

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry
Regular Board Meeting
Freeway Medical Tower Building
August 19, 2021

Dr. Bryant Ashley, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The following Board members were present: Dr. Dan Hennessey, Dr. Beatrice Reed, Dr. Susan DeBlack, Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Mr. Mitchell Gentry. Absent: Mr. William White. Also in attendance were: Ms. Tanya Ford, Board Secretary; Ms. Lacie Kirchner, Board Attorney; Mr. Matt Gilmore, Arkansas Department of Health; Ms. Rebecca Gaston, Arkansas Medical Foundation; Ms. Vicki Farmer, Executive Director, Arkansas Optometric Association; Ms. Debbie Henley, Executive Assistant, ArOA; Dr. Allison Hall, ArOA.

Minutes from the previous board meeting on June 17, 2021 were unavailable and will be presented at the next board meeting.

Ms. Ford presented the Annual Financial Report and Accounting Update, Fiscal Year 2021. Dr. Hennessey made a motion to accept the financial report. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Receipt of a thank you card from recently retired Board Secretary Bonita Wineman was acknowledged by the Board.

Three new licensees, Grant Criger, Camille Friday, and Curtis Zachry were introduced to the Board.

Ms. Kirchner conducted a Board instruction and review session.

2021 Rule Revisions were presented by Ms. Kirchner. Changes will go into effect January 2022. Mr. Gentry made a motion to approve draft changes. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

Mr. Gilmore presented hiring process for Board Executive Director.

Discussion regarding questions about signage relating to new credentials in advanced procedures to be continued at next meeting.

Discussion of optometrist under investigation. The doctor will be sent a Notice of Request for Hearing.

Ms. Farmer presented requests for approval of two courses for the Fall 2021 Convention, and for modification of 8 hours per year for interactive online continuing education.

Dr. Reed made a motion to approve the requests. Mr. Gentry made a second. Motion passed.

Ms. Ford demonstrated proposed format changes for license renewal cards, which will be presented at the Fall convention.

The Fall Continuing Education Convention will be September 9-11, 2021 at Embassy Suites in Rogers, Arkansas. The Jurisprudence course will be given on September 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Questions concerning whether corneal cross-linking is within scope of practice to be discussed at next meeting.

The next meeting date changed from October 21, 2021 to October 14, 2021 at 1:30 p.m., Freeway Medical Tower Building, Rm. 906.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion that per diem be paid to Board members. Mr. Gentry made a second. The motion passed.

Mr. Gentry made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.



Dr. Bryant Ashley, President



Dr. Beatrice Reed, Secretary/Treasurer