

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry

Regular Board Meeting

Freeway Medical Tower Building

Little Rock, Arkansas

June 15, 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. Dan Hennessey, Dr. Susan DeBlack, Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Dr. Beatrice Reed. Also in attendance were Tanya Ford, Board Director, Vicki Farmer, ArOA Exec Dir., Debbie Henley, ArOA Exec Asst., Dr. Allison Hall, and Licensure by Endorsement Candidates Drs. Julie Hart, Hong-Ngoc Han, Shelby Haviland.

The minutes from the April 27, 2023 meeting were presented by Dr. Reed. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

The Board Update including the Financial Report was presented by Ms. Ford. Dr. Hennessey made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed. Ms. Ford reported the wording on the wall certificates will be modified to be gender inclusive, changing the male reference to optometrists. The University of Arkansas Department of Agriculture Print Shop will custom print the wall certificates going forward. This will result in document changes being easier to make. Also, Board signatures will be auto printed. Ms. Ford reported Divas Beauty Supply has made partial payment on its fine and that the remainder is due by July 14, 2023.

Dr. Ashley mentioned that Senate Bill 82, the dispensing opticians bill, has been pulled for this legislative session.

Dr. Julie Hart applied for licensure by endorsement and has completed all the requirements. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion to grant Dr. Hart a license by endorsement. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Hong-Ngoc Han applied for licensure by endorsement and has completed all the requirements. Dr. DeBlack made a motion to grant Dr. Han a license by endorsement. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Shelby Haviland applied for licensure by endorsement but has not completed all requirements. Dr. Hennessey made a motion to grant Dr. Haviland a license contingent on completion of all requirements. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Ms. Ford reported 14 new state licenses, 19 advanced procedures certifications, and 2 licensures by endorsement were granted.

Written information was provided to the Board about PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), also called “forever chemicals”, being found in contact lenses. Research is ongoing.

Dr. Ashley reported there is no update on Optometry Board appointments.

Dr. Ashley reported we will began discussing Rules changes at the next Board meeting, reviewing the language and content to update the Optometry Rules.

The issue of several state legislatures including Florida, creating legislation to remove the title of Doctor from Doctor of Optometry was discussed. This is an issue which needs to be watched closely.

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 2:07 p.m.

Dr. Beatrice Reed, Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Bryant Ashley, President