

## Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry  
Inn of the Ozarks  
Eureka Springs, AR

October 22, 2004

Dr. Dale Morris called the meeting to order with all Board members and Executive Director present. The Board attorney and Board office secretary were not present. The audience included Dr. Marc Parnell, Barbara Martin, and Mark Stodala.

Dr. Hubbard presented the minutes and asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Dr. Coffee made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Mr. Guerra seconded and Dr. Smalling called for question. Corrections in the minutes were made and the motion passed.

Dr. Flippin presented the office location notification form and asked for any suggested changes. None were suggested.

Dr. Coulter, Chancellor of ASU Mountain Home, and Dr. Patricia Bailey, a Vice Chandler of ASU Mountain Home, entered the meeting room late and were introduced to the Board by Dr. Morris. Dr. Coulter, Dr. Bailey, and Mr. Randy Smith were invited to discuss with the Board ASU Mountain Home optician curriculum. Mr. Smith was not present.

Dr. Morris asked Dr. Coulter to inform the Board as to the type of optician course, its purpose, and how it is to be implemented.

Dr. Coulter presented several pages of information concerning the course and some history of the course. They were enticed by J Sargent Reynolds University of Richmond, 17001 E. Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228, (804-371-3263). There they meet the leader of the optician movement in creating online curriculum, Randy Smith, of which they hired. He demonstrated a document that states the opticians in Arkansas are not allowed to fit, sell, or dispense contact lenses. He stated they would not take the subject of contact lenses out of the curriculum followed with justification including the ability to be accredited. Dr. Coulter states no hands on contact lenses training will be taught. This will be taught in the offices where the graduates find employment. Dr. Coulter requested questions from the Board.

Dr. Haas requested the entity that accredited their program and Dr. Coulter replied, Contact Lens Society of America and Commission on Opticianry Accreditation.

Dr. Smalling asked if these organizations were approved by the Department of Education and Dr. Coulter did not have an answer of certainty but would obtain the information and send the information to the Board. Dr. Flippin would then distribute to the Board.

Dr. Coffee asked how an optician could pass and be certified in contact lenses without having ever handled a contact lens. He replied they are not licensed at this point.

Dr. Haas asked what credentials Randy Smith has and Dr. Bailey said she would provide the Board with this information. He is an Arkansas licensed optician.

Dr. Hubbard asked how many students were enrolled currently; Dr. Bailey replied 14 for both classes with five out of state students. The students can take the course completely on line and never come to the campus. Dr. Hubbard asked if the school had any equipment like slit lamps, keratometers, auto refractor, contact lenses or contacts lens fitting sets; Dr. Bailey replied no. Dr. Hubbard also asked where students went in Arkansas for clinical training. Dr. Baileys replied there were no preceptorship in Arkansas and no student has gone to an office for such training.

Dr. Smalling asked if the program had an optician accreditation and Dr. Bailey replied the National Foundation of Opticianry Schools accredited them.

Dr. Haas asked Dr. Coulter if ASU had any intention of trying to reduce the age from 21 to 18 to become licensed. Dr. Coulter replied no.

Dr. Coffee asked if the nursing programs they promoted were also on line courses. Dr. Bailey replied no, they were on campus programs.

Dr. Morris allowed questions from the audience and Mr. Mark Stodala asked Dr. Coulter if his overall program was dependent on having a contact lens accreditation. Dr. Coulter replied yes. Dr. Bailey stated that she would get accreditation information concerning the optician program and send to the Board.

Dr. Flippin reported four new complaints of illegal cosmetic contact lens sale over the state in Pine Bluff, Blytheville, Mena, and Dumas. The investigator is currently gathering information.

Dr. Haas discussed the latest version of the contact lens prescription release rule. The hearing for the new rule is set for 1:30 PM December 16, 2004 at the office of the Attorney General in Little Rock.

Dr. Coffee made a motion the Board be reimbursed expenses and one night lodging for the Board meeting. Dr. Hubbard made a second and the motion passed

Dr. Morris adjourned the meeting.

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Bob Smalling, OD, President

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Kenneth Hubbard, Jr., OD, Secretary