

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry
Regular Board Meeting
Freeway Medical Tower Building
Little Rock, Arkansas
November 17, 2022

Dr. Bryant Ashley, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. All Board members were present. Also in attendance were: Tanya Ford, Board Director; Dawanna Walls, Fiscal Support Specialist; Debbie Henley, Executive Assistant, ArOA; Dr. Allison Hall.

The minutes from the October 20, 2022 meeting were presented by Dr. Reed. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to approve. Dr. DeBlack made a second. The motion passed.

Ms. Ford presented the financial report and reviewed current expenditures. Mr. White made a motion to approve. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Ms. Ford presented license renewal update. Effective January 2023, the definition of the practice of optometry will be printed on each optometry license renewal.

The Board performs criminal background checks and is therefore audited every 3 years by Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC) and the FBI IT.

The business of Divas Beauty Supply has not made a payment on its fine. Ms. Ford will follow up at the six month mark to check with them about payment. Each business generally is given one year in which to pay an assessed fine in full.

Dr. Ashley presented scope of practice issues relative to advanced procedures. Discussion ensued regarding procedures that fall within the scope of practice.

Dr. Ashley reported the Board has received a letter from the Nursing Board inquiring whether the practice of optometry falls within the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Nurses. The Nursing Board has been notified in writing that the practice of optometry is not within the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Nurses.

Dr. Ashley reported that The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) is planning to phase out of credentialing for optometric technician programs.

Expert Psychological Evaluations, a firm that performs psychological assessments, has contacted the Board about the services it provides. These services are currently being provided by the Arkansas Medical Foundation.

An Interim Study Proposal for a possible dispensing ophthalmic bill has been created, which, if passed, would allow dispensing opticians to dispense contact lenses.

Dr. Ashley presented the topic of continuing education and asked the Board to consider whether changes should be made to the allowed/required type of CE, for further discussion at the next Board meeting. Discussion ensued regarding synchronous vs asynchronous CE.

Dr. Ashley discussed that information would be placed on the website for optometrists and other interested parties to access regarding topical optometry questions and answers. This will be done in concert with the Arkansas Department of Health.

The next meeting date is February 16, 2023. State Board examinations will be given that day. Additionally, there is a Licensure by Endorsement candidate.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Dr. Beatrice Reed, Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Bryant Ashley, President