Dear Mayor Bowser:

As Chair of the District of Columbia Board of Accountancy (Board), I am pleased to provide you with an overview of the Board’s achievements and challenges during fiscal year (FY) 2018. The Board regulates the licensing of Certified Public Accountants (CPA) and protects consumers by upholding District accountancy laws and municipal regulations. The Board has regulatory authority over 2,685 combined and licensed CPAs and accounting firms. During FY 2018, the Board successfully achieved several major objectives and goals. The Board addressed local licensing regulations and provided valuable comments to the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) on topics such as: a technology pathway to the CPA; the impact of the AICPA’s reorganization on operations of State Boards of Accountancy; enhancements in accounting education; challenging legal cases; technology issues; Uniform CPA Examination advances; international agreements; and controversial ethical standards.

In an effort to reach more educators and students, the Board advanced its outreach efforts to colleges and universities throughout the District. Through the Board’s focus on accounting students in the District, the Board seeks to increase candidates’ knowledge of the CPA exam and educate the public about Board services, resources and support. On April 26, 2018, the Board staff was invited to speak at the George Washington University (GWU) Master of Accountancy Speaker Series. The presentation consisted of the Board of Accountancy’s role and purpose, its composition, public meetings, and the application and licensure, processes, and enforcement on protecting the welfare of the public in Washington, DC. The presentation also included licensing, education and experience requirements, and examination eligibility. The Board invited representatives from NASBA and AICPA to participate in the event.

Board members have attended events at George Washington University, American University, and the Greater Washington Society of CPAs. The Board distributed materials detailing services and answered questions from students regarding the education and experience requirements for licensure, and described the continuing education requirements for maintaining licensure. In addition, the Board had a unique opportunity to hold its monthly meeting at an offsite location – Howard University. Invited speakers included Daniel J. Dustin, CPA, Vice President, State Board Relations, NASBA, and Alfonzo Alexander, Chief Relationship Officer of NASBA and President of NASBA’s Center for the Public Trust (CPT). As part of its outreach efforts, the Board plans to hold at least one Board meeting each year on a District of Columbia college or university campus.

Current Board members had the honor of attending NASBA’s Eastern Regional Meeting, held in Orlando, Florida, from June 5 to June 7, 2018. The Board members also attended the 111th Annual Meeting of NASBA held in Scottsdale, Arizona from October 29 to October 31, 2018. Held each year and open to all members of the 55 U.S. Boards of Accountancy, NASBA’s Regional and Annual Meetings provide a forum for Boards of Accountancy members and staff to discuss issues and new regulatory developments facing the accounting profession. Last year’s topics included the rapidly changing use and reliance on technology in accounting and auditing, such as Blockchain and Bitcoin. All members found the topics informative and the Board looks forward to discussing these developments at future meetings.

We are proud of the Board’s involvement in the accounting industry. We will continue to serve the residents of the District of Columbia, and look forward to accomplishing our objectives and goals. Much of our success is due to the efforts and support of the Occupational and Professional Licensing staff. They always provide significant support to ensure that we are well prepared and informed on major issues and important legislation.

We look forward to our continued work with you and the DC City Council.

Robert Todero, Chair
DC Board of Accountancy
The mission of the Board of Accountancy is to protect the health, safety, economic interests, and quality of life of residents, businesses, and visitors in the District of Columbia by issuing licenses, enforcing regulatory codes, and providing licensee education.

OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Addressed methods to attract international applicants.
- Created a Center for Public Trust Committee, which collaborates with NASBA’s CPT team to focus on the industry, ethics and public trust outreach initiatives.
- Released, in collaboration with NASBA, its Spring/Summer e-newsletter on March 19, 2018.
- Collaborated with Becker Professional Education to participate in a CPA webinar with officials from Maryland and Virginia on District licensure requirements on March 29, 2018. Students joined from local colleges and universities, including Howard University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, American University, Catholic University, and the University of the District of Columbia.
- Participated in an outreach event hosted by George Washington University School of Business’ Master of Accountancy program on April 26, 2018. The event educated students about becoming a CPA, including educational requirements, examination, work experience, and other licensing prerequisites. The presentation was well received by the students. The event was attended by representatives and alumni from other local CPA legislative bodies and provided a wonderful learning opportunity for the Board and students alike.
- Held its monthly scheduled October meeting at Howard University as part of its outreach initiatives. Invited speakers included: Daniel J. Dustin, CPA, Vice President, State Board Relations, National Association of State Boards of Accountancy and Alfonzo Alexander Chief Relationship Officer of NASBA and President of NASBA’s CPT.
- Dr. Joseph Drew, Consumer Member, was reappointed to NASBA’s Legislative Support Committee.
- CPA examination applications and reciprocity applications were reviewed and administratively approved. Reinstatement and reciprocity applications or those with technical issues were reviewed at the monthly Board meetings. Timely responses improved significantly.
- Complaints regarding non-licensed individuals or firms were referred to the agency’s regulatory investigations division.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

- The Board met regularly with the Board Legal Counsel to discuss proposed amendments to its governing statutes. Certain provisions in the statutes were identified, both by internal and external stakeholders, requiring update or revision.
- The Board’s legal counsel is currently drafting changes to the Municipal Regulations Chapter 25.

OFFICIAL ACTIONS

- Updated and replaced existing exam and licensing database system to provide a more comprehensive and user-friendly experience. The Board was able to monitor current events in the profession to determine regulatory amendments to maintain the relevance of the regulatory environment in contemporary practice. The Board issued CPA licenses throughout the year by an assessing applicant’s education to qualify for the profession’s licensing examination, verify the successful completion of the Uniform CPA Examination and assess an applicant’s supervised experience for licensure. The Board discussed the various functions of the DC Board of Accountancy including the enforcement process and monitoring the continuing professional education requirements and compliance.
- Improved communications efforts through the website and newsletters to effectively communicate important and timely information to CPA exam candidates, license candidates, licensees, and the public.
- Advanced outreach efforts to colleges and universities throughout the District to increase exam candidates’ knowledge of the CPA services and supports to candidates.
FY ‘19 VISION

- Increase the number of foreign and domestic CPA applicants seeking to take the four-part CPA examination allowing candidates to obtain a DC CPA license.
- Implement a system integration to include CPE tracking/monitoring and auditing.
- Modify the CPA Certificate of Experience Form.
- Review new rules proposed by NASBA and the AICPA for impact on DC CPAs.
- Revise the DC Accountancy Municipal Regulations.
- Represent DC CPA concerns at regional, annual, and special meetings and support NASBA national committees.
- Promote attendance by staff and new Board members at regional, special and annual meetings to provide understanding of current regulatory issues being dealt with at a national level and a state level.
- Conduct further educational outreach and diversity by holding several board meetings at District of Columbia colleges or university campuses.
- Work with industry organizations to remain abreast of regulatory and legislative issues, education opportunities and resources, and national regulatory changes.

MEETING DATES

October 6, 2017
November 3, 2017 – No Meeting
December 6, 2017
January 5, 2018
February 2, 2018
March 1, 2018
April – Recess
May 11, 2018
June 1, 2018
July – No Meeting
August 17, 2018
September 7, 2018

Website: https://www.dcopla.org/accountancy

BOARD MEMBERS

Robert Todero, CPA, Chair
Angela Avant, CPA
Kayla Futch, CPA
Joseph Drew, Consumer Member

BOARD STAFF

Leon Lewis, Executive Director
Grace Yeboah Ofori, Board Administrator
Kia Winston, Legal Advisor