

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry
Regular Board Meeting
Freeway Medical Tower Building
February 17, 2022

Dr. Bryant Ashley, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. All Board members were present; Dr. Dan Hennessey via video conference.

Also in attendance:

Tanya Ford, Board Director
Lacie Kirchner, Board Attorney and Asst. Attorney General
Matt Gilmore, Arkansas Department of Health
Joseph Sugg, President, Arkansas Optometric Association (ArOA)
Allison Hall, ArOA
Vickie Farmer, Executive Director, ArOA
Debbie Henley, Asst. Executive Director, ArOA

Dr. Reed presented the minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting. Mr. Gentry made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Reed presented the minutes from the December 15, 2021 public hearing. Mr. Gentry made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Mrs. Ford presented the Board update, including the financial report, license renewal report, and control self-assessment. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to accept. Mr. White made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Ashley introduced the licensure by examination candidates; Kory Ann Allen, Bailey Burnett, Isiah Choy, Khushbu Patel, and Chenying Michelle Yang.

Mrs. Farmer presented the Spring Convention Agenda. Mr. Gentry made a motion to approve. Dr. DeBlack made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Ashley presented the topic of continuing education requirements for 2022. COPE still allows virtual interactive education until June 2022. Dr. Reed made a motion to approve enduring learning and live interactive CE until June 2022. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Ms. Kirchner presented Act 651. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to accept Act 651, amended to limit the number of prescribing days to three (3) to be consistent with current optometry law. Mr. White made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Ashley and Mrs. Ford presented the 2021 Advanced Procedures Outcomes Report. 27.64% of AP licensed ODs performed APs in 2021. There were 0% negative results.

Dr. Joe Sugg presented a letter from the Arkansas Optometric Association regarding licensure by endorsement and telemedicine only licensure. The issue was discussed and will be taken under advisement as the Board continues its duty to protect the public.

Dr. Ashley presented that New England College of Optometry asked ASCO (the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry) for approval for a distance learning optometry degree. Dr. Ashley asked if it would be prudent for the Board to write a letter of concern. Ms. Kirchner will research the question and report back to the Board.

Dr. Ashley presented the need to confirm the meeting dates past June for the remainder of 2022, as the schedule beyond June has not been set. The following meeting dates were proposed: August 18, October 20, November 17. Mr. Gentry made a motion to accept these dates. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Important Upcoming Dates for 2022:

April 21	Board Meeting, during Spring Convention
June 23	Board Meeting, AP Course, State Board Examinations
August 18	Board Meeting
Sept 30-Oct 1	Fall Convention (no Board Meeting)
October 20	Board Meeting
November 17	Board Meeting

Dr. Hennessey made a motion that per diem and mileage be paid to Board members. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to adjourn. Mr. White made a second. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Dr. Bryant Ashley, President

Dr. Beatrice Reed, Secretary/Treasurer