

## Task Force Meets With Agencies

Since January, members of NASBA's new Government Agency Referral Task Force, chaired by Ellis Dunkum (VA) and supported by Gerald Burns (OR), Dwight Hadley (NY), Laurie Tish (WA) and staff liaison Linda Biek, have met with representatives of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Department of Education (DOE) to promote the activities of state boards and provide education regarding their efforts to protect the public. Additional meetings with four other Federal agencies have been planned for May 2008.

The Task Force was formed to identify methodologies by which state boards can be

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## Atkinson Selected as Vice Chair Nominee

Billy M. Atkinson, CPA, NASBA Director-at-Large, was selected on March 31 by the NASBA Nominating Committee as their candidate for NASBA Vice Chair 2008-09. He currently serves as Secretary to the NASBA Board of Directors and Chair of the Education Committee. Mr. Atkinson is an audit and risk management partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, and a past presiding officer of the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy. If elected Vice Chair by the state boards' voting representatives at NASBA's 2008 Annual Meeting in October, he will automatically accede to NASBA Chair 2009-2010.



Atkinson

Having started with Lybrand, Ross Bros. and Montgomery in Dallas in 1972 (later to become Coopers & Lybrand, LLP, then PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP), Mr. Atkinson's career as an auditor has spanned many areas, including mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buy-outs, SEC filings and foreign ownership. His clients have ranged from closely held entities to multi-national public companies, in some cases involving work with International Financial Reporting Standards. He served for eight years as team leader of his firm's quality control review program and has held various

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 Editor-in-Chief: Louise Dratler Haberman  
 Editor: David A. Costello  
 Production Editor: Anthony E. Cox

Tel/615.880.4200  
 Fax/615.880.4290  
 www.nasba.org

## 26th ED Conference Revisits Texas

Accountancy board executive directors from 35 jurisdictions were present at the 26th NASBA Annual Conference for Executive Directors and State Board Staff, March 2-5 in Austin, TX, the city in which the first such conference was held. The executive directors exchanged advice on dealing with common board issues. Mobility legislation was the most frequently mentioned current activity of the boards, as many executive directors reported on the progress of such laws and their implementation through rules.

Executive Directors Committee Chair Viki Windfeldt (NV) moderated the "Roll Call of States" that required each executive to briefly summarize latest developments in his or her state. Among the issues mentioned besides mobility were: Arkansas has been conducting continuing professional education audits and imposing fines on those licensees who have not met their requirements. California is working to eliminate its multiple pathways to licensure by 2012. Guam has regained its special fund status and now has its own budget. Illinois has reinstated provisional approval to take the Uniform CPA Examination while still completing the education requirement. Indiana is reviewing its continuing professional education rules, which currently limit self-study courses to 50 percent of the total submitted to complete the requirement.

Maryland has been designated a specially funded board and is re-engineering its processes to be completely on-line. Missouri has added a provision to its rules that non-CPA owners of firms must be of good character. Nebraska will launch an on-line license renewal this spring. Nevada is scanning all of its documents to become a paperless office, but they are not throwing away their files yet. New York introduced

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## Cotterell and Costello Seek Execs' Support

NASBA Chair Samuel Cotterell listened to the executive directors' "Roll Call of States" at the March Executive Directors Conference, and subsequently remarked, "I thought I was among friends, but now I feel I am with enemies: All the boards say they are getting rid of paper – and I don't like that." Mr. Cotterell smiled when he told the executive directors: "As vice president and controller of Boise, Inc., a paper company, I say, please print out all your e-mails and other documents – and save them."



Cotterell

He told the executive directors about the special examination conference for state boards that NASBA is holding on May 19, 2008. He underscored that for boards without sufficient funding, NASBA will provide reimbursement of the costs of an executive director and one board member to attend from each jurisdiction.

"We want to focus on where we are going," Chair Cotterell stated, as discussion continues on how to deliver the CPA examination in sites more convenient for international candidates and US candidates living abroad. He emphasized that the examination's security is of vital importance.

The current AICPA/NASBA/Prometric computer-based testing agreement ends in 2014. Chair Cotterell observed, "We need to prepare for 2014 – which is not very far away considering the gestation period for an examination. It is very important to think about the control and cost of the examination, both domestically and internationally, and to develop appropriate contract provisions for 2014."

While states are moving to adopt legislation to improve

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## Atkinson Selected as Vice Chair Nominee

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positions of practice leadership. Mr. Atkinson served 2003-2006 on the AICPA's Governing Council and was presented with the Texas Society of CPAs' highest award for "Meritorious Service to the CPA Profession" in 2005. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University.

The Nominating Committee must still complete the selection of its slate of candidates; accordingly, NASBA Nominating Committee Chair Wesley P. Johnson requests all state boards submit their recommendations for NASBA Regional Directors and Directors-at-Large no later than Tuesday, May 27, 2008. Recommendations should be mailed to Mr. Johnson at NASBA, 150 Fourth Avenue North – Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37219-2417, faxed to (615)880-4291 or submitted electronically to [aholt@nasba.org](mailto:aholt@nasba.org). Recommendations should be accompanied with the individual's biographical information.

Boards in the Pacific, Central, Southeast and Middle Atlantic Regions are all requested to submit their nominations for Nominating Committee Members. These should also be submitted to Mr. Johnson or to [aholt@nasba.org](mailto:aholt@nasba.org) by May 27. ♦

licensee mobility and ensure the boards' jurisdiction over all practicing in their states, as described in Uniform Accountancy Act Section 23, Chair Cotterell said states also have to do more to increase participation in the Accountancy Licensing Database. "This has to be moved up in our priority list," he stated.

President Costello noted that the Treasury Department's Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession (ACAP) had recognized the need for a national database to see the status of licensees. They noticed that NASBA has been talking about the creation of such a database since 1974 and ACAP questioned why it has taken so long to be accomplished. He told the executive directors, "Let's work together and get it done."

The preliminary report from ACAP (see story on page 5) did not contain any strong criticism of the state boards, President Costello observed. However, it did advise that a regulatory summit with the PCAOB, SEC and state boards be held. While this idea is not new, the fact that the suggestion was being made via ACAP was, he noted. Mr. Cotterell added that a conference with international regulators will be held following NASBA's 2008 Annual Meeting.

"I appreciate this group," Chair Cotterell told the executive directors. "I have worked with executive directors and I realize you are the front line that is key to making things work in your individual states, and we appreciate all you are doing for us." ♦

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## Task Force Meets With Agencies

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more effective in working with Federal and State regulators that refer substandard work. In carrying out their charge, the Task Force members have used a two-pronged approach: besides establishing and nurturing relationships with government agencies, they have proposed a governmental agency referral process, and solicited the boards' comments on the proposal.

As drafted, the process would begin with the federal agency's notification to the state board informing them that a CPA or firm had performed substandard work. NASBA would receive a copy of the transmittal that would be entered into a system to allow NASBA to periodically update the agency on the status of the referral, with the state board notifying the agency of its final disposition.

Task Force Chair Dunkum observed that the comments received from the boards evidenced their support for a proactive approach to avoiding criticisms of state boards, but indicated that some are prohibited from revealing even the pendency of a complaint. The Task Force has considered these comments and will be proposing an alternative approach in the near future. He said the Task Force appreciated the input of the many states that participated in the survey and requests their continuing participation as the proposal is revised. ♦

## Execs Pose Mobility Questions

Probing questions about NASBA's efforts to enact mobility legislation were presented by Executive Directors Committee Chair Viki Windfeldt and Vice Chair Daniel Sweetwood to NASBA Vice President Ken Bishop, Legal Counsel Noel Allen and Ohio Board Assistant Director Robert Joseph at the Executive Directors Conference.

Asked about the purpose for the change in Section 23, Mr. Bishop responded: "This is an act that allows the consumers of accounting services to continue to use the CPAs they know and trust for engagements outside of their state, while retaining the protection from the appropriate state board of accountancy."

Mr. Allen said, "My major focus is the 'no escape' part of this revision. It gives the board the ability to enforce in a transborder age. CPAs are going to be subject to a state's administrative discipline if they come into the state in any way." He observed that there are audits being done electronically, and this revised legislation "provides a package of solutions that impact your ability to serve your citizens."

The panelists were asked how boards would replace the revenue lost should reciprocal licenses no longer be required. Mr. Joseph responded that whatever income Ohio had lost since 1961, when it first did away with the need for reciprocal licensing in the state, has long since been replaced, but he understood this was a big issue for some states. Mr. Bishop reported that Missouri, which has recently implemented mobility, found that at the end of the first year they experienced an increase in licensing revenue with no loss of reciprocal licensee renewals. He anticipated there would be a gradual falling off of new reciprocal licenses as mobility becomes more prevalent. The Washington, DC, Board estimates that 80 percent of the licenses it issues are reciprocals. DC Executive Director Clifford Cooks said, "We are very sure that, if we lose that 80 percent, we would not survive." Mr. Bishop responded that DC probably represents the worst case scenario in



Progress of Mobility Legislation

the country and the NASBA Mobility Task Force will have to help come up with answers for them.

Would CPAs go to the easiest or cheapest state to apply for their only required license? Mr. Allen said the license needs to be held where the CPA has his principal place of business, someplace where he has a physical presence. Mr. Bishop doubted whether someone would be likely to work in a state just because its licensing fee is the lowest.

"Without reciprocal licenses, how will the boards find CPAs?" the panel was asked. Mr. Bishop said that since enforcement is complaint-based, the clients will have at least a billing address that can be used to get to the CPA.

Mr. Allen pointed out that UAA Model Rule 7-6 requires a firm offering or rendering professional services via a Web site to provide contact information on its Web site's homepage. "The real key," Mr. Allen observed, "is having a meaningful Accountancy Licensing Database." ♦

## Execs Exchange Info at Roundtables

Table topics covering international recognition, technology, legislative issues and background checks gave executive directors at the 2008 meeting a chance to learn from each others' experiences.

William Treacy (TX), chair of the NASBA/AICPA International Qualifications Appraisal Board (IQAB), updated the executive directors on how IQAB conducts its evaluations of non-US accounting organizations and goes about developing mutual recognition agreements. He explained that the appraisals done by IQAB can free the state boards from conducting their own analysis of non-US credentials and he reported that IQAB intends to improve its communication with the boards.

Robert Joseph (OH), reported that during the technology roundtable discussions, the executive directors covered paperless filings and business process engineering, as well as using the board's Web site, keeping it current, editing pages and maintaining

backup in the most efficient way.

When doing background checks, criminal histories can't be relied on absolutely, Dan Sweetwood (NE) reported his table concluded. Looking for underlying documents like criminal complaints was recommended, since many cases are plea bargained and would not show up as a criminal history. They suggested a "Pacer" system, which is relatively inexpensive, be used to give the executives access to all Federal dispositions and underlying documents.

Valerie Elliott (AZ) reported those at the legislative issues table all recognized the importance of working with state societies to get legislation passed. While some state boards can have lobbyists, others cannot, but many board executives are called on to give expert advice to legislators. Ms. Elliott said, "I tell legislators that I am a technocrat—that I am there to educate them." ♦

## Ongoing Communication on Exam

The executive directors heard at their conference from several groups that are anxious to have the states' input on the Uniform CPA Examination. Dan Dustin, the New York Board's Executive Secretary and chair of the CBT Administrative Committee, reported that because of content coding inaccuracies, revised diagnostic reports were sent to 36,275 examination candidates in February 2008. A biometric fingerprint capturing system has been added to the security measures at the Prometric examination sites, and has had a 97 percent initial implementation success rate, Mr. Dustin reported. He noted that the NASBA CPA Licensing Examination Committee had sent a memo to the Board of Examiners (BOE) recommending that: (1) a candidate's opportunity to request a rescore should be available for a period of six months that are close to the candidate's testing date; (2) any impact analysis provided to the BOE should also be copied to NASBA.

Michael Henderson, the Louisiana Board's Executive Director and a member of the BOE's State Board Committee, said that he

has been associated with the Uniform CPA Examination for approximately 10 years and during that time he has seen the state boards and NASBA increase their impact on the examination. The State Board Committee held its first meeting in January 2007, and since that time has given the BOE advice on format, content and distribution of the BOE's invitation to comment, and will review and analyze the state boards' responses to that invitation. The committee will focus on emerging issues that may lead to new requirements or policy changes. Mr. Henderson said the committee intends to give periodic reports to the boards.

Suzanne Jolicoeur, formerly the Michigan Board's Licensing Administrator and now a member of the AICPA's State Regulation and Legislation Team, reported the BOE had received responses to its invitation to comment from more than 20 states. She noted that currently 10 of the 16 members of the BOE have state board experience. The AICPA is working on ways to provide more opportunities for dynamic communication with state boards and direct technical resources to the state boards, she said. ♦

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## Comments on HUD IPA Roster Proposal

The readiness of state accountancy boards to assist the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in ascertaining that licensees are in good standing with their boards was underscored in a letter sent by NASBA's leaders to HUD on March 31. While not disagreeing with HUD that its proposed Independent Public Accountant (IPA) Roster [see sbr 3/08] could contain very helpful information, the letter pointed out that some of that information is already available and stressed the importance of HUD directly contacting the state boards when substandard work is discovered.

"Referral of failures of auditors of HUD entities and individuals to Accountancy Boards would result in actions that would not only provide for appropriate enforcement against auditing firms and auditors, but would also result in better protection of the public. Failure on a HUD audit engagement

indicates a failure to practice under the state board of accountancy's rules and regulations, in addition to not meeting HUD's expectations," the letter stated.

The complete text of NASBA's response to the proposal can be found on [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org) in the "news" section.

HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced on March 31 that he would be stepping down as of April 18, 2008. He has been under investigation by the Justice Department for alleged cronyism in connection with housing contracts awarded in New Orleans, Philadelphia and the Virgin Islands. ♦

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## 26th ED Conference Revisits Texas

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on-line renewals this year, although only about one quarter of those filed were done on-line. North Carolina is working with the AICPA on increasing the transparency of its peer review process by the NC Board's receiving a list of those firms that had opted not to make their peer review reports available to the Board.

Oklahoma is discussing how to renew the licenses of out-of-state residents, such as those serving in the military. Tennessee is working to have its board obtain semi-independent status. Texas is distributing materials for its board meetings electronically. Virginia for five years has conducted audits of all its licensees' CPE reports and now has 100 percent compliance with its CPE requirements. Washington state is considering how to discipline CPAs who perform substandard work on tribal property.

The executive directors suggested solutions to their colleagues' challenges and asked for details on programs that were working well in other states. ♦

### Get Set for Regional Meetings

As the pages of this newsletter demonstrate, there will be plenty for state board representatives to talk about at this June's Regional Meetings. The Eastern Regional will be held June 11-13 in the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC, and the Western Regional will be held June 18-20 at the Hyatt Regency in Newport Beach, CA. These are NASBA's interactive meetings, when participants are asked to share their views and experiences, as well as hear about the latest regulatory developments. Among the topics scheduled for discussion are: coordinating enforcement efforts; recognizing non-US professionals; ethics education before and after licensure; facing international standards; and activities of national task forces. Meeting details can be found on [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org). ♦

## Rep. Conaway Uses CPA Skills

US Congressman K. Michael Conaway (R-TX), a NASBA past chair, did not leave his CPA expertise behind when he opted to head for Washington. Besides a full load of Congressional duties, beginning in January 2007, he chaired a three-member audit committee for the National Republican Congressional Committee. By January 28, 2008, Congressman Conaway had uncovered fraud. When he asked to have a meeting with NRCC Treasurer Christopher J. Ward and the NRCC's auditors, Mr. Ward could not produce the auditors. When the audit committee then called the accounting firm that was supposed to have been hired by the NRCC, they were told the firm had no knowledge of the group.

It appears that Mr. Ward had stolen hundreds of thousands of dollars and had submitted forged audit reports for 2002-2006 on the auditing firm's letterhead. The NRCC's attorney, Robert K. Kelner said a genuine audit had last been performed in 2001. Just looking at one year's financial statement, the typical person

probably would not have noticed anything was wrong, Mr. Conaway told the Associated Press.

On March 14, NRCC Chairman Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) released a statement to the Republican Congressional leadership explaining that it appears Mr. Ward "made several hundred thousand dollars in unauthorized transfers of NRCC funds to outside committees whose bank accounts he had access to." He also appears to have made subsequent transfers from those outside committees to his personal and business accounts. Mr. Ward had been NRCC treasurer from 2003 until October 2007, but he had remained a paid consultant of the NRCC until January 28, when they alerted the FBI. He began working with the NRCC as an assistant treasurer in 1995.

"I would hope we could parlay this into some major TV movie or series where you've got a hero accountant wearing a cape, with an accounting costume, with mechanical pencil and squiggly ruler," Mr. Conaway told the AP reporter. Interesting idea, but what's an accounting costume? ♦

## Draft of ACAP Recommendations Available

Preliminary recommendations for increasing investor protection and enhancing the sustainability of a strong public company auditing profession were presented at the March 13 meeting of the Department of the Treasury's Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession (ACAP). Several of those recommendations presented by three subcommittees (Human Capital, Firm Structure and Finances, and Concentration and Competition) specifically mentioned actions to be taken by the state accountancy boards and NASBA. NASBA Director-at-Large Gaylen Hansen is a member of ACAP and has been receiving comments from the state boards on these recommendations to share with other ACAP members.

Among the preliminary recommendations are:

- "Institute the following incentive mechanism to encourage the states to substantially adopt the mobility provisions of the Uniform Accountancy Act, Fifth Edition (UAA): Congress should pass a federal provision requiring the adoption of the mobility provisions of the UAA for those states failing to adopt these provisions of the UAA by December 31, 2010."

The Subcommittee also comments that states should participate in NASBA's Accounting Licensee Database (ALD) as a mechanism to assist in maintaining appropriate oversight of CPAs throughout the country, regardless of where they practice, and that appropriate authorities need to interpret federal and state privacy regulations to facilitate implementation of the ALD.

- "Require regular and formal roundtable meetings of the PCAOB, the SEC, the Department of Justice, state boards of accountancy, and state attorneys general, in a cooperative effort to improve regulatory effectiveness and reduce the incidence of duplicative and potentially inconsistent enforcement regimes."
- "Urge the states to create greater financial and operational

independence of their state boards of accountancy....The Subcommittee recommends that, working with NASBA, states need to evaluate and develop means to make their respective state boards of accountancy more operationally and financially independent of outside influences."

- "Urge the creation of a transnational center (preferably under the sponsorship of the Committee on Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) and/or the Center for Audit Quality (CAQ)) to facilitate auditing firms' and other market participants' sharing of fraud prevention and detection experiences, practices and data and innovation in fraud prevention and detection methodologies and technologies, commission research and fact-finding...and, further, have the auditing firms, investors, other financial statements users...develop, in consultation with the PCAOB, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), international regulators, and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), best practices regarding fraud prevention and detection."

- "Regularly update the accounting certification exams to reflect changes in the accountancy profession, its relevant professional and ethical standards, and the skills and knowledge required to serve increasingly global markets....The Subcommittee recommends such changes remain a focus to ensure important ongoing market developments, such as the increasing use of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), expanded fair value measurement and reporting, new Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) auditing and professional standards, risk-based business judgment, and technological innovations in financial reporting are reflected in the exam content ...no later than 2011....Moreover,

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## Treasury Blueprint Suggests SEC Merger

The US Department of the Treasury's "Blueprint for a Modernized Financial Regulatory Structure," unveiled by Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson, Jr., on March 31, set out three stages for reforming the government's regulation of financial institutions. "The benefit of the structure we outline is the accountability that stems from having one agency responsible for each regulatory objective," Secretary Paulson stated as he described the plan. Long-term, the Blueprint calls for the creation of three distinct regulators that would focus exclusively on financial institutions:

- (1) A regulator focused solely on market stability across the entire financial sector (i.e., the Federal Reserve);
- (2) A new regulator focused on safety and soundness of those institutions supported by a federal guarantee (combining the roles of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision and the National Credit Union Administration); and
- (3) A new business conduct regulator focused on protecting consumers and investors (covering many of the roles of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission and the consumer protection and enforcement roles of the insurance and banking regulators).

"Business conduct regulation in this context includes key

aspects of consumer protection such as disclosures, business practices, chartering and licensing of certain types of financial firms, and rigorous enforcement programs," Secretary Paulson stated. "Having one agency responsible for these critically important issues for all financial products should bring greater consistency to regulation where overlapping requirements currently exist." He noted, "The SEC and CFTC have recently signed a mutual cooperation agreement that embodies the spirit of what the Blueprint is trying to achieve."

Secretary Paulson observed that while a state-based system has been the primary regulator for insurance for over 135 years, it is time "to give insurers the ability to elect for federal regulation." The Blueprint recommends "the establishment of a federal insurance regulatory structure to provide for the creation of an Optional Federal Charter for insurance firms, similar to the current dual-chartering system for banking."

Secretary Paulson acknowledged that the country needs to get "through this period of market stress," before the objectives-based model being proposed could be implemented. "However, we are anchoring our recommendations in a tangible, aspirational Blueprint even though it will take many years to evolve to this model. In the interim, the model can guide us as we consider and then take steps along the way."

The 218-page Blueprint can be found on [www.treas.gov](http://www.treas.gov). ♦

## Glimpses from the 2008 Executive Directors' Conference



Maria Caldwell hands out registration materials.



NASBA COO Joe Cote and ED Committee Chair Viki Windfeldt



Panel: Dan Sweetwood, Robert Joseph, Ken Bishop, Noel Allen and Viki Windfeldt



EDs Lamar Harris, Dan Sweetwood and Edith Steele

# President's Memo

## Krazy!

Ever heard of Krazy George Henderson?



Costello

I know you've heard of his invention and many of us have been participants in his discovery: the Wave.

On October 15, 1981 in the stands of the sold-out Oakland Coliseum, Krazy George, a professional cheerleader for the Oakland Athletics, sought to rev up the crowd for his team's third game of the American League's play-off series with the New York Yankees. Down two games to none, Krazy George had to do something. He imagined a gesture that would start in his section of the stadium and would sweep successively through the crowd in a giant, continuous stream of connected enthusiasm. Standing with arms outstretched, and soon joined by the thousands in the stadium, George began his now famous leaning and swaying into the crowd – creating the genesis of the Wave.

The Wave defies language, culture and location, spreading its contagion around the globe at the Olympics, the Super Bowl and many other mass-attended events. The purpose of the Wave, no matter the event, is clear: to enlist others in a common purpose.

Lately, it's tempting to get caught up in the Wave emanating principally from European professional groups and standard setters. This Wave takes the form of the critical importance of "principles-based standards" and the necessary adoption by the U.S. (and all states and jurisdictions represented by boards of accountancy) of international financial reporting standards (IFRS). Momentum is building for convergence of standards, the SEC and the FASB have reaffirmed their commitment to the convergence of U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) with IFRS, and who is expected to join the Wave? You guessed it — state boards of accountancy.

Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) delivered a speech on April 1, 2008 at the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) meeting where, among other issues, he cautioned against the wholesale acceptance of international and principles-based standards without serious study and reflection. Pointing to one of the six common themes related to financial scandals, Senator Reed explained, "And lastly, a lax regulatory environment created in part by financial regulators desires to emulate their overseas counterparts' 'principles-based' approaches. This has been fueled by an overreliance by financial regulators on communicating expectations with speeches and press releases, rather than regulatory guidance, rules and examinations. And even some efforts by federal regulators to block state regulators from trying to put the brakes on from heading in the wrong direction."

Now, let's not jump to conclusions one way or another. I've not heard any regulator, particularly at the state level, say that convergence of standards or even principles-based standards are an inappropriate direction for the U.S. and its states and jurisdictions. But there are issues to be addressed, such as the control of those groups which influence the development of international standards.

One of the key provisions of Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) is the funding of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). To ensure the FASB's independence, the funding structure under SOX Section 109 requires mandatory contributions from all publicly listed companies and, importantly, no contributions from independent auditors. State boards and SOX expect and require that accounting, auditing and all professional standards be developed within a framework of independence. And independence from the state boards' and SOX's perspective may not agree with the concept of independence for other non-U.S. standard setters. The International Accounting Standards Board, for example, has as one of the principles of its funding system "sustained support from official international organizations, central banks and the major accounting firms."

NASBA and its member boards are also concerned with the developmental processes of the international standards. How heavily involved are the U.S. standard setters in the development process, the endorsement of "carve outs" and special applications or the rationale to withdraw proposed standards? The world's largest accountancy regulator, the state boards of accountancy, are not represented at all in the deliberative, development and convergence processes of international standards which ultimately they will be expected to reference in state law. We can comment after the drafting is done, but we are not represented as the rules are formulated.

Simply put, we will be asked to stand up, raise our arms, sway to and fro and join the Wave. But until we are a real part of the process and can see that the public interest is being protected, NASBA and the state boards will eschew the Wave coming our way. The Wave works at athletic events to fuel enthusiasm. The Wave doesn't work as well with important policy issues which impact the confidence of investors and the public in its auditors and the financial reports associated with them.

*Ad astra, Per aspera.*



David A. Costello, CPA  
President and CEO

## PCAOB Continues Small Business Forums

The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board will hold a series of “Forums on Auditing in the Small Business Environment” under the direction of PCAOB member Daniel Goelzer, who spoke at NASBA’s 2007 Annual Meeting. PCAOB registered firms and smaller public companies audited by those firms are invited to attend. The forums will be held as follows:

- Santa Monica, California – April 28, 2008
- San Francisco, California – June 3, 2008
- Dallas, Texas – June 24, 2008
- Chicago, Illinois – September 30 & October 1, 2008
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – October 29 & 30, 2008
- Fort Lauderdale, Florida – November 17, 2008
- New York, New York – January 13, 2009

More information, including the forums’ agenda, is available at [www.pcaobus.org](http://www.pcaobus.org). For forum registration questions, call (202) 207-9061 or e-mail [info@pcaobus.org](mailto:info@pcaobus.org). ♦

### NASBA History Book Available

Copies of the comprehensive history compiled in honor of NASBA’s centennial, *100 Years of NASBA: Serving the Public Interest*, by Dale Flesher, can be purchased via [NASBA.org](http://NASBA.org). The 224-page book is priced at \$29.95 for hard cover (while supplies last) and \$17.95 for soft cover. The well-researched text is presented with charts and photos that capture the personalities of the people who made NASBA the organization it is today. ♦

## 13th Legal Conference Held in Austin

Attorneys from 23 jurisdictions participated in NASBA’s 13th Annual Conference for State Board Legal Counsel, May 2-4, 2008 in Austin, Texas. Discussion topics included: how to collect penalties; when to send a case to investigation; when the board can award damages to the complainant; recoupment of attorney fees and hearing expenses; media in the boardroom; and limitations on litigation.

Among the speakers were Baylor Law School Professor Ron Beal discussing, “Rulemaking – Administrative Best Practices,” Texas Assistant Attorney General Jack Hohengarten on “Litigating a Substandard Audit Case,” Texas Board General Counsel J. Randel Hill on “Working with Board Members,” and NASBA Legal Counsel Noel Allen on “Case Law Update.” The boards’ attorneys also participated in joint sessions with the Executive Directors Conference and learned from NASBA speakers about mobility legislation, the Uniform Accountancy Act and the International Qualifications Appraisal Board’s work. ♦

## Draft of ACAP Recommendations Available

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the Subcommittee believes that professional and ethical standards and subject matter relating to their application are an essential component of the accounting curricula and accordingly should be reflected in the professional exam and throughout business and accounting coursework.”

To see the latest ACAP recommendations and hear a Web cast of its April 1, 2008 meeting, go to [www.treas.gov](http://www.treas.gov) and then search for “ACAP Homepage.” ACAP’s next scheduled public meeting will take place on May 5, 2008. ♦