

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

Law Office of Taggart and Morton LLC

New Orleans, LA

MINUTES – May 6, 2022

I. Roll Call/Call to Order

The roll was called at 9:30am with present: Drs. Anastasio, Avallone, Gerdes, Wroten, Heitmeier and Mr. Dale Benoit. Also present were Drs Amanda Hickman, Tim Barry, Rob Janot, Marc Ardoin and board council Mr. AJ Herbert, III. Declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Anastasio called the meeting to order.

II. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was amended upon motion by Wroten/Anastasio. Passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2022, Meeting

The minutes of the March 18, 2022, meeting was adopted upon motion by Heitmeier/Benoit. Passed unanimously.

IV. Secretary's Report

a. Finance & Budget Report

Dr. Avallone presented a financial report including a P&L statement, Balance Sheet, and Budget comparison for year 2022 as of April 30.

b. License Activity

Renewals for 2022 continue, with reduced delinquent fee of \$250 or \$500 being assessed in addition to the \$300 renewal fee.

No retired licenses to report.

No additional Inactive licenses requested

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Endorsement requests received - two

Dr. Selvin Gnanakkan – currently licensed in OK

Qualified – waiting for the law testing

Dr. Shannon Zingle – currently licensed in Tennessee

Not Qualified – TN license privileges not equivalent to LA

Motion to accept the application by Gnanakkan and deny the application from Zingle by Anastasio/Avallone – Pass unanimously (6-0)

c. Complaints

Board council recommended that all complaints be discussed in Executive session until a decision can be made as to any conclusion to protect the parties involved. The board consented with no objections.

1 active complaint – waiting for doctor response

V. State Audit Update

Motion was made to enter Executive session Benoit/Gerdes – Passed Unanimously

Executive session entered at 10:30am

Independent audit preliminary report was discussed

Executive session exited at 11:05am

Motion was made by Avallone/Anastasio to request finalized independent audit from Carr, Riggs and to form a committee of 2 board members to meet with the OAL to agree on a reimbursement payment by the OAL.

Motion by Anastasio/Gerdes to assign Avallone and Benoit to aforementioned committee. Passed Unanimously

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Ethics training was discussed – live training is available as well as online
Anastasio reminder board member of May 15 Financial report
deadline

Sexual Harassment Prevention – online training available by request
Policy available from Civil Service will be presented for discussion and
adoption and placement on the board website.

All certificates should be sent to the board Secretary for record keeping.

VI. ABC Complaint/Secret Shopper

Deferred until new legal counsel briefed.

VII. Barthelemy's Optical

Deferred until new legal counsel briefed.

VIII. Dispensing of Pharmaceuticals

Tabled for new legal counsel review

IX. SB 328

Discussion was held regard legislation introduced by State Senator Fred
Mills regarding the nomination process of the LSBOE as well as clarification
regarding any conflict serving on national optometric boards.

X. Request from Apriss Insights

Incomplete form letter – no response given
Tabled pending review of legal counsel

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NEW BUSINESS

XI. Review of Request by Dr. Brasseaux

Following discussion, the board unanimously elected to follow previous policy to not give legal advice but to refer the requester to the laws and rules that govern the profession of Optometry in Louisiana.

XII Review of Request by Ms. Hughes

Following discussion, the board unanimously elected to follow previous policy to not give legal advice but to refer the requester to the laws and rules that govern the profession of Optometry in Louisiana.

XIII. Review of Request by Mr. Radkin

Following discussion, the board unanimously elected to follow previous policy to not give legal advice but to refer the requester to the laws and rules that govern the profession of Optometry in Louisiana.

XIV. Review of Request by Namra Tanveer

Following discussion, the board unanimously elected to follow previous policy and the laws and rules that govern the profession of Optometry in Louisiana to not accept the application of Namra Tanveer for the July 2022 state exam due to lack of qualification. Specifically, the lack of the Doctor of Optometry degree required for application.

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XV. Update on Telemedicine Rule

Title 46, Chapter 5, Section 509 requires registration with the board.

No registration applications received to date

XVI. Discussion of Alternate Routes for Licensure Testing

Following discussion, the board agreed to accept in lieu of taking the State board practical exam, the LSBOE would allow any applicant for licensure in Louisiana to submit passing scores on NBEO Part I, II, and III as well as the Injection Skills Examination (ISE), Laser section of LSPE, Surgical section of LSPE. The State Law proctored exams may be taken while in Charlotte at the NBEO or in Louisiana at a LSBOE approved location.

XVII. Licensee Communications

The board received a quote from K-Team Printing to handle various printing/ mailing needs in anticipation of the proposed nomination process as well as other communication which may become necessary. No action taken

A suggestion was made to inquire if contact information can be updated during the license renewal process to ensure.

XVIII. Annual meeting Discussion

Current law mandates an annual licensee meeting in June to provide three names for the Governor to choose from for appointment to the board. Bill 328 changes the nominating process. Discussion and possible amendments to Bill 328 may be needed to resolve possible conflicts. An annual meeting will be scheduled for June 24, 2022.

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Motion to enter Executive session Wroten/Benoit – Passed Unanimously

Executive session entered at 1:00pm

Discussion was held regarding Disciplinary Procedures, records retention & LSBOE Secretary compensation – No Action taken, to be consider in the near future.

Executive session exited at 1:35pm

XIX. Next Meeting

June 24, 2022

Location - Law Office of Taggart and Morton LLC

XX. Adjourn – 1:45pm

Gary Avallone, O.D., Secretary

Jeffrey Anastasio, O.D., President