

Minutes
Arkansas State Board of Optometry
Double Tree Hotel
Little Rock, AR

April 25, 2002

Dr. Robert Smalling called the meeting to order having all Board members present. Bill Trice, the Board's attorney, was present as well as Mrs. Barbara Martin with Arkansas Optometric Association. The guests included Justin Hancock and Pam Mize with Wal-Mart, Randy Thurman, representing the National Association of Opticians and Optometrists. Also as guests were Lowell Gilbert, O.D. from Richmond, Virginia and Mr. Jim Roberson. Dr. Smalling welcomed a new Board member, Mr. Herman Shirley from North Little Rock. Mr. Shirley will be replacing Mr. Jack Grayson.

Dr. Hubbard presented the minutes of the March 28, 2002 meeting. Dr. Dale Morris made a motion that the minutes be approved as is, seconded by Dr. George Haas. Motion carried.

The Board meeting entered into a Public Hearing regarding the prescribing of controlled substances. Mr. Trice reviewed the draft that he had prepared of the purposed amendment to Article IX. Basically the amendment, if approved, would delete from the requirements of the practitioner to do the following: (1) Prescribe only the amount of controlled substances medication for four days on one prescription. (2) Also delete the requirement for a practitioner to provide a written prescription to the pharmacy within 72 hours of a verbal prescription. The following four sections would remain in full force. Mr. Trice then asked was there anyone at the hearing that wanted to speak for or against the purposed amendment? Having none, the Board chose to adopt the amendment by Dr. Ken Hubbard making a motion and seconded by Dr. George Haas. Motion carried.

There was then a review of the upcoming hearing concerning an optometrist having 24-hour access to his or her office. Mr. Trice discussed the present rule, Article VI, dealing with unprofessional conduct. The proposal is to add a requirement that an optometrist will indeed have 24-hour access to the office as well as patient records. This would allow the doctor to be able to provide emergency services to patients when necessary. A failure to have access would be considered as unprofessional conduct and of danger and harm to his patients. Dr. Hubbard made a motion that the Board proceed as written. Dr. Dale Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried. The next public hearing will be scheduled for the Board meeting on June 13, 2002.

Dr. Smalling reminded the Board members of the upcoming presentation of the Jurisprudence Course. The course is scheduled for April 28, 2002, Sunday, 11:00 A.M. at the Double Tree Hotel ballroom. Dr. Smalling encouraged all Board members to attend. Dr. Flippin and Dr. Hubbard will be working on a newsletter announcing the correspondence course for the one-hour jurisprudence. The correspondence course should be complete by July 1, 2002.

Dr. Roy Ashabranner was invited to today's Board meeting, but was unable to attend. Mr. Trice informed the Board members that Dr. Ashabranner would be present at the June meeting for a disciplinary hearing. Mr. Roberson was there to deliver a letter to the Board from Dr. Ashabranner. Mr. Trice requested that a complete copy be made of Dr. Ashabranner's file for each Board member to have before the hearing in June.

Information was given out to Board members wishing to attend the ARBO meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Smalling, Dr. Haas, as well as Dr. Flippin plan to attend this meeting. Dr. Flippin explained the importance of attending, this 2-day meeting, to the new Board members. Dr. George Haas also explained, to the new Board members, the testing that goes on at the National Board Meetings. Dr. Dale Morris made a motion that the registration to attend the National Boards be accepted. Seconded by Dr. Hubbard. Motion carried. Dr. George made a motion that Mr. Jaime Guerra be submitted as a potential attendee for the upcoming ARBO meeting. Dr. Dale Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dr. Smalling recognized this meeting, as being the last meeting that Dr. Flippin would be attending as a Board member. Dr. Flippin has served on the Board of Optometry for the past twenty-five years. The doctor will continue his role as Executive Director and will attend all Board meetings in the future. Gratitude was expressed by all Board members for the excellent job Dr. Flippin has done for the Board.

Dr. Dale Morris moved that the Board members be paid for one day of expenses plus mileage. Seconded by Mr. Guerra. Motion carried.

The time for the next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2002 in the office of the Attorney General, at 1:30 P.M.

Meeting adjourned.

Robert Smalling, O.D., President

Kenneth Hubbard, Jr. O.D., Secretary

