Minutes
Arkansas State Board of Optometry
Baptist Hospital
North Little Rock, AR

June 12, 2014

Dr. Morris opened the meeting with all Board members present except Edward Spears. Dr. Howard Flippin, Board Executive Director, Ann Booker, Office secretary, and Mr. Kevin O’Dwyer, Board attorney were also present. Dr. Bradley Diner, Arkansas Medical Foundation, Vicki Farmer, Arkansas Optometric Association, and Drs. Derrick Pierce, Susan De Black, Chevron Ergle and Allison Hall were also present.

Dr. Morris welcomed Dr. Bryant Ashley, Jr. who was recently appointed to the Board in replacement of Dr. Kenneth Hubbard.

Dr. Morris reported that 14 candidates had taken the Board exams in the morning in this room. Candidates are Drs. Mollie Broadway, Alicia Byers, Kamri Herndon, Blake Jarrard, Julianne Koch, Danielle Ledet, Benjamin Lynch, Hilary Morrow, Lauren Nelson, Lucas Trent Ott, Andrea Peerson, Brent Plaxico, Megan Provence-Perry, and Emily Smith.

The minutes of the last Board meeting on April 24, 2014 were presented to the Board.

Dr. Coffee made a motion the minutes be approved. Dr Smalling made a second. The motion passed.

The minutes of the conference call on May 20, 2014 were presented to the Board.

Dr. Coffee made a motion the minutes be approved. Dr. Smalling made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Diner presented a letter reporting that Dr. Penny Freshour has been in complete compliance. He also presented a letter outlining the phone conversation he had with Dr. Freshour on June 2, 2014. Dr. Freshour is due to deliver next month, therefore was not required to be present at this meeting.

Dr. Diner reported that Dr. Derrick Pierce had met with him today prior to the Board meeting and signed a one-year contract with the Arkansas Medical Foundation. He also has accepted the consent decree. Dr. Diner stated that drinking at work is a more serious situation. He has finished counseling with a group NW Arkansas. He will be required to attend meetings in NW Arkansas and have random drug screenings. Dr. Pierce is scheduled to attend our August 14, 2014 Board meeting.

Dr. Smalling made a motion to accept the consent order. Dr. Coffee made a second. The motion passed.

Mr. Herman Shirley gave an accounting update. He reported that the bank statement was in order. He reviewed the list of uncollected fines and stated that a line item for uncollected fines could be established or the Board could vote to remove them from the books. Mr. O’Dwyer proposed to send one last letter and if not successful then remove from the list. This plan was initiated by consent of the Board. Mr. Thompson who owes $20,000 will be pursued through other legal efforts. Dr. Flippin requested that these write offs be decided on at the August meeting.
Mr. O’Dwyer reported on James Roh of the Hair Plus Beauty Supplies on Broadway in Little Rock. Dr. Coffee made a motion that a order of notice of hearing be issued with an offer of $2000 fine payable prior to the next Board meeting (60 days) and consent decree. Dr. Haas made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Flippin reported that Dr. John Neal took the Board exam in 2007, but never completed the process. He has now requested a license since he is now at the Little Rock VA. Dr. Smalling made a motion that he can reapply to take the Board exams, but he cannot complete the process from 2007 per Board policy. Dr. Coffee made a second. The motion passed.

A slate of officers was presented with Dr. Dale Morris as President, Dr. Bill Coffee as Vice President, Dr. Robert Smalling as Secretary/Treasurer and Dr. George Haas for reappointment to the Arkansas State Board of Opticians. Dr. Haas made a motion that nomination cease and this slate be elected by acclamation. Dr. Bryant Ashley made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Flippin reported that Dr. Smalling will be allowed to bill the Board for four nights at the Philadelphia Westin for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO). Dr. Haas made a motion that a letter be prepared stating that this is the position of the Board on this issue. Dr. Coffee made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Haas reported that he thought Dr. Hubbard should be retained to continue to write the TPA exam. Another option was to discontinue the test and accept the National Board exam. This issue was tabled at this time.

Dr. Smalling brought up the issue of licensure by endorsement. There was a brief discussion of this matter and reciprocity. No action was requested or taken at this time.

Dr. Flippin shared information on recommendations and guidelines for Vision Therapy practice in Arkansas authored by Drs. Wanda Vaughn and Trisha Westfall. This item was presented for discussion at the next Board meeting. The authors of the paper were to be invited to the next Board meeting.

Dr. Coffee made a motion to pay one day expenses and travel for the Board meeting and one day for testing this morning. Mr. Shirley made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Haas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ashley made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Morris adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

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Dr. Dale Morris, President

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Dr. Robert W. Smalling, Secretary