

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry

Regular Board Meeting

Freeway Medical Tower Building

Little Rock, Arkansas

October 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President, Dr. Dan Hennessey at 1:30 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Dr. Beatrice Reed, Dr. Susan DeBlack, Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Mr. Mitchell Gentry. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Bryant Ashley, Mr. William White. Also in attendance: Tanya Ford, Board Director; Lacie Kirchner, Asst. Attorney General and Board Council; Dawanna Walls, Fiscal Support Specialist; Debbie Henley, Executive Assistant, ArOA; Dr. Allison Hall.

The Minutes from August 18, 2022 were presented. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Gentry made a second. The motion passed.

The Financial Report was presented by Ms. Tanya Ford. Ms. Ford discussed recent expenditures. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to accept the report. Dr. DeBlack made a second. The motion passed.

The Board acknowledged a thank you card from Dr. Patricia Westfall on behalf of the family of Dr. Howard Flippin.

The topic of the online jurisprudence test wording was addressed by Ms. Ford, who reported wording had been changed for clarification.

An update regarding Diva Beauty Supply was given by Ms. Ford. No payment of the fine has been received as of this meeting. Businesses generally have a period of one year to complete the payment of fines.

ARBO action items were presented by Dr. Hennessey, who stated we are in compliance with OE Tracker.

Ms. Kirchner presented the topic of 2023 license renewals. Arkansas statute does not authorize a fee for branch licenses. The doctors may only be charged for the license itself, not for branch licenses. Beginning with 2023 license renewals, doctors will be charged for the annual license renewal; as well as the Corporate fee and the Advanced Procedure fee, when applicable.

The No Surprises Act was addressed by Dr. Hennessey and Ms. Ford. As part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, on Dec 27, 2020, the United States Congress enacted legislation, the federal No Surprises Act (NSA), which contains many provisions to help protect consumers from surprise bills for plans starting in 2022. Discussion ensued relative to possible methods for education and implementation of this bill as it relates to the practice of optometry in Arkansas.

Dr. Hennessey presented the topic of COPE. COPE has adopted the wording Synchronous and Asynchronous. COPE is discussing making CE requirements easier to understand using the COPE wording. CE requirements of surrounding states will be researched and the Board will develop the appropriate wording for CE requirements for Arkansas optometrists. Atty Kirchner presented proposed

wording for further consideration. Dr. Hennessey mentioned that research shows that participants of non-in person CE scored higher than those taking face-to-face CE.

Ms. Ford presented the issue of expired COPE IDs being used for CE courses. Discussion ensued. It was reiterated that the Board only accepts COPE approved courses with current (unexpired) COPE IDs.

The April 2023 meeting date is April 27 instead of April 26th. Thursday, April 27 is the beginning date of the 2023 Arkansas Optometric Association Spring Convention.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Dr. Beatrice Reed, Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Bryant Ashley, President