

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry
Victory Building
1401 W. Capitol
Little Rock, AR
October 17, 2019

Dr. Bryant Ashley, Board President, called the meeting to order 15 1:30 p. m. with all Board members present except Dr. Herman Ginger. Others present were Dr. Howard Flippin, Board Executive Director, Ms. Bonita Wineman, Board assistant, Mr. Kevin O'Dwyer, Board attorney, Vicki Farmer and Debbie Hensley, Arkansas Optometric Association, Matt Gilmore, Department of Health, Lucas Hargraves and Amanda Story, Hargraves Consulting, and Dr. Allison Hall.

Dr. Smalling presented the minutes of the August 16, 2019 Board meeting. Dr. Hennessey made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Smalling presented the minutes of October 2, 2019 conference call. Dr. Ford made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Flippin gave the Board an accounting update. He handed a written report with bank balances, checking account activities and bank account reconciliation reports. He estimates that we have sufficient funds, without transferring funds, to pay expenses until licensing renewals begin coming in. Dr. Hennessey made a motion to accept the financial report. Mr. Gentry made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Flippin reported on background checks for applicants to take our Board exams as we are requiring for applicants for licensure for endorsement. Mr. O'Dwyer reported that he is preparing a rule to implement background checks for all applicants. Dr. Smalling made a motion for the Board attorney to move forward with this rule. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Flippin remarked on the thank you note from Ms. Susan Haas, widow of Dr. George Haas, for flowers from the Board at Dr. Haas's funeral. Dr. Haas served on the Board for about 15 years and left the Board in the last 3 years. He also collected funds from Board members to pay for the flowers.

Dr. Bryant led the Board through an item by item evaluation of the latest draft of rules to implement Act 579 of 2019. The term "optometric physician" was substituted in several parts of the documents since applicants must be at this licensure level to apply for the advanced certification. A statement for timeframe for reporting outcomes was approved by common consent. Dr. Hennessey made a motion to approve the proposed rule as amended. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Ashley presented a form for reporting outcome of procedures. The form is to be amended to require a time period covered by the report. The amended report was accepted by common consent.

Dr. Ashley opened the floor for election of officers with an announcement that he had been reappointed to the Board until 2024. He also reported on Dr. Ginger's comments on his continuing on the Board due to his present illness. He is not sure when he will be able to return. Board members were unanimous in their desire to allow for his returning to the Board as he is able.

Dr. Smalling made a motion the Dr. Ashley be nominated for President of the Board. Dr. Hennessey made a second. Without other nominations, he was elected by acclamation.

Dr. Smalling made a motion that Dr. Ford be nominated as Vice-President of the Board. Dr. Hennessey made a second. Without other nominations, he was elected by acclamation.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion that Dr. Smalling be nominated as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. Dr. Ford made a second. Without other nominations, he was elected by acclamation.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion to pay per diem and mileage for today's meeting. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Smalling requested that staff prepare and distribute proposed Board meeting dates for 2020 to be approved at the November Board meeting.

Mr. O'Dwyer reported on a request from the Arkansas Medical Foundation that after initial hearing that contracted OD's not be required to attend Board meetings. The Foundation does not think there is any value in the practice. Dr. Ford made a motion to make this the policy of the Board. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

Mr. O'Dwyer stated that the public hearing on the proposed rules will take place after they have gone to the Health Department and the Governor's office. After the public hearing the rules must go to the Legislative Council. This process may take two to three months.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm November 21, 2019 at the Victory Building in Little Rock. The Board will present a jurisprudence course in Rogers on November 1.

Dr. Ford made a motion to adjourn. Mr. White made a second. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Dr. Bryant Ashley, President

Dr. Robert W. Smalling, Secretary/Treasurer