Edward Huber, II, #18911 Lisa Renee Isenhour, #32036 Jeffrey Alan Landon, #21077 Bryan P. McGrath, #24624 Ronald Edward Miller, #7747 Joshua Addison Moore, #35887 Rebecca Swanson Moose, #13859 Shoolin H. Patel, #33533 Janette Irma Perez, #24089 Mack Daniel Pridgen, III, #10722 Craig Daniel Reisinger, #34439 Joanne Wantz Rockness, #21351 Mary Ann Rouse, #14612 Richard Anthony Sinnes, #25662 Julia Ann Smith, #12446 Sheryl Lynn Smith, #28322 Jeffrey Myers Stone, #15611 Elizabeth Parke Swann, #12826 Frank van Orsouw, #18486 Linda Howard Walker, #19271 Justin Timothy Walter, #32485 Michael Dane Ward, Jr., #30412 Timothy Craig Wicker, #22895 Dale Edward Williams, III, #35999 Gregory Mastin Williams, #23483 David Reid Byers, #17871 Mariah Taylor Holck, #40061 Brian Craig Hunter, #15750 Milan Khadka, #43833 Steven Michael Sherck, #33759 Cynthia McDaniel Smith, #21233

Wake Forest, NC Raleigh, NC Inman, SC Sarasota, FL Cumming, GA Monroe, NC Cape Carteret, NC Mint Hill, NC Wake Forest, NC Raleigh, NC Lees Summit, MO Matthews, NC Charlotte, NC Wilmington, NC Charlotte, NC Charlotte, NC Greenville, NC Greensboro, NC Waxhaw, NC Charlotte, NC Kernersville, NC Barnardsville, NC Greenville, SC Hendersonville, NC Waxhaw, NC Conover, NC Matthews, NC Charlotte, NC Lewisville, NC Fuguay-Varina, NC Leland, NC Raleigh, NC Raleigh, NC Raleigh, NC Charlotte, NC Wilmington, NC Charlotte, NC Charlotte, NC Charlotte, NC Durham, NC Raleigh, NC High Point, NC Durham, NC Raleigh, NC Lexington, NC Louisville, KY Raleigh, NC Grand Cayman Zion Crossroads, VA Atlanta, GA Monterey, CA Fairview, NC Raleigh, NC Charlotte, NC Dallas, NC



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Dates to Remember

Feb. 21	Board Meeting - Raleigh
March 16	Board Meeting - Raleigh
April 15	Office Closed - Good Friday
April 21	Board Meeting - Raleigh
May 16	CPA Certificate Renewal Begins
May 23	Board Meeting - Raleigh
May 30	Office Closed - Memorial Day
June 20	Office Closed - Juneteenth National Independence Day
June 23	Board Meeting
June 30	CPA Certificate Renewal Deadline
July 4	Office Closed - Independence Day
July 25	Board Meeting - Raleigh
July 31	Final Deadline - CPA Certificate Renewal

(Dates and locations subject to change.)

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