

**Connecticut State Board of Accountancy
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026**

Chairman Egan called the meeting to order at 10:00 am via Microsoft Teams.

Board Members Present:

Timothy F. Egan, Chairman, Certified Public Accountant
Bud McDonald, Certified Public Accountant
Stacy R. Farber, Certified Public Accountant
Sohair Omar, Public Member
Robert L. Day III, Esq., Public Member
Peter J. Niedermeyer, Certified Public Accountant
Karla H. Fox, Esq., Public Member

Board Members Not Present:

Dannell R. Lyne, Certified Public Accountant
John H. Schuyler, Public Member

Board Vacancies: None

DCP Staff Present:

Cat Arsenault, Staff Attorney
Rachelle Hyburg, Board Coordinator
Tymina Follins, Accounts Examiner
Tiffany Colon, Investigations Accounts Examiner

Public Present:

Shania Martin

Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions, and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection.

Website: www.ct.gov/dcp Board Administration: dcp.boards.commissionsandhearings@ct.gov

Enforcement issues: dcp.accounting@ct.gov

Approval of minutes from previous meetings:

- November 04, 2025, Meeting Minutes
 - Board Member Niedermeyer moved to approve the minutes with the corrections discussed. Board Member Day seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS REGARDING THE MEETING AGENDA

- Bonnie Stewart of CTCPA provided an update to the Board regarding the changes in the Board of Education the impact it will have on accounting students. BOE has put out proposed changes that restrict who is considered professional and would impact student loan eligibility. Bonnie noted that there will be an update at next Wednesday's town hall meeting from Mark Peterson – head of AICPA's governmental relations.
- DCP's Cat Arsenault approached the Board to add an update to the agenda on the 2026 Renewal Cycle.
 - Board Member Day moved to accept the agenda addition. Board Member Niedermeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LEGAL DIVISION

- Regulations Updates
 - No new information to report. The proposed regulations are still under review.
- 2026 Renewal Cycle
 - Cat Arsenault provided an update on the 2026 renewal cycle for CPA Registrations, Licenses and Firm Permits

OLD BUSINESS

- Alternative Practice Structures (APS)
 - Chairman Egan noted that adapting peer review processes to address independence complexities around PE investments was a question raised.
 - Bonnie Stewart shared that, in Connecticut, no firms in the peer review program are involved in private equity. This differs from other states.
 - Connecticut firms in the program are generally smaller or mid-sized.
 - Action/Follow-up: Chairman Egan invited members to reach out if they believe the board should provide commentary on any related questions.

NEW BUSINESS

A. SBOA Newsletter

- a. The Board would like to begin a newsletter to send out to licensees, Chairman Egan and Board Member Omar provided an update on the development of the newsletter.
- b. Board Member Omar raised the following items for discussion:
 - i. What is the best way to collect the photos and brief bios of board members?
 - Members will send their bios to Board Member Omar and Chairman Egan directly.
 - ii. What is the best way to share the draft content with the board for review and comment before it is issued?
 - Updates will be sent to board members individually and they can provide comment to the communications committee.
 - iii. Will NASBA or DCP send the newsletter to the CPA firms and other stakeholders?
 - It was noted that NASBA would require a list of emails from DCP to send the newsletter on the Boards behalf.
 - iv. Establish a communications committee
 - v. Determine frequency of the newsletter

B. Summary of CTCPA Town Hall Meeting

- a. Chairman Egan noted that CTCPA hosts a monthly town hall meeting and he, John Johnson and DCP's Tiffany Colon attended the November meeting and provided information regarding changes to CPA licensure and mobility, statutes within Connecticut and common questions, mistakes/errors with licensure.

C. Settlement Agreements:

- a. Peter Albrecht, #2025-22
 - i. Summary of Allegations:
 - The Respondent, a CPA licensed since 1989 and operating a firm in Branford, was hired in March 2024 to prepare and file 2023 federal and state tax returns for clients David and Christine Laccarino.
 - Errors in original tax returns included:
 - a. Claiming Incorrect deduction.
 - b. Filing an inappropriate tax schedule.
 - c. Inputting incorrect tax withholding amounts.
 - After receiving an additional tax document, clients paid for an amended return, which also contained errors and omitted the new tax information.
 - IRS deducted a significantly larger amount than shown on hard copies; the respondent failed to review or correct filings and did not contact IRS.
 - Respondent later claimed a software malfunction and eventually stopped responding to clients.
 - Failed to return original tax documents despite repeated requests.
 - Clients incurred IRS and DRS late fees, unexpected withdrawals, costs for hiring another CPA, and significant time-resolving issues.

- ii. Alleged violations:
 - Statute 20-281a: (Rules of Professional Conduct)
 - Regulation 20-280-15c: (Professional competence, due professional care, professional conduct standards, incompetence and gross negligence).
 - Statute 20-281k: (Failure to return client records)
- iii. Settlement Agreement Terms:
 - Reprimand of respondent.
 - Restitution: \$900 to complainants.
 - Additional CPE: 6 credits total
 - a. 3 credits in Ethics.
 - b. 3 credits in Tax.
 - Civil Penalty: \$2,500 payable to the DCP Enforcement Fund Account #35125.

b. Board Member Omar moved to approve the settlement agreement presented. Board Member Day seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Exam Credit Extension Requests:

a. Nishita Chheda

- i. Board Member Farber moved to table until further information is provided explaining the extenuating circumstances. Board Member Omar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Shania Martin

- i. Board Member Farber moved to approve. Board Member Omar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. CPE Extension/Waiver Requests:

a. Cerrato – CPAL.5758

- i. Board Member McDonald moved to approve. Board Member Fox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Nowell – CPAL.5944

- i. Board Member Farber moved to deny. Board Member Day seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Patel – CPAL.19638

- i. Board Member Niedermeyer moved to deny the request. Board Member Farber seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Arnone – CPAL.3016

- i. Board Member Farber moved to approve. Board Member Omar seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Board noted that the licensee may benefit from applying for retirement status.

- e. Chiodi – CPAL.19572
 - i. Board Member Farber moved to approve an extension through March 31, 2026, to obtain the remaining 11 hours of CPE. Board Member Day seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- f. Cunha – CPAL.17537
 - i. Board Member Farber moved to deny the waiver request. Board Member Niedermeyer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- g. Gannon – CPAL.3743
 - i. Board Member Farber moved to approve. Board Member Omar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY

- Board Member Niedermeyer noted that Board Member Omar’s signature is not listed on the license renewal
- Board Member Omar provided an update on the NASBA Education Committee
 - The Committee met on December 15th and discussed the following:
 - Recommendations to the UAA regarding definitions of accounting and business concentration.
 - The rationale for 24 credit hours of accounting and 90 credit hour degree
 - The rationale for 40 hours of CPE
 - She noted that the Committee will meet again this month and will provide further updates to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Fox moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Omar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.

Respectfully submitted,
 Rachelle Hyburg
 Board Coordinator

2026 Scheduled Board Meetings

March 03
 May 05
 July 14
 September 01
 November 03