

## Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry

Victory Building

1401 W. Capitol

Little Rock, AR

August 15, 2019

Dr. Bryant Ashley, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with all Board members present. 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, Kat Stromquist, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Lucas Hargraves and Amanda Story, Hargraves Consulting, and Drs. Allison Hall, Richard Castillo, and Nate Lighthizer.

Dr. Smalling presented the minutes of the June 13, 2019 Board meeting. Dr. Ginger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. 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.

Dr. Flippin reported that Dr. Zach Faust, who took the Board exams in February has been licensed. He also reported that all thirteen applicants from June have been licensed. Those applicants were Drs. Kelsey Buford, Zachary Reed Burroughs, John Choate, Anna Paige Fagan, Zachary Thomas Ford, David Hurd, Seth Christian Laster, Morgan McClintic, Katherine McCracken, Lawrence Allen King, III, Mary Kathryn Price, Heather Snyder, and Martina Webb-Haines.

Dr. Smalling reported on a conversation in June with Dr. Faith Smith from Rhode Island who failed to renew her license in a timely manner and failed to appear before the Board. Subsequently, her license was not renewed. She had submitted a letter and thought that the letter would be sufficient. She wishes to have an Arkansas license and would request to attend a Board meeting to plead her case. Drs. Smalling and Bryant met with her at the ARBO meeting in St. Louis in June. Dr. Smalling made a motion to allow Dr. Smith to come before the Board at a future meeting with the possibility that she may have her license reinstated. Mr. Gentry made a second. After discussion, the motion/second was withdrawn and Dr. Hennessey made a motion to renew her license immediately. Dr. Ginger made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Ashley presented the affidavit for approved curriculum that our staff had updated from a form used by the Louisiana Board. This form will be used to contact schools and colleges of optometry about the curriculum that their graduates had taken in relation to educational requirements to perform new procedures allowed by Act 579.

Mr. O'Dwyer handed out a document on model language for license reciprocity with other states from the Attorney General's office. This can lead to automatic licensure and certainly more expedited licensure. This appears to be the desire at the Capitol. Not action was taken.

Mr. O'Dwyer also reported that the moral character requirements for initial licensure might need to be replaced with a background check.

Dr. Ashley opened discussion of the implementation by rules and regulations of HB 1252 (Act 579). He recognized Drs. Richard Castillo and Nate Lighthizer from the Oklahoma College of Optometry to address the Board about the educational components that other states have used in implementing laws similar to Act 579. They are both instructors in the Oklahoma course which has become the standard for post graduate education in this area. Oklahoma, Kentucky and Louisiana use this course as the credentialing course for advanced procedures certification. They also were very involved in the development of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) Laser and Surgical Procedures Exam, a clinical test that was given in Charlotte, NC for the first time this year. They answered questions from the Board members and remained at the meeting to comment on the rule making decisions.

Dr. Ashley presented a draft of rules and regulations for implementing Act 579 that he had assembled. After some discussion, he recognized Ms. Vicki Farmer of the Arkansas Optometry Association for comments and recommendation for changes to the document. The draft document is to be amended by Mr. O'Dwyer and forwarded to Board members for comments prior to our next Board meeting.

Dr. Ashley requested that the board approve his trip to Charlotte, NC to observe the administration of the clinical test for Laser and Surgical Procedures. Dr. Ginger made a motion to pay for his expenses. Mr. Gentry made a second. The motion passed.

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

Mr. Gentry made a motion to adjourn. Mr. White made a second. The motion passed.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2019. The other meeting date is November 21, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

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Dr. Bryant Ashley, President

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Dr. Robert Smalling, Secretary/Treasurer