

## Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry

Regular Board Meeting

Freeway Medical Tower Building

Little Rock, Arkansas

November 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Dr. Bryant Ashley at 1:30 PM.

The following board members were present: Dr. Bryant Ashley, Dr. Susan DeBlack, Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Dr. Dan Hennessey, and Dr. Beatrice Reed. Also, in attendance were: Tanya Ford, Board Director; Amber LeClerc, Fiscal Support Specialist; Lacie Kirchner, Asst. Attorney General and Board Counsel; Debbie Henley, ArOA Exec. Asst; Dr. Allison Hall, Dr. Angela Howell, Dr. Dorothy Brodmann.

The minutes from the October 19, 2023, meeting were presented by Dr. Reed. Dr. Hennessey made a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

The Board Update including the Financial Report was presented by Ms. Ford. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to accept the financial report. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed. Ms. Ford presented the Rules promulgation update and noted that the window for public comment closes December 5, 2023. Ms. Ford presented the license renewal update and reported that the online platform testing has begun, and online license renewals will start December 1, 2023.

Dr. Ashley presented the Licensure by Endorsement candidate, Dr. Dorothy Brodmann, who was interviewed by the Board. Dr. Hennessey made a motion to grant a licensure by endorsement to Dr. Brodmann contingent on successful completion of the jurisprudence examination. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Fitzhugh and Ms. Kirchner presented the Complaint Committee Report. There were 3 complaints against a doctor within an 18 month period of time. This doctor was sent a Letter of Caution. There has been 2 complaints against another doctor within a 12 month period of time. This doctor was sent a Letter of Caution. Dr. Hennessey made a motion to accept these Letters of Caution and the Compliant Committee report. Dr. DeBlack made a second. The motion passed.

Ms. Kirchner sent a letter to 3 businesses in 4 locations to educate them about the illegal sale of contact lenses, providing the businesses the opportunity to correct the problem prior to additional steps being taken by the Board. The Board will follow-up with these businesses in 30 days.

Ms. Kirchner presented Rules changes. The Bureau of Legislative Research is changing the style (format) of all Board Rules. Ms. Kirchner has reviewed the Optometry Rules and made proposed changes. The Board is in the review process and will begin discussing changes at the next regular meeting.

Dr. Hennessey discussed the recent ARBO webinar he attended. He will send information from the webinar to the Board director to be disseminated to the Board.

Dr. Ashley discussed COPE and DEA CE requirements. The AOA is working on a COPE approved DEA Course.

Ms. Ford reported that Dr. Terri L. Haley is the ARBO liaison, and that she had planned to attend today's meeting via video conference, but was unable to do so. Dr. Haley plans to attend the next meeting.

The new Part 3 of the National Board is in the testing phase and is expected to be implemented in August 2024.

A Thank you card was acknowledged from Dr. Reed regarding the passing of her sister.

This is the last day Debbie Henley will attend the Board meetings due to relocation. She will continue to work remotely with the Arkansas Optometric Association.

The next Board meeting date is February 15, 2024. License testing will be given that day.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion for mileage and per diem. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion to adjourn. Dr. DeBlack made a second. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

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Dr. Beatrice Reed, Secretary-Treasurer

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Dr. Bryant Ashley, President